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Dear Hiring Committee in the University of Toronto

This is Mehraneh Kouch Peydeh. I am a native Persian speaker, and I have studied the Persian language and literature to the highest levels (PhD). I am writing to express my deep interest in the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Iranian Studies at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute at the University of Toronto, as advertised on the university's website. My strong passion for Iranian studies, particularly the complex interplay of language, literature, and culture through the lens of Persian literary traditions, has been the driving force behind my academic journey. This commitment, complemented by extensive academic experience, a proven track record in teaching, and a committed research program, positions me to make a significant contribution to your esteemed program.

My academic career has been marked by a continuous and rigorous exploration of Persian language and literature. I have pursued my education with unwavering diligence, earning degrees from prestigious universities, and consistently graduating with top honors. This rigorous academic background has given me a deep understanding of classical and modern Persian literature and cultural studies. My doctoral dissertation, which examined contemporary Iranian fiction from a cultural-psychological perspective, exemplifies my commitment to in-depth scholarly research. It explores the complex dynamics of love in Iranian society and analyzes the personal schemas, interpersonal relationships, and cultural formations of love as depicted in fiction. This research has not only deepened my understanding of contemporary Iranian literature, but also significantly enhanced my analytical and interpretive skills, enabling me to approach literary texts with nuance, critical insight, and an interdisciplinary perspective.

Beyond my academic pursuits, I have cultivated a strong commitment to teaching. From 2019 to 2023, I served as a university lecturer, teaching a diverse range of Persian language and literature courses.

My future research plans build directly on my doctoral work and seek to expand my research on the intersection of story, psychology, and culture in Iranian fiction. I intend to examine the

representation of love and the reflection of gender roles in contemporary Iranian fiction. Love, as a pervasive concept in human social life and a recurring theme in world literature, offers a compelling framework for examining the gendered contexts in Iranian fiction.

The prospect of joining the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute for Iranian Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto is truly exciting and perfectly aligned with my research aspirations and my deep passion for Persian language and culture. My motivation for participating in your program stems from my deep admiration for the University of Toronto's commitment to academic excellence and its vibrant intellectual community. The opportunity to collaborate with world-renowned professors and interact with highly motivated students is incredibly attractive. I am particularly attracted by the program's focus on Iranian studies and its emphasis on complementing and nurturing existing research. I am confident that my research interests align perfectly with the strengths of this program and that I can make a significant contribution to the intellectual life of the field.

In addition, having the opportunity to mentor and guide the next generation of scholars in Persian studies is a prospect that I find extremely valuable. As a Persian language instructor, I look forward to sharing my passion for the Persian language and culture with students at the University of Toronto and encouraging them to embark on their own intellectual journeys in this rich and fascinating field. Learning Persian opens a vital gateway for literature enthusiasts to engage directly with the original texts of world literary masterpieces such as the Shahnameh, the Ghazals of Hafez, and the works of Rumi and Saadi.

I am confident in my ability to create an engaging and intellectually stimulating learning environment. Thank you for your time and attention. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further.

Best regards'

Mehraneh Kouch Peydeh