

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Steven Niva
Recommenders Institution: The Evergreen State College

Recommenders Title: Faculty Member

Contact Name: Olivia Bedne

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver Choice: I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 07/12/2024 08:03 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000119110626

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

Two years

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: High. They demonstrated this capability in course work and in an independent study in France where they took initiative and kept to task

Time since last contact with applicant:

A week

Applicant as productive member of group: High. They work well with others and have good listening skills and an ability to try and get to practical outcomes rather than perfect outcomes

Relationship with Applicant:

Faculty to student

Applicant most significant strengths: They have strong academic skills. They have great empathy for others. They have a wide ranging awareness of social and political problems on a global and national scale, yet they have a strong desire to work locally and pragmatically to make change

Ability to complete rigorous grad program: Excellent

Responsibility/reliability: Outstanding

Communication Skills - Oral: Excellent

Communication skills - written: Very Good

Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy: Outstanding

Ability to work independently: Excellent

Ability to handle stress: Excellent

Ability to think critically: Excellent

Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Excellent	Ability to think creatively:	Excellent
Openness to feedback:	Excellent	Potential for leadership:	Excellent
Ability to work in a team:	Outstanding	Personal/professional reflection:	Excellent

Description Information

Description:	Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu
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Other Information

Created Time:	07/01/2024 09:05 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	07/12/2024 08:03 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

Dr. Steve Niva, Member of the Faculty
The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington 98505
(360) 867-5612 ♦ nivas@evergreen.edu



I am writing in support of Olivia (Andy) Bedne's application to the MPA program at Evergreen. Andy was an excellent student in my 2022-2023 program "Borders, Migrants and Refugees in the Age of the Climate Change" at The Evergreen State College and was a very able participant in our study abroad program to study global migration and borders in Morocco in the Spring of 2023. It is on this basis that I believe that Andy has the motivation and capacity to be very successful in the MPA program. I fully support their application.

Andy clearly has the intellectual and academic capabilities necessary to thrive in the MPA program. Andy can read difficult texts for comprehension, has a very good ability to quickly grasp an issue, case study or a policy debate and produce a good piece of written or participatory work. For example, Andy demonstrated a high level of understanding of the current international refugee system by writing an excellent policy paper that outlined how these limitations could be addressed through a new refugee system that broadened information sharing about refugees, provided enhanced rights to refugees and found new safe routes for resettlement.

Andy also has familiarity with issues that they will address more deeply in the MPA program. For example, in an Independent Learning Contract under my supervision, Andy demonstrated a strong ability to conduct independent research while working in the field (at a refugee NGO in France) where Andy was able to learn about grassroots refugee support organizations in Europe. Andy showed a strong grasp of the challenges that confront grassroots organizations with limited material resources and the organizational challenges faced by small organizations regarding decision-making and volunteer burnout and wrote cogently about these issues.

Finally, Andy has several helpful attributes to succeed in this program such as an excellent ability to work with others, an excellent ability to deal with diverse points of view and an excellent ability to be a supportive classmate. One of the best things about Andy is that while they have strong views about social justice they also have very grounded and practical views about how to make that happen through working through existing institutions and with others where they are. I think Andy can be an important member of the incoming MPA class and I hope you give them every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Niva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Niva" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Steve Niva
Professor, International Studies
The Evergreen State College