



David Biron
Director of Undergraduate
Studies in Data Science

5730 S Ellis Ave
Ryerson 257F
Chicago, Illinois 60637

dbiron@statistics.uchicago.edu

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to highly recommend Devan Johnson for a data scientist position at McMaster-Carr. Being the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Data Science, I got to know Devan as a student in our program. Devan is a Physics major who is also completing a minor in Data Science at the University of Chicago. I am currently teaching a data visualization class that he chose to take as part of his minor.

As a student, Devan stands out as being intellectually strong. He exhibits a drive to push beyond the boundaries of standard coursework. Instead of being content with just mastering the material presented in class, he sought out additional challenges such as his project in the Strategic Security Sciences Division at Argonne National Lab. In class, Devan asks sophisticated questions that reveal his curiosity and thoughtfulness.

Devan has excellent work ethic and a strong sense of responsibility. He meets the required deadlines, arrives prepared to every class, deliver thorough and high-quality work. He is the type of student who consistently demonstrated a combination of brilliance, dedication, and intellectual hunger. From the little I saw of his Argonne lab project, I believe that his supervisor will likely echo this observation.

The technical capabilities that Devan developed are considerable and directly relevant to data analysis work. He is proficient in Python and has demonstrated mastery of essential data analysis libraries including pandas, numpy, and matplotlib and seaborn for visualization. He has consistently shown the ability to write clean code that processes and analyzes datasets of varying sizes and complexity. Additionally, I believe that he has acquired practical database skills, including writing SQL queries and working with data across multiple tables. His technical toolkit is well-rounded and practical. Moreover, he has applied it to a real-world analytical problem.

Beyond sheer technical skills, Devan possesses a sophisticated analytical mindset and a strong grasp of statistical reasoning. He has an ability to identify patterns in complex datasets, to think critically about what the data is actually telling him as opposed to what he might want it to say. His understanding of statistical methods is rigorous and pragmatic and he interprets results with appropriate caution. Moreover, he has demonstrated critical thinking about data quality and limitations before diving into analysis. This combination of statistical literacy and healthy skepticism about data ensures that his analyses are methodologically sound and insightful.

Importantly, Devan can bridge the gap between technical analysis and practical application through excellent communication and problem-solving skills. He is capable of explaining complex quantitative findings to his peers and colleagues. His visualizations are thoughtfully designed to highlight key insights and his written reports are clear and concise. Beyond communication, he approaches problems with genuine curiosity and takes time to understand the underlying principles. When initial analytical approaches don't seem to work, he tries out alternatives and isn't discouraged by apparent dead ends. Devan is self-directed, troubleshooting technical issues independently and seeking out new methods or tools when needed. He is also receptive to feedback and ask for advice when appropriate. This combination of communication skills, curiosity, and adaptive problem-solving makes him someone who will likely contribute to better decision-making.

In summary, Devan is highly qualified and dedicated student, highly likely to succeed as a data analyst. I would hire him without hesitation. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further

information.

Sincerely,

David Biron

David Biron
Director of Undergraduate Studies in Data Science