Dear Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Graduate Scholarships Selection Committee,

I am delighted to recommend Negar Banisafar for the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Graduate Scholarships for 2024-2025. Negar is currently collaborating with us at the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies within the Work-Study and Research Assistant framework for the Cinema Iranica project. Negar's academic journey is exemplary, having obtained her Bachelor's degree from Allameh University in Iran and subsequently completing her second Master's degree at the University of Toronto, renowned for its excellence in her field. Negar is currently a doctoral student in the Near and Middle Eastern Studies program at the University of Toronto.

As someone who has closely observed Negar's progress, I can attest to her exceptional abilities as a researcher and Ph.D. student with an insatiable curiosity for learning. Her academic prowess, coupled with her engagement in extracurricular activities and meaningful contributions to various causes, truly sets her apart.

In 2021, the Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies collaborated with the Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation to receive a substantial grant of $12 million, launching the Cinema Iranica and Women Poet Iranica projects. Negar was invited to assist in the research due to her expertise and dedication. She has been an irreplaceable asset to Professor Tavakoli's archives, specializing in scanning lithographs and supervising Cinema Iranica work-study students at the archive.

Negar has demonstrated exceptional research skills, contributions, and achievements, including presentations at conferences and moderation of events. Her English proficiency has been instrumental in running the Distinguished Lectures of the institute, leading our events on the scene. Her research on the study of intimacy in Iranian cinema has had a significant impact. Her academic and professional qualities, along with her potential for future success in the field, make her a deserving candidate for this scholarship. Receiving this scholarship would significantly enhance her ability to conduct her research, delve into cinematic archives of the Middle East, and support her academic goals.

Negar's CV is a testament to her professional experiences, awards, and research publications, all of which reflect her outstanding potential for any graduate program. Securing this scholarship would not only support her academic pursuits but also enable her to contribute significantly to society through her impactful research and endeavors.

Please feel free to contact me at Sophia.farokhi@utoronto.ca if you have any further inquiries.

Best regards,

Sophia Farokhi  
Research Associate, Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies  
Tel. (416) 864-8467