

Karsu Ipek Kilic  
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Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Karsu Ipek Kilic, and I am a recipient of the Daniel W. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship. I am writing this letter to express how grateful I am for your support and benevolence that allows me to take the most important step in my life toward achieving my dreams as a mechanical engineering student in Stanford University.



I came to the US and Stanford University last year after receiving my bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in Turkey. Currently, I am a second-year graduate student in the mechanical engineering department, and I have been a part of a research group in the materials science and engineering department since last April. I chose mechanical engineering as my major because I thought that it offered great flexibility in terms of finding vastly different fields to specialize in, as well as allowing for multidisciplinary research. I have been interested in different areas of mechanical engineering such as biomechanics, continuum mechanics and mechanical properties of materials. When I discovered that I had a strong desire to pursue a PhD degree, Stanford University was my first choice because not only is it one of the top universities in the world, but Stanford distinguishes itself with its wide range of opportunities for students to be part of high level research that requires interdisciplinary approaches.

Last year, I was on a search for a research team so that I could start working on a project as a PhD student. I could not emphasize enough the convenience this fellowship award provided me during this period; I did not have to be in a rush to find a research team to guarantee my financial support. I was able to take my time, meet and talk to professors and students from different departments in addition to the mechanical engineering department, as well as the bioengineering department, and the medicine and materials sciences and engineering departments. They welcomed me into their group meetings where I was able to learn about their research. Even though some of the research studies are not related to what I am doing right now, it was still an extremely fruitful and inspiring experience to meet these brilliant students and professors who are on the leading edge of their fields. After this enriching search, I found the research team and research title that I had been looking for. I am grateful that I had the time and financial support that allowed me to make a decision that I am very satisfied with now. Currently, I am working on a computational study that is based on the design of the molecular architecture of hybrid glasses to achieve advanced mechanical properties.

Being part of the community here at Stanford University not only amazes me in terms of the academic opportunities and facilities offered, but also in terms of the social and extracurricular activities that one can find. I am thinking of taking singing classes in the upcoming semester, since I like singing very much and I really want to improve my skills. Painting is one of my hobbies as well, and Stanford University offers lots of classes for drawing and painting for non-major students.

Being accepted to Stanford University has already been a great journey for me, not only in terms of improving myself academically but also in terms of growing as a person, gaining more confidence through facing new challenges every day, and being part of this high level intellectual and social

environment. Although I was accepted, I may not have been able to come to Stanford if not for your fellowship since my parents were unable to afford tuition. That is why I am sincerely indebted to you for giving me the most wonderful and greatest opportunity of my life. I will continue to push my limits and reciprocate this invaluable opportunity you provided for me by working hard, learning every day, and hopefully ensuring that I am on my way to becoming the promising and successful academician that I have always dreamed to be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a hand-drawn oval. The signature appears to be "K. Kilic" written in a cursive style.

Karsu Ipek Kilic