

January 05, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very happy to recommend Aman Shrivastava, who was a student of mine in the Academic and Technical Writing Program (ATWP) of the University of Victoria in 2023, for study at your institution. During the semester that I have known Mr. Shrivastava, I have come to appreciate him as a highly motivated and very qualified student with a broad knowledge base in both scientific and political matters, who was able to engage topics that far exceeded the level of expertise required for undergraduate studies at the University of Victoria. Mr. Shrivastava was a student in my first-year writing course “ATWP135: Introduction to Academic Reading and Writing,” which undergraduate students across the curriculum have to pass successfully as part of their discipline-specific programs. The class had only about 30 students, so I venture to say that I have come to know Mr. Shrivastava quite well in my class and do not hesitate to endorse his application for admission.

Mr. Shrivastava was a consistently well-prepared and insightful student in my class. His personal and intellectual maturity first became apparent to me in his interactions with classmates, which were always polite and, indeed, supportive. In fact, Mr. Shrivastava’s appreciation for individuals in fields other than his research area stood out to me most memorably in a peer review he wrote for another student, who was working on the topic of electric vehicles. Mr. Shrivastava’s peer review was very generous, consistently polite, and remarkably clear in helping the fellow student improve his paper. As such, it was easy for me to give him an A+ on this peer review assignment. Other interactions with his classmates similarly reflected Mr. Shrivastava’s strong social skills. Moreover, Mr. Shrivastava’s excellent work ethic became clear to me over the course of the term, because his grades improved consistently, with Mr. Shrivastava earning high A’s toward the end of the semester. I attribute this learning curve to Mr. Shrivastava’s excellent ability to respond to instructor feedback and thus learn new skills and approaches to writing.

Among these skills were the rhetorical skill of writing to an audience, and by the time of his final paper, in which Mr. Shrivastava took up his personal interest in theoretical physics to make an argument for taking “dark energy” seriously, in contrast to some countervailing models (e.g., MOND), he had mastered this rhetorical skill successfully, as well. It is safe to say that Mr. Shrivastava’s outstanding grasp of the physics involved in the argument was never in question; in fact, as I learned from Mr. Shrivastava, he had been pursuing research at the Department of Physics on dark energy concurrently with taking my writing class and was also involved with the university’s Satellite Design Team. But what impressed me in his final research essay was Mr. Shrivastava’s rhetorical ability to explain challenging ideas in layperson’s terms and to provide

helpful thought experiments that illustrated the complex ideas in his paper, thus ensuring a larger audience for his argument. To my mind, this ability is something that is deeply needed in our academic landscape today. Mr. Shrivastava is a scientist who understands the importance of this kind of knowledge mobilization and dissemination of research findings to the broader public.

In sum, Mr. Shrivastava is professional, mature, and a pleasure to have in the classroom. His intellectual capacity, energy, and devotion to his studies all but ensure that he will make a meaningful contribution to the academic world. I have no doubt that he will also be a credit to any institution he joins. I therefore strongly support his application for admission at your institution.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you would like any more information.

Dr. Tim Personn

