

Gent, 22 September 2015

Letter of Reference JONATHAN PECK

To whom it may concern,

Jonathan Peck is one of fifty students who, during the academic years 2013-14 and 2014-15, participated in Ghent University's "Quetelet Lectures", a university-wide honours programme for outstanding second- and third-year bachelor students across all academic disciplines.

The Quetelet Lectures consist of four modules (one module per term) which students take in addition to their regular undergraduate curriculum. In each module, ten pre-eminent (inter)national specialists from various fields deliver a guest lecture related to the themes "What is Science?", "Science and Society", "20th Century (R)evolutions" and "The 21st Century: Capita Selecta". By bringing high-achieving students together to reflect on key issues in science, society and culture, the honours programme aims to stimulate them to engage in intellectual exploration beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines. To that end, a wide variety of topics is explored, ranging from philosophy of science, economics and (inter)national politics to theoretical physics, genetics and ethics.

The Quetelet Lectures are highly demanding: students are expected to do extensive background reading (in Dutch, French or English) in preparation of each lecture, to engage in a critical discussion with the lecturer and their fellow students about the topic at hand, to write four papers and to deliver one group presentation on a topic well beyond the comfort zone of their own discipline.

Jonathan Peck performed excellently throughout the honours programme. He executed all assignments with diligence, thoroughness and enthusiasm. His questions about the background reading were probing and the argumentation in his clearly structured and fluently written essays well thought-out. A somewhat reserved participant in in-class debates, he made contributions that invariably attested not only to his inquisitive attitude but also to his open-mindedness. Finally, during the interdisciplinary Module 4 group presentation, for which his team chose the topic 'Labour', he proved to be a proficient speaker, capable of captivating an audience both on account of the solid content of his exposé and on account of his fluent delivery.

It is, therefore, with pleasure that I provide this reference for Jonathan Peck.

Sincerely,



Prof. Anne De Paepe, rector Universiteit Gent