

Ghent, 6 July 2022

Letter of Reference STIJN VAN RUYMBEKE

To whom it may concern,

Stijn Van Ruymbeke is one of fifty selected students who, during the academic years 2020-21 and 2021-22, participated in Ghent University's "Quetelet Lectures", a university-wide honours programme for outstanding second- and third-year bachelor students across all academic disciplines.

The Quetelet Lectures consist of four modules (one module per term), which students take on top of their regular undergraduate curriculum. In each module, ten pre-eminent (inter)national specialists from various fields deliver a guest lecture related to the themes "What is Science?", "Science and Society", "20th and 21st Century (R)evolutions" and "Challenges for the Future". By bringing high-achieving students together to reflect on key issues in science, society and culture, the honours programme encourages intellectual exploration beyond the boundaries of one specific academic discipline. To that end, a wide variety of topics are being discussed, ranging from the philosophy of science to economics, (inter)national politics, theoretical physics, genetics and ethics.

The Quetelet Lectures are highly demanding: students are expected to do extensive background reading (in Dutch, French or English) in preparation of each lecture, to engage in critical discussion with the lecturer and with fellow students about the topic at hand and to write essays and an opinion piece on a topic well beyond the comfort zone of their own discipline.

Stijn Van Ruymbeke performed in an exemplary manner throughout the honours programme. He carried out all assignments diligently, thoroughly and enthusiastically. His questions about the background reading were invariably probing, and he managed to distinguish himself both in the oral assignments and in exceptionally well-written and clearly structured essays, in which he showed strong critical-analytical skills. Without ever being overbearing, he made interesting contributions to in-class debates, demonstrating both an inquisitive attitude and great open-mindedness. Finally, for the module 4-teamwork he worked on a well-thought presentation on an interdisciplinary scientific topic, for which his team chose the topic "The impact of social media on society" and which was presented in an attractive and professional way.

For all those reasons, I would like to recommend Stijn Van Ruymbeke whole-heartedly and without any reservations.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Rik Van de Walle, rector Ghent University