

Dear colleague,

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Eric Richter. I have come to know him during his semester project at the Institute of Neuroinformatics, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich.

I had the pleasure of supervising his project on **Evolving Optimized Neuromorphic Hardware Architectures**.

Eric is a master's student at the Mechanical Engineering department of ETH Zurich, and when he contacted me, he had a solid background on Microengineering, and had taken courses in deep learning, but he had no background in Spiking Neural Networks and Evolutionary algorithms. However, he picked up on the project very fast, and got familiar with a python package called EONS (Evolutionary Optimization for Neuomorphic Systems), which was very impressive.

During the project, which is still on-going, he has been developing a code in Python for evolving a network of spiking neurons to perform a speech classification task which consists of 20 classes of spoken digits. The project requires coding skills and understanding of the neuron models, evolutionary algorithms, defining the correct fitness function for evaluation, and handling speech data, on which Eric has shown excellent capability.

During the project, he has so far illustrated strong problem-solving abilities by tackling problems from the core and step by step. He is smart and especially curious and shows a lot of interest in understanding the big picture, which puts him in the top 5% of the students I have worked with.

Importantly, he is extremely pleasant to work with. He is very polite and considerate and is not afraid to try new things, while he makes sure he follows the instructions.

I highly recommend Eric as an intelligent, fast-learner, cooperative, serious, and positive individual. I believe he is an asset for any group. For any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Melika Payvand

Assistant Professor

Institute of Neuroinformatics,

University of Zurich and ETH Zurich

Email: melika@ini.uzh.ch

Website: <https://www.ini.uzh.ch/en/research/groups/EIS.html>