



PATHWAY SUPPORTING STATEMENT

This statement should be completed by proposed supervisor/s in conjunction with Pathway leads. Its role is to highlight nominee's suitability for doctoral research. ALL sections, unless otherwise stated, are obligatory and should be completed as fully as possible within the word limit for each section.

Institution: University of Oxford Student number: 123456 Candidate name: Laila Sayed Current admissions status (e.g. place offered): Place Offered Fee status (from student system): Home Award type (AQM, open, joint ESRC/EPSCRC): open If AQM or joint ESRC/EPSCRC, please confirm that additional information form is attached (Yes/N/A): N/A	Admitting unit/department: Geography Programme name (e.g. MPhil Economics): DPhil Geography Programme code (For Oxford – use eVision code): RD_EV1 Pathway: Geography and the Environment Pathway ranking (out of nominations submitted): 1 Has the candidate completed or is the candidate currently on-course on an Oxford MPhil or Oxford Law MSt (Oxford only) (Yes/No): No
Type of award: <i>Masters / DPhil(PhD) / Masters plus DPhil(PhD)</i> : DPhil Award structure (check pathway accreditation) (e.g. +2, +3, +4, 1+2, 1+3, 2+2, 2+3): +3 Is the candidate also being nominated for Clarendon (Oxford only) (Yes/No): No College preferred by Department (Oxford only): N/A (this will be taken into account only when trying to match the student with possible subject-specific college co-funding opportunities) If no preference, please write 'N/A'	

(a) Career Record and potential for doctoral study (Please comment on academic and professional achievements, and how both offer strong preparation for doctoral work)

Qualification level	Degree Type and Subject (e.g. BA Economics)	Institution (e.g. University of Oxford)	Result (e.g. 1 st or GPA 3.7/4.0)	(P)redicted or (C)onfirmed result
Undergrad	BA Geography	University of Berlin	1st	C
Postgrad	MSc Urban Planning in Developing Regions	Oxford Brookes	Distinction	N/A

Further information about academic record (eg prizes, awards, scholarships, 100 words max)

Laila Sayed's academic record is second to none. Awarded a scholarship to the University of Berlin from her home-town in Upper Egypt, Laila secured top marks in her undergraduate exam, as well as a prize for the best dissertation of her class. After working for British development NGOs in the field of urban planning, she then won a prestigious Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors scholarship to study for a Masters at Brookes. This ESRC-recognised Masters gave her a full suite of research training and methodological skills. With a remarkable CV, Laila is of outstanding academic ability, and more than capable of seamlessly progressing to doctoral-level study with ease.

Professional career experience (where relevant), and its relevance to proposed research project and/or doctoral-level work generally (100 words max).

Since completing her undergraduate degree, Laila has gained extensive work experience with a number of international and Egyptian NGOs whose work will be directly relevant to her research topic. Her

continuing consulting work with the UN Environment Programme's Dams and Development Project (DDP) is of direct relevance, and will enable her to secure access to key stakeholders who would otherwise have proved difficult to engage with.

(b) Comments on academic and professional references/letters of support (100 words max):

Laila's MSc dissertation supervisor, Professor Doe, comments that "Laila is one of the most capable students I have ever supervised", while her Course Director states that "Ms Sayed sat in the top 1% of her class with ease". Her professional supervisor at the UN Environment Programme remarks that "Laila's dedication and flair for investigation and solution-building is such that I have no doubt that she will make an immensely valuable contribution to whatever field she ultimately chooses to pursue".

Comments such as the above speak for themselves and require no further elaboration.

(c) Comments on draft doctoral research proposal/written work (100 words max):

Her chosen topic of 'The impact of hydro-electric power on indigenous communities in Aswan, Egypt' is of great significance and current relevance, and builds upon her own professional knowledge and the work that she produced in her Masters dissertation, developing it in a scholarly and theoretically-sophisticated way. The proposal is well constructed, acknowledges potential challenges, and addresses an issue of vital importance in developing country contexts - namely how best to manage conflicts between local and national stakeholders over access to water.

(d) Other relevant information about application (e.g. performance at interview, support provided to applicant, strength of personal statement, potential for doctoral study, socio-economic background, fit with programme) (100 words max):

As alluded to in section (c), the quality of Laila's research proposal, in addition to the mark that she received in her first Masters, is testament to his readiness for doctoral study. Her use of participatory videos is methodologically highly innovative. In interview, she came across as a highly motivated and mature student, whose professional experience will make an active contribution towards the programme.

(e) +2/+3 Applications Only : Justification that research methods training undertaken to date meets the 2015 ESRC training guidelines (see section B [here](#)). Detail further training to be undertaken on-course (400 words max):

The MSc Urban Planning in Developing Regions offered by Oxford Brookes University is the only Urban Planning Masters in the UK that offers a full and comprehensive ESRC-recognised research methods training provision that meets the 2015 guidelines (see details [here](#)). This included two qualitative methods courses, plus extensive quantitative training, along with training in CAD and other planning software, and a range of professional skills.

(f) Proposed overseas fieldwork (or difficult language training plans, including countries to be visited, languages required, duration, stay, etc (100 words max):

Laila will undertake six months of fieldwork in upper Egypt

(g) Proposed/potential non-academic collaboration activities (100 words max):

Laila's proposed research integrates a strong collaborative dimension, working with the UNEP-DDP (with whom he is already working), as well as the possibility of working with a number of pressure groups and authorities that are local to his research area. Her research will be of significant use to the UNEP-DDP, and that organisation's knowledge and resources will be invaluable for her research.

Supervisor statement of support

As nominated supervisor/s, we agree to support this student with training needs analysis (TNA) guidance and feedback throughout their studentship. Name **Professor Porter** Date **22/11/2016**

Pathway lead comments and signature

Laila is an exceptional student, and with a well-constructed research proposal and supervision already in place, I have every confidence that the panel will see why this candidate is at the top of our ranked list.

This form and supporting material should be returned by email to XXXX