



Ref.: Letter of support for Mr Luis Puerto

International Master's Degree Programme in Information Technology (IMPIT)  
School of Computing, University of Eastern Finland (UEF)  
Joensuu 80101, Finland

18 January 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

This is a letter of recommendation and support for Mr Luis Puerto's candidature to enroll in the International Master's Degree Programme in Information Technology (IMPIT) at UEF.

I have known Luis for four years and feel confident of his competence and commitment to IMPIT. Mr Puerto and I worked very closely at UEF's School of Forest Sciences while I held a PostDoctoral position there. He carried out two internships during 2016-2017, working my supervision in a project related to LiDAR remote sensing technologies. During his time working with us he demonstrated great programming skills. Mr Puerto was key for us in developing our capacity to process the LIDAR data available for the entire Finland from *Maanmittauslaitos*. Using big doses of self-teaching and initiative, he learned DOS batch processing to a very high level of skill, including conditional branching and looping and using regular expressions and environment variables in its outputs. He developed his own scripts that automatically downloaded the raw data from the server and processed it toward useful and comprehensive gridded products. Thanks to his previous experience in GIS, he managed well in organizing the resulting data within a geodatabase in a meaningful and efficient way, which allowed quick and easy access and further analysis. Although he is novel in producing scientific outputs, he also learned and carried out numerous other tasks in R language. He showed willingness and eagerness to learn and continued working on the project even after the end of the internship. We also showed commitment and capacity for independent work because he continued working efficiently when I moved to Cambridge, UK. As a result our collaboration, he have so far achieved the publication of a scientific article that have been recently accepted in a peer-reviewed journal, and I expect that he will coauthor many others as we are currently making good use of his work.

On a more personal note, I consider Luis a very easygoing person and it has been a pleasure to interact with him inside and outside the working environment. He is always with desire to learn and develop his own initiative in the tasks demanded. He has a great disposition to work and he is always eager to help. I think his critical and analytical mind gives him good potential to understand science and deliver good scientific outputs in the near future. I strongly believe that Luis will be a positive asset to the IMPIT master program. He is capable to acquire the necessary skills to cope with the challenges he may face while enrolled at IMPIT.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Yours faithfully,

Rubén Valbuena