**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

It gives me immense pleasure to write this Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Ashish Kumar Yadav whom I have taught political science (Hons.) and personally interacted with, for 6 semesters of his 5 year undergraduate course. He worked on 5 research papers and a data oriented project under my mentorship. I have also observed his work when he was working as the Head of food committee. I also supervised his various committees’ works in capacity of Registrar as well as political science related seminars, projects and research papers being Head of the department.

Over the years that I have known him, there are a few traits that have always kept him above his peer group such as, given any open ended topic in classroom, research papers or moot problems, his regular contribution to full-class discussions provided insights for both his peers and for me as an instructor which showed his curiosity in understanding fundamentals of a subject. One time he was given a topic on role of power in politics, and had to summarize it for the class next day. His approach to the problem was innovative as he researched varied sources and subsequently made whole class understand novel issues like power of structure with scarce data, using diverse research methods & consultations with various departments’ faculties.

Ashish’s strengths include diligence and a keenness to learn, that is one reason he volunteered for challenging assignments such as his work on 6 political science papers/projects and 60 research oriented papers. He likes challenges which can be seen by the choice of his electives like International Humanitarian & Refugee law, Sports law, Air and Space law, legal entrepreneurship etc. and data oriented projects. These skills helped expand his understanding of varied topics and later helped him immensely as a founder when he launched “Urbane” and “Dabmore” which closely relate to solutions via data and analytics.

He worked on a data oriented project named “socio-economic status and education as a factor in caste based reservation system” and collected demographic, social, economic and educational data of more than 100 candidates through interviews, info graphics and visualizations. It was not an easy journey and he encountering difficulties related to an informal and unorganized sector where data is scarce to analyze. This not only helped his team to unearth novel data about integrated factors related to the reservation system but furthered his cause for expert-user consulting to provide access to justice for unprivileged people through his startup Urbane.

Going a step further, he is very sincere & hardworking and went beyond his curriculum, making inroads into the field of design, user behavior and sports, just because he was curios towards learning new things and was truly inspired by the subject. He went on to study Consumer law, ADR, Information laws and got the opportunity to work on external platform design projects and completed many Electives. The nature of the degree which included extensive coursework both in Arts and Laws never slowed him down, and he was always in top 10 percentile of his class.

Apart from academics, he participated in competitions and workshops that have ensured diversity in his portfolio of extra-curricular activities. He led the food committee consisting of 12 members and revamped the mess system for more than 600 students and university staff. The problems of hygiene, increasing fee etc. inspired him to take matter into his own hands with team of juniors. He worked late nights to setup compliance systems, setup accounting systems and purchase models, as well as launched online page for feedbacks etc. From fresher’s and farewell events, sports fest, cultural fests, workshops and flash mobs, he has organized countless events and shown immense leadership qualities.

Always very keen and enthusiastic to participate in social and community services, he was an active participant in the legal aid committee from the start and attended seminars of the Liberal Youth Forum. He worked relentlessly on weekends managing academics in parallel while assisting in 16 cases by researching in nearby villages related to below poverty line people. He further participated in organizing frequent health checkups, blood donation camps, and leftover food management in the hostels by catering to poor people.

Along with excelling in academics and handling so many extra-curricular activities, his team came 21st in Oxford IPR moot court competition’s world memorial rounds under his leadership being lead researcher and mentored the junior team next year who went on to participate in world oral rounds. This shows his research and mentorship skills, as even though the team was competing with minimal resources such as low quantity of trade dress and artwork IPR books, he made do and obtained expertise by consulting with peers from other institutions etc. He also reached to the quarter finals of Raj Anand IPR moot Court Competition, and participated in essay competitions nationally & internationally on contemporary issues like “world without hunger & poverty” showing how he cares and researches about giving back to society.

In summation, Ashish is a bright and cultured individual with excellent communication skills. His need to understand drives his ability to grasp information. His positive attitude keeps him active in all groups among friends and seniors alike and his involvement in academics as well as extra-curricular activities keeps him grounded and balanced.

I am sure that Ashish would be a great addition to Columbia University and MSc in Applied Analytics would help improve any skills that he is lacking. Also, he would obtain a lot more knowledge for workplace and his start-ups and build a strong foundation for his future in Data analytics and management.