Recommendation Letter

To whom it may concern,

It is a great pleasure to recommend Iñaki Arango. Over the 6 years that I knew him as his teacher and as the head of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) studies at ORT Belgrano High School in Buenos Aires, I watched him grow from a shy and quiet student into an outgoing and confident young man. He was not only one of our sharpest students but also one of our most committed– to his projects, to his teams, to the school, and to his friends.

Iñaki’s enthusiasm for technology and innovation was palpable from the moment I met him when he first visited the school with his father and I showed him some of the projects our students were working on. Then, on his very first day of school, he took himself up to the ICT floor to see what we were doing. He showed such genuine interest in our projects that even though he was a first-year student, we invited him to join our LEGO Robotics Competition team. He demonstrated a mature ability to both adapt to his team and to collaborate with students much older than he. The following year, we invited him to our year-long mini-submarines workshop, and thanks to his patient persistence, the team he led was the only one that managed to complete its submarine by the end of the workshop.

We were very proud to have Iñaki represent our school in various national and international Olympiads, as he earned a bronze medal at the national level in the Biology Olympiad, a gold medal at the national level in the Science Olympiad, a bronze medal at the international level in the Science Olympiad, as well as a silver medal at the national level in the IT Olympiad. In spite of the time he dedicated to preparing for and participating in the competitions, he always maintained his excellent academic performance: he consistently was one of the top 5 in his class and, in fact, held the highest GPA his last two years.

For his academic performance, he was also chosen for the first group of students that worked on a project sponsored by Satellogic, an Argentine/US satellite company, for which they developed an application to integrate infrared and visible light images. Iñaki worked well with 3 other teammates in the development of the software. He also took charge of interfacing with Satellogic and defining project requirements and timelines. Thanks to his leadership and the group’s collaboration, his team was rewarded with a trip to Satellogic’s factory in Uruguay to discuss the software with its engineers.

Beyond his academic achievements, Iñaki also became an integral member of our school community. In addition to volunteering during lunch to help students who had fallen behind, he organized and led Science and IT Olympiad study groups where he coached younger students who found his explanations easier to understand than those of some teachers and his approach very fun. Because he both cared about the curriculum and was also willing to question established norms, Iñaki was proactive about suggesting changes so that our college-level material would be more understandable for high school students. Trusting his judgment, we also decided to introduce parts of a new course he designed, Architectures of Web Applications, into another course: Emerging Technologies. Finally, in his last year he applied for and was selected to be a project manager for student-initiated projects, and the teams that requested Iñaki as their project manager worked on projects ranging from a blockchain business solution to a navigation app to assist people with disabilities. His capacity to network and to clearly and convincingly convey ideas proved very useful in acquiring clients and forging connections that boosted the popularity and reach of the projects he managed.

Iñaki developed as a student, as an innovator, and as a leader during his six years at ORT. He won the respect and trust of his peers and the faculty, not only for his vast skill and knowledge but also because he was such a pleasure to interact with. I believe the REU in Data Science program will be fortunate to have Iñaki as a participant, and I offer my wholehearted endorsement of his application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information about Iñaki.

Best regards,

Darío Mischener

Head of the ICT Track

ORT Belgrano High School

Transcript Starts Below

The full recommendation letter is attached together with the transcript. The following is a summary: We were very proud to have Iñaki represent our school in various national and international Olympiads, and in spite of the time he dedicated to preparing for and participating in the competitions, he always maintained his excellent academic performance: he consistently was one of the top 5 in his class and, in fact, held the highest GPA his last two years.

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