

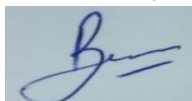
Recommendation Letter

I am writing this letter to express my support for Mr. Ephrem Admasu, a candidate for a scholarship in your graduate program. I first met Ephrem around four years ago, when we started working on a research project that predicts consumer recommendations using a dataset scrapped from airlinequality.com. When we work together, Ephrem has demonstrated a keen sense of responsibility, analytical prowess, and wit. He always brings novel ideas to the table and possesses great teamwork and communication skills. His system design and implementation skills using a variety of tools and libraries are excellent. Working with him has always been exciting. Our first paper together, titled "Consumer recommendation prediction in online reviews using Cuckoo optimized machine learning models," was accepted and published in the journal of Computers and Electrical Engineering, Elsevier. In that work, Ephrem implemented all the algorithms, ran the experiments, and helped write some portions of the paper. This is where I was also able to witness Ephrem's outstanding writing skills.

We have also submitted a paper titled "Detecting urban dynamics using deep siamese convolutional neural networks" to the 6th international conference on computer vision and image processing. This gave me another opportunity to witness Ephrem's ability and depth of knowledge in the areas of machine learning and deep learning. However, we were not able to publish the paper as Ephrem was in Tigray at the time and the region was completely under siege due to the recent civil war that broke out in Ethiopia. For around two years, Tigray was cut off from basic services such as electricity, banking, and communication (including Internet) services. When we had the chance to talk, he told me that although the siege had its setbacks and hardships, it made him a good and strong person, and he had the chance to read plenty of books and make many friends. Another paper titled "A multi-label ensemble model to predict consumer recommendation decisions using online reviews" was published to the Journal of Supercomputing. Therein Ephrem helped implement some of the algorithms and write some portions of the paper.

It's worth mentioning that Ephrem now lives in Addis Ababa to undertake research activities and apply for scholarships, away from his workplace and home town, Mekelle. Although a peace deal is reached between the conflicting parties, most basic services, such as the Internet, are not in good shape. He told me that he has rented a tiny room in a slum neighborhood in Addis Ababa and travels for 12 kilometers every morning using a taxi to a public library that offers free WiFi. In our conversations, Ephrem mentions that he wants to dedicate his life to research, and I am sure that he will be a great researcher who strives to make this world a better place than he found it.

Therefore, if you give him the opportunity to pursue this graduate program, I am certain that he will be an exemplary student and academician with so much to offer to the research community and industry. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



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