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Dear Admissions Committee,

As the dean of the School of Big Data and Software Engineering, Chongqing University, I hereby recommend one of our most outstanding students, Ms. Xinru Wang, for admission to your distinguished graduate program. Four years ago (Fall 2019), I taught her the Fundamentals of Computer Programming course. Despite the rigor and difficulty of this course, Xinru achieved 86/100 in the final exam, ranking one of the top 10 students. However, academic record alone cannot possibly exhibit how Xinru distinguishes herself from her peers: She is a practitioner. Up to now, she is already a seasoned software developer at Meituan, one of our country's most prominent tech companies and also one of the world's largest online and on-demand delivery platforms. Xinru's position in such a leading company constitutes strong evidence of her technical prowess and practical acumen. Even in your rigorous program, Xinru will thrive.

I also want to emphasize Xinru's personal quality. She is a good communicator and always has a proactive attitude towards achieving her goal. For instance, in her sophomore year, Xinru applied to transfer from the civil engineering department to our school to pursue her newfound passion for software engineering. During the transfer interviews, her self-introduction swiftly captured my attention. Compared to her peers, she had a clear vision and a strong determination regarding her life's direction. Also, she excelled in our three-round foundational competency assessment, standing out among the candidates and earning our approval. Her responses to technical questions convinced me that she had actively pursued additional learning in computer fundamentals outside the classroom. Based on our evaluation of the projects she completed at that time, we were convinced that Xinru possesses a profound aptitude and potential, which, with systematic learning in the future, can be further honed. So, I personally wrote a recommendation letter for her to the registrar, supporting her exceptional transfer into our school.

Lastly, knowing that Xinru's undergraduate GPA might not be overly impressive, I would like to offer an explanation for her. It took Xinru five years to graduate because she pivoted from civil engineering to software engineering, and she needed to study her new major as a freshman. Moreover, hoping to graduate still in four years and embark on professional career sooner, Xinru ambitiously enrolled in up to 50 credits in a single semester and managed to complete them all. However, an unforeseen issue related to our university's regulatory reform hindered her wish. Those additional courses she took had an impact on her grades, as she was not allowed to earn the usual class participation marks and only received marks based on the final examination. However, this by no means indicates that Xinru is not intellectually capable or academically dedicated. I hope the admissions committee can consider this situation.

Overall, Xinru Wang exemplifies a blend of academic diligence and practical aptitude, so I recommend her without reservation. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Qingyu Xiong, PhD
Dean, School of Big Data and Software Engineering, Chongqing University
Review Expert, Chinese Journal of Instrumentation
Peer Reviewer, Journal of Computer Science and Technology
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