

Srinjoy Das

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Subject: Letter of Appreciation for Shubhadip Nag

To Whom It May Concern,

Some people teach you a subject. Some help you solve a problem. And then there are people who fundamentally change the way you think. Shubhadip Nag has been that person for me. I am currently in my final year of the Dual Degree programme (B.Tech + M.Tech) in Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Kharagpur, and I recently worked as a Quantitative Researcher intern at JPMorgan Chase & Co. I can say with full confidence that the way I approach problems today, whether in research or in a trading floor environment, has been shaped in large part by Shubhadip's mentorship.

I first got to know Shubhadip when he was the Teaching Assistant for Machine Learning and Scalable Data Mining. What stood out immediately was how he taught. Most TAs clarify doubts; Shubhadip rebuilt your intuition from the ground up. He would take a concept that the entire class was struggling with and reframe it in a way that made you wonder why it ever felt difficult. That ability to simplify without dumbing down is something I have rarely seen in anyone else.

Later, when he became my BTP mentor, I got to see a completely different side of his capabilities. His knowledge of Machine Learning, Large Language Models, and Reinforcement Learning is not just broad, it runs deep. What impressed me most was his ability to switch between high-level theoretical reasoning and low-level implementation details without missing a beat. We hit several dead ends during our research, and each time Shubhadip helped me find a way forward that I would not have found on my own. That work eventually led to a paper published at a NeurIPS workshop in 2025, which I consider one of my biggest academic achievements.

Outside of formal academics, Shubhadip was equally generous with his time. I won multiple national-level hackathons during my undergraduate years, and he played a quiet but important role in many of those wins. He would sit with me to think through approaches, challenge my assumptions, and push me to come up with cleaner solutions. He never asked for credit for any of it.

But if I am being completely honest, the thing that has stayed with me the most is not any paper or hackathon trophy. It is the life lessons. Shubhadip is someone who genuinely cares about the people around him. During my five years at KGP, there were phases where the academic pressure felt overwhelming, where career choices felt paralyzing, and where I questioned if I was even on the right path. In those moments, Shubhadip's words carried a kind of clarity that no textbook could offer. He taught me how to stay grounded, how to separate noise from signal in life decisions, and how to keep showing up even when things do not go as planned. Those conversations shaped who I am today far more than I can put into words.

I do not use the word lightly when I say Shubhadip is one of the most impactful people I have met in my life. He is a brilliant researcher, a selfless mentor, and someone whose presence makes every team around him stronger. I recommend him without any hesitation, and I am certain that whoever gets the opportunity to work alongside him will see exactly what I mean.

Sincerely,

Srinjoy Das

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Former Quantitative Researcher Intern, JPMorgan Chase & Co.