

1 February 2021

Admission Office  
University of XYZ  
123 College Address  
City, Zip Code

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a professor at the Urban Engineering Department of the Faculty of Engineering, ABC University. The applicant, Taro Yamada, was registered at the department during the period 2009–2013 and also studied in the seminar of Urban Development Design that I was responsible for. As I closely observed how he worked in his study and also evaluated his work during the seminar, I would be a suitable referee to describe him with regard to the Masters programme at your university.

What impressed me most was his enthusiasm for his area of study and the way he took initiative in his study. He regularly asked questions about his study area both after and outside the lecture as he seemed to study spontaneously and find interesting themes to study. His proactive attitude to his study meant he stood out from the other students. In addition, he was extremely capable when it came to organising and summarising information, in addition to highlighting the main points in a clear and understandable manner. His series of assignments and final dissertation were impressive in this regard and I awarded him some marks of distinction.

Another of his significant qualities is that he has the type of personality to identify a good balance between things that tend to be in conflict with each other. On one occasion, the students were having a discussion on a waste management issue and the debate was getting heated, with no prospect of a reconciliation. He listened carefully to the details and clearly outlined the pros and cons of each proposal, then put forward his own idea that was positioned at a midpoint between the different ideas. This type of attentive response definitely influenced the direction of the discussion and the debate eventually ended up reaching a highly useful and satisfactory conclusion.

Regarding a potential area for improvement, I personally suggest that he needs to learn more about the area of infrastructure, including the leading lines of transport, energy, water/sewage, telecommunications and heating/cooling systems. Infrastructure covers a very broad area, and it

takes a considerable amount of time to become experienced in the field; therefore, it is quite understandable if someone does not have sufficient experience in it. However, as a consultant he would need to be in a position to maintain a bird's eye view of everything; thus, in order to realise this, it is crucial that he is an expert in those fields in order to provide sufficiently reliable advice to clients.

The master's programme at your university would offer him the opportunity to undertake research for local residents of Cambridge. This would enable him to look into the different systems and infrastructure used in another country and cultural background, which would prove to be extremely useful experience for him to deepen his knowledge and expertise. I am sure that he would be able to overcome those issues with his positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning, combined with his ability to absorb and digest various sorts of experiences.

Yours faithfully,



Jiro Tanaka

Professor

Faculty of Engineering

ABC University

