

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of the application of Mr. Thai Nguyen. Having been a Professor of Physics at Stevens Institute of Technology for 50 years prior to my retirement in 2016 (and still active in research as an Emeritus Professor), I know well the pitfalls of routine praise and the importance of honest evaluations of students and professionals. So please be assured that my remarks below are truthful and meaningful, so important in science and research.

I hired Thai last December as a technical typist in our Stevens Federal Work Study Program for undergraduate students. In this, I selected him as the best qualified out of about a dozen applicants because he stood out as a bright, strongly motivated Freshman, knowledgeable about computers. His responsibilities in this job are focused on typing highly mathematical/technical manuscripts on theoretical physics for my research papers and my seventh book (in preparation). I was really surprised at the speed with which he learned and became proficient with LaTeX, the program for manuscript preparation preferred by physics publishers. Whereas most such assistants took one or two semesters to become really productive with it, Thai did so within one week. I find Thai to be exceptionally fast and accurate, dedicated to his work, intelligent and quick to learn.

Thai's interest in this science is very strong, and he brought to my attention interesting features such as life forms in ammonia clouds on Jupiter and sulfuric acid clouds on Venus, not requiring oxygen or water. However, when it came to possible life on Mars, his questions were generally beyond my limited knowledge of this area of science as I am focused on semiconductor nanostructure theory. But I believe that Thai's interest in science will be a great fit and asset in your program research group: It will certainly help him grow rapidly in this area of science and I am sure that he will work vigorously and effectively to contribute in a positive way to the progress of this research.

In personal terms, Thai is powerfully motivated in his drive to learn and develop research that will accomplish something outstanding in his life. He has a very strong academic background and excellent proficiency in mathematics and sciences, as demonstrated in his GPA, which is straight A except for one B+ (due to the failure of his teammate to turn in Thai's joint project with him on time). Thai has a fine collaborative spirit and works well with others (as well as on his own). I believe that he will be a very valuable addition to your research group and I strongly recommend him for acceptance and support.

Sincerely yours,
Norman Horing