

To the Selection Committee,  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
Harvard University

2026-04-01

Dear Sirs,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation in strong support of Ms. Aslı Altan for the position of Preceptor in Modern Turkish at Harvard University.

I have been working with Ms. Altan as her student since January 2026, taking online Turkish language lessons twice per week. When we began, my knowledge of Turkish was at an absolute beginner level, with virtually no prior exposure to the language. Within a relatively short period of time, I have made substantial and measurable progress, which I directly attribute to her structured, thoughtful, and highly effective teaching approach.

Ms. Altan teaches entirely in English, and her command of the language is exceptional. Her fluency, precision, and ease of expression make the learning process clear and efficient. In fact, her English communication skills are at a level that feels comparable to that of a native speaker, which is particularly important when introducing complex grammatical concepts to beginners.

From my perception, Ms. Altan demonstrates a strong ability to build language competence systematically. Today, I'm able to handle basic day-to-day situations such as restaurant visits and shopping, and I'm able to read and understand simple texts in the present tense. This progress is especially notable given the short timeframe and the fact that Turkish is linguistically distant from my native language German.

What distinguishes Ms. Altan further is her ability to enrich language instruction with cultural context. She regularly integrates insights into Türkiye's history, geography, travel, key personalities, and contemporary pop culture. As a result, the lessons go well beyond vocabulary and grammar.

For my needs as a Managing Director for the Turkish subsidiary of B. Braun, this cultural dimension has been particularly valuable. Through her teaching, I have not only improved my language skills but also developed a better understanding of the cultural context in which my team operates. This helped me to become a more respectful and effective leader.

Ms. Altan is consistently well prepared, reliable, intellectually curious, and pedagogically reflective. She adapts her teaching to my pace while maintaining clear learning objectives.

Based on my personal experience, I am confident that Ms. Altan would be an excellent Preceptor in Modern Turkish and a valuable contributor to Harvard's language program. I recommend her without reservation.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Paul', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Pascal Paul  
Managing Director  
B. Braun Medikal Türkiye