

March 5, 2024

To whom it may concern

Lucas Monteiro was my student in a course on Quantitative Methods in Systems Biology during his Bioinformatics and Computational Biology MSc at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. In class, Lucas stands out due to his intellectual curiosity and critical thinking. He achieved the classification of 19 out of 20, which was the best grade of that year. Additionally, that course had a computational project, and Lucas presented the best project of that year (19 out of 20).

I also co-supervised Lucas during his MSc thesis (“E(xtraterrestris). Coli: Adapting genome-scale metabolic models to non-standard thermodynamical constraint”). I can testify that Lucas is a very hard-working student, with a high capacity to learn new subjects by himself, in order to successfully develop his thesis project. A big part of the work in his MSc thesis was done independently with very little guidance from the supervisors. I was impressed with the quality and quantity of his work, unusual for a student at this stage. Lucas integrated very easily in our research team, contributing significantly to a positive working environment. Lucas always showed a natural interest in knowing more about the work of other colleagues and was always available to help and cooperate with other team members.

Lucas has an extremely rich and unusual training, including a BSc in Physics, an MSc in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology and a deep interest in astrobiology. In his MSc he developed competencies in genome scale metabolic modelling and the chemical thermodynamic constraints influencing such systems.

In summary, I consider Lucas to be an outstanding student, deeply motivated to develop his career as a research scientist. Consequently, I recommend you to select Lucas Monteiro as a trainee in Computational Biology.

Best regards,

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