

UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY
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First & Last Name, Ph.D.

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October 26, 2024

Dear Grad Admissions Committee at Columbia University,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Michael Osei for admission to your graduate program in International Relations. As his professor and mentor for the past two years at the University of Ghana, I have had the privilege of watching Michael grow into a thoughtful, engaged, and highly motivated individual with a passion for global diplomacy and social justice. I am confident that he will thrive at Columbia University and contribute meaningfully to your program.

Michael first came to my attention during his participation in my course on Global Governance and International Relations. It was immediately clear that Michael possessed a unique ability to critically analyze complex political systems and present his ideas in a compelling and well-researched manner. What impressed me the most, however, was his deep sense of empathy and understanding of the social and political issues facing developing countries, particularly in Africa. During one of our discussions on international aid policies, Michael raised thought-provoking questions about the effectiveness of foreign aid in fostering self-sufficiency in recipient countries. His perspective was not only informed by academic literature but also by his personal experiences growing up in Accra, where he witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by communities reliant on aid.

Michael's commitment to social justice extends beyond the classroom. He is a founding member of the University's chapter of the African Youth Diplomacy Network, where he has organized forums on issues such as climate change, youth empowerment, and human rights. His leadership in this organization has been nothing short of exemplary. One of the most notable projects Michael led was a campaign to promote renewable energy solutions in rural Ghana. He coordinated efforts between local governments, NGOs, and student volunteers, and the project successfully brought solar power to over 200 homes. This hands-on experience in diplomacy and grassroots activism will serve him well as he pursues his studies at Columbia.

In addition to his leadership qualities, Michael is an excellent communicator. I had the pleasure of working with him on his undergraduate thesis, which focused on the intersection of international relations and environmental sustainability. His ability to synthesize complex ideas into clear, persuasive arguments was outstanding. His thesis not only received the highest grade in his class but was also selected for presentation at a regional conference on sustainability in Africa.

Michael's academic rigor, combined with his ability to communicate effectively across cultures, makes him an ideal candidate for Columbia's program. I have no doubt that Michael will excel in your graduate program and go on to make significant contributions to the field of international relations. His passion for diplomacy, leadership skills, and commitment to social justice are qualities that will not only make him a great student at Columbia but also a future leader.

Sincerely,

Signature

Dr. First and Last Name
Professor of Political Science
University of Ghana