

1. Recommender's Name:

Text Response

Martijn van Hasselt

Statistic

Total Responses

Value

1

2. Recommender's Email Address:

Text Response

mnvanhas@uncg.edu

Statistic

Total Responses

Value

1

3. Applicant's name for which you are providing a recommendation:

Text Response

U Yeong Yang

Statistic

Total Responses

Value

1

4. How long have you known the applicant and under what circumstances have you become familiar with the applicant's academic abilities?

Text Response

I have known U Yeong since January 2017. Still an undergraduate student then, he took my course "Economic and Business Statistics II," which is a linear regression course for economics majors. I became familiar with his academic abilities through frequent interaction in and outside of the class room. I was also able to assess him through written homework assignments and SAS software assignments, which were a required part of the course. U Yeong became an M.A. student in August 2017 and is currently taking my course "Econometric Theory," which covers mathematical statistics and a theoretical treatment of linear regression model, using linear algebra.

Statistic

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Value

1

5. Please assess the applicant's ability to contribute to the Data Science for the Public Good Fellowship Program.

Text Response

U Yeong was one of the four best students in my undergraduate course. His numerical course grade was 94%, with the top student scoring only 1 percentage point higher. The course is considered very challenging by most of our undergraduate students, which makes U Yeong's performance even more remarkable. He is a highly skilled student who pays great attention to detail. His written work is precise and clear. These qualities will serve him well in any project he would end up working on in the DSPG program. Moreover, he is curious and inquisitive: he was always eager to know the ins and outs of particular methods and techniques, as well as particular issues that might arise when applying statistical and econometric approaches in empirical practice. He was one of the students that consistently asked question in class and during office hours. He takes nothing for granted and excels at critical thinking. I believe that this would also provide a significant benefit to the DSPG program. Finally, U Yeong is easygoing and very friendly. While he is very talented, he is also very humble. I have seen him interact with and help other students on many occasions. Based on this, I believe he would work very well with other students and faculty in the DSPG program.

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6. How would you describe the applicant's motivation and initiative in pursuing his/her academic and career goals?

Text Response

U Yeong is one of the most academically curious and inquisitive students that I have encountered at UNCG. His questions are thoughtful and often cover aspects beyond the material discussed in class. To me, this shows that he is highly motivated and eager to expand his knowledge in econometrics and statistics. However, he is also eager to broaden his horizon. The empirical research that U Yeong encounters in our department (Economics) tends to be focused on more traditional areas, such as labor and education, policy and program evaluation. His application to the DSPG program is evidence that he has a desire to go further, and to study and help solve economic and social problems that affect individuals, companies and governments in many different ways. U Yeong applied for and got admitted to the Master's program at the London School of Economics. Admission to this school is highly competitive and to my knowledge he is the first student at UNCG to have ever achieved this. While we would be sad to see him leave UNCG, I would encourage him to take advantage of this opportunity, if his circumstances allow. His application and admission to LSE is evidence of both his skills and capabilities, as well has his initiative and desire to further improve his academic and technical knowledge. While U Yeong has a passion for statistics and econometrics, he is eager to explore current societal and economic problems more broadly. As far as I know, U Yeong initiated his applications to LSE and the DSPG program independently, which shows that he is serious in thinking about his future, as well as exploring the full range of possibilities that may be available to him.

Statistic

Total Responses

Value

1