Dear Admissions Committee,

I am delighted to write this letter in recommendation of Mr. Sarath Nambiar to pursue his graduate studies at your prestigious university. I am a professor at the Industrial Engineering and Operations Research department at Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore. I have been active in the field of scheduling optimization research with over 125 citations across multiple papers in the last 3 years. Sarath was an outstanding student, and I can quite confidently say that he was easily in the top 1 percentage of the students I have taught. He had taken two different courses under me, and I have guided him on three academic projects. The most standout feature he possessed was how much in depth he would investigate a problem and think of multiple cases where his solution may face trouble, a key trait for success in research.

He was excellent academically and it is evident in his overall GPA over the course of four years of his bachelor’s degree. He is ranked in the top 10% of the branch. I have seen Sarath be very enthusiastic about the course and his questions in the class would often be a topic of great interest. He was very regular and sincere in doing his assignments, quizzes, and other assessment tests. His remarkable leadership skill was always on display when he always took responsibility for the entire team and structured the way his team approached the project.

The thing that set him apart was his choice of projects. It was challenging and thoughtful. He chose problems by taking inspiration from the scenarios he has seen around him by relating it to his subject. One such project he did under me was ‘Digitization of NGO Operations with an ERP solution’. He led the team of 3 right from the get-go by identifying the problems within a small-scale NGO, finding the right sample size and pool of people for surveys, and his most important skillset of identifying every single case or problem that may occur and scrutinizing every detail. I watched him go around NGO to NGO on ground to conduct his analysis, his dedication was very impressive. Realizing his lack of knowledge in sampling and queuing theory, he sought my help, and we had interesting problem-solving sessions on the same. These traits were present in not more than 2-3 students including him out of nearly 60 students in class.

The data driven approach he took was a big marker of his analytical mindset. His solution was presented to a few NGOs and two of them have adopted it for their daily operations and they have seen their operational effort and time by more than 36%.

Another well appreciated project he did was ‘Design and production of Adjustable Work desk’. His collaboration skills were commendable here as he worked with multiple members with different skillsets to build a prototype of a work desk. He went through a huge number of research articles and existing design prototypes in a short period of time and provided an efficient analysis to the team. Based on the analysis, the team went on to build a model of a prototype to solve desk fatigue with a projected adoption rate of over 70% of the surveyed population that included over 400 people working from home during the pandemic. All throughout the project, he was very keen on taking my feedback, and was consistent in improving it further.

He has keen interest in research and in his areas of interest, he will perform exceedingly well. I’m confident he will not fall short on any research work and readily accepts feedbacks and improves on it. His team playing skills and hardworking nature will help foster productive relationships within the batch of students and his meticulous nature at work will result in quality research output and projects. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding his candidature. Please reach out to me at [raviteja.buddala@vit.ac.in](mailto:raviteja.buddala@vit.ac.in).