

Industrial & Systems Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

July 20, 2023

I am writing to strongly recommend Shankruth Balasubramaniam based on his stellar performance as a summer intern in my lab.

Shankruth stands out from other talented students simply by virtue of his unparalleled motivation. It is worth mentioning here I did not recruit him actively for any research project; nor was I particularly looking to hire any intern for a specific project need. Instead, he was the one who quite literally caught my attention as a (wonderful) potential intern through his genuine passion to learn and contribute to robotics research through his emails. Our first virtual one-on-one meeting reinforced my belief in his potential.

Shankruth's actual work as an intern has lived upto, and even to an extent surpassed, my high expectations. He has been instrumental in customizing a commercial mobile ground robot platform with a powerful stereo camera. Even though there was another Master's student on this project, Shankruth has actually taken the lead in calibrating, testing, and integrating the camera on to the mobile robot base. This has involved long hours (even outside the regular working hours) in the lab, lots of trial and errors, and some smart designs (e.g., for 3D printing a mount for the camera) and workarounds to pesky hardware-software compatibility issues. Throughout all these activities, he has never lost sight of the big picture – the overall project goals and objectives, and has further honed his technical skills and enhanced his knowledge of related topics. In fact, it is quite amazing that he has even spent the weekends studying advanced topics, such as deep learning models for robot vision, so that he could contribute meaningfully to the discussions on the next steps for the project.

In summary, I have no doubts that Shankruth would be extremely successful in any engineering design, development, and testing project. I would hire him again in the blink of an eye. I wish him all the best, and would be happy to answer further questions that you might have about his internship experience and potential as a valuable engineering project contributor.

Sincerely,



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