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To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation letter in support of the application of Mr. Ernesto Bocini for an internship opportunity. I have had the pleasure of teaching Ernesto in two courses during his MSc studies at EPFL on Data Science, and I can confidently say he is an outstanding student with a strong passion for learning.

In the first course, Network Machine Learning (EE-452, Spring 2023) Ernesto achieved an excellent grade of 5.75/6, ranking in the top 1% of the class. His dedication and commitment to doing well were evident throughout the course, not only with his performance in the graded assignments, but also with his active participation in the class. As part of the course, he conducted a project on Drosophila brain connectome analysis with graph attention networks, which was in depth and well-presented. Moreover, the delivered codebase in Python was well-documented and reproducible.

What sets Ernesto apart is his (ongoing) participation in a doctoral-level course on advanced notions of Graphs for Biology and Medicine (EE-626, Fall 2023) while still being a master's student. He not only keeps up with doctoral candidates but often stands out among them. His questions are sharp and clear, and his presentations are consistently well-structured.

Judging from his academic performance, and after interacting often with him during these classes, I confirm that Ernesto has a very good understanding of graph machine learning and graph neural networks. He is always eager to dive deeper into advanced concepts related to these topics and explore real-world applications. Over the two semesters, Ernesto has shown a very positive and collaborative attitude, that has been confirmed in different circumstances by his willingness to help other students (e.g., by providing references to research articles), or volunteering to team up with them in presenting some of the seminars of the Graphs for Biology and Medicine course.

Overall, I believe Ernesto is a hardworking and curious student who is always keen to learn more. I am confident he will bring the same dedication and enthusiasm to any internship opportunity, and I have no hesitation in recommending his application. I remain available for any additional inquiries in support of his application.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Dorina Thanou,
Senior Scientist and Lecturer, EPFL