

To the Admissions Committee at Carnegie Mellon University Africa,

I am writing to lend my support for Richard Mugisha to attend Carnegie Mellon University Africa for further studies in the ECE program.

As the Dean of Student and Community Affairs at Academic City University, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Richard during his tenure as the International Students' Representative, where he served as a vital bridge between the administration and our diverse international student body.

In his role as Representative, Richard demonstrated a level of maturity and proactivity that is rare among students. He was not merely a figurehead; he was a tireless advocate for his peers. I watched him successfully lead an initiative to improve the orientation process for incoming students, organize team-building activities and bonding events such as cookouts, and hangouts for international students to know their way around the city. He possesses a natural ability to navigate administrative systems while maintaining the trust of the students he represents—a skill set that will serve him well in the rigorous and collaborative environment of CMU-Africa.

What impressed me most about Richard was his remarkably clear sense of purpose. He faced significant hurdles early in his academic career, including navigating the transition from a Francophone background and resolving an initial academic misalignment when he pivoted from Electrical to Computer Engineering. Navigating such a transition requires immense courage and a proactive engagement with academic advisors—a process Richard did not just undergo, but sought to improve for others. Recognizing his unique peer-perspective, he took it upon himself to mentor younger students, ensuring they had the strategic guidance to avoid similar navigation hurdles. I observed Richard handle this period with disciplined focus, excelling in his new curriculum while bridge-building between the student body and our formal advisory services.

Richard is a lifelong mentor. He has a reputation on campus for his invaluable advice to juniors, pushing them toward strategic career choices and academic excellence. He is a leader who leads by empowering others, and his commitment to the technological development of the African continent is evident in everything he does.

I have no doubt that Richard possesses the intellectual curiosity, technical foundation, and leadership character to excel at Carnegie Mellon. He has my highest recommendation without reservation.

Regards,

Abena Engmann

Dean, Students and Community Affairs

Academic City University