

Bogotá, July 27th, 2019

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**COLFUTURO**

Dest: DANIEL FELIPE ORDONEZ APRAEZ  
Fecha: 09/07/2019 13:37:34  
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Doc: PST CARTAS DE APOYO ACADÉMICO

To whom it may concern,

This letter serves as a recommendation for Daniel Felipe Ordonez Apraez who is applying to the Master in Artificial Intelligence at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. Daniel Felipe is a member of a select group of students in the Program for Recruitment of Talent with COLFUTURO, the Foundation for the Future of Colombia.

COLFUTURO is a private non-profit organization, created in 1991 by the private and public sectors in Colombia to promote the formation of a critical mass of highly skilled and educated Colombian professionals to support the country's sustainable development and competitive insertion to the global environment.

COLFUTURO carries out its mission through the provision of Loan-Scholarships to bright and talented Colombians who have been admitted to the best graduate schools abroad in any discipline of study, and who have been selected through a competitive process.

COLFUTURO's financing mechanism is a Loan-Scholarship of up to US\$25,000 per year for two years or a maximum credit limit of US\$50,000 per beneficiary. A portion of this loan is converted into a scholarship when the beneficiary finishes his or her studies, returns to Colombia and lives in the country for a specified period of time. COLFUTURO has granted nearly 10,500 loan-scholarships to students in their efforts to pursue graduate programs in over 2,000 different institutions across the globe. In 2014, COLFUTURO reached the goal of financing 1,000 students and since then it has been financing between 1,200 and 1,500 students per year.

In 2007, COLFUTURO launched the Program for Recruitment of Talent, an initiative aimed at recruiting students with high standards of academic excellence from universities of the different regions of Colombia. The selection process for PRT is highly rigorous, focusing on high academic merit and leadership qualities of the candidates, who are evaluated on certain criteria including: class rank, cumulative GPA, merits, recognition and faculty recommendations.

Once identified, the PRT works closely with each candidate to gain a deeper knowledge of their academic and professional strengths while also orienting them for their graduate studies through advisement and a series of educational workshops. These workshops are designed to offer comprehensive information on how to best plan a graduate education abroad and to provide information about existing scholarship opportunities. PRT's aims at empowering students so they can be proactive in their post-graduate application process in order to be admitted to excellent programs around the world.

A placement program has been created by the PRT to act as a liaison between candidates and the universities they are applying for their graduate studies. The goal is to develop closer ties with universities abroad while assisting candidates in achieving success in their admissions process. One way in which we support the candidate is by providing a brief profile of the applicant to the admissions committee, which you will find attached.

Based on my close interaction with the applicant, I am pleased to recommend Daniel Felipe Ordonez Apraez who is applying to the Master in Artificial Intelligence at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. Through several months of closely monitoring his plan of studying abroad, I can attest to his superior academic excellence and leadership, as described in the attached profile.

I look forward to collaborating with your university's admissions committee to place qualified PRT students in your graduate programs. I thank you in advance for your favorable consideration on this matter.

Kind Regards,



**Nelson Cuevas Valderrama**

Program for Recruitment of Talent Director

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## Colombian Professional Talented Group 2019

**Daniel Felipe Ordoñez Apraez**, 23 Years old, Bogota D.C.

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### Education:

**Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics Engineering:** The National University of Colombia. Campus Bogota D.C. Faculty of Mechanics and Mechatronics. Degree Date 30 April 2019. Exchange semester abroad in the Informatics Faculty of the Technique University of Munich.

### Research Interest:

Pursuing a career in research and academia in the field of Robotics, specifically in the implementation of artificial intelligence techniques to enhance the capabilities, flexibility, an application fields of robotics. I am most interested in the areas of knowledge representation, intelligent control, and legged locomotion.

### Initial Interest in Universidad Polit cnica de Catalu a (UPC)

The Master in Artificial Intelligence of the UPC, the School of Engineering of the Rovira i Virgili University (URV) and the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Barcelona (UB) is one of the first programs worldwide directed specifically to AI. Additionally, it is not only offered by the most prestigious faculty of informatics and mathematics of Spain, but also by one of the most prominent University in the field of robotics of Europe, the UPC. Considering that my academic passion, and hopefully my future, is the study and application of AI to robotics, there are few other programs worldwide that would provide me with such a perfect combination of knowledge and opportunities, that address directly my academic desires, and introduce me to the elite research community in the field.

### Professional and Academic Profile

- Currently, Junior Researcher in Robotics, at the INVITE GmbH research center in Cologne, Germany.
- Intern in Robotics, at the INVITE GmbH research center in Cologne, Germany
- Tutor of Computer Science and Control courses at the National University of Colombia
- Experience working with the DIMA un research group from the National University of Colombia

## **Awards and other achievements**

- 2019, Awarded loan/scholarship from COLFUTURO for postgraduate education. COLFUTURO is an initiative from the Colombian government to offer economic support to selected Colombian graduates in their pursuit of postgraduate education in foreign countries
- Participant of the COLFUTURO's Recruitment of Talent, a Colombian government program supporting selected outstanding students and teachers in their process of search, preparation and application for admission to graduate programs.
- Ranked among the top 1% of Colombian Undergraduate Students on the Colombian "Saber Pro" test, which evaluates all undergraduate students before graduation.
- Finalist at HackRoboy We developed a position control algorithm for a four degrees of freedom walking robot, allowing it to stand and maintain certain posture even facing external perturbations, this in less than two and a half days.
- University tuition exemption Bogotá Colombia 2012 4th Place At ICFES (the Colombian version of the "Abitur/SAT"), out of ten thousand Bogotá Colombia