



To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Tyron Pretorius. I highly recommend Tyron for selection in the ESTEEM program at Notre Dame.

I first became acquainted with Tyron 3 years ago, when he was in the second year of his undergraduate studies. Tyron had developed an interest in robotics and he emailed me to inquire if it might be possible to get involved in some robotics research in his spare time. I arranged a follow-up meeting, during which his passion and ambition was evident.

Since starting work with the robotics research group, Tyron has consistently demonstrated an eagerness to learn and contribute to the group's research efforts. Initially, Tyron's biggest contributions were in software development. Over the course of the first two years, he gained a high degree of proficiency in developing software for robotics applications. Most notably, Tyron played a major role in developing speech recognition functionality on the robot that Trinity entered in the 2015 RoCKIn competition (a major European robotics competition). During this period, Tyron showed that he could work effectively in a fast-paced, team environment. Despite his extra-curricular involvement in research activities, Tyron's discipline and time management skills allowed him to maintain an outstanding academic record.

I have also come to know Tyron as both his lecturer and academic supervisor for his Masters project. In the 2015/16 academic year, Tyron was one of just sixteen students selected for a module that I teach entitled 'Innovation in Product Development'. This was a year-long, 20 credit module where students apply human-centric approaches to conceive and create products to address real-world problems. The module was run as part of the SUGAR network (www.sugar-network.org), a global program for teaching innovation within engineering education. In this module, student teams are partnered with students from another university and challenged to design a product to address a problem given by an industrial sponsor. For the duration of the module, Tyron's team was partnered with Media-Saturn (second largest electronics retailer in the world) and a student team in the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany. In addition to demonstrating the work ethic and technical ability that I was accustomed to, Tyron impressed in his ability to communicate and work efficiently in an international team environment. In addition, Tyron was one of the teams most creative and innovative forces. For these reasons, Tyron earned a grade of 90% for the module, the highest in the class. Based on my experience of Tyron's work over this period, I feel Tyron is especially well suited for a career at the intersection of technology, innovation, and business.



Since the beginning of the 2016/17 academic term, Tyron has been conducting his final year Masters project under my supervision. Since starting the project, he has demonstrated outstanding diligence and maturity in his approach. He has managed his time efficiently and succeeded in meeting every deadline that has been given to him thus far. I would say that at present he is on-track for a first class honours grade for his project work. Based on the mid-term report that he has recently submitted, I am optimistic that his project will also lead to at least one publication, most likely at a leading conference in robotics.

Tyron is an outstanding student in all respects. He has proven that through natural talent, hard work, persistence, and team work, he can accomplish tasks to this highest standard and in a timely manner. On a personal level, Tyron is humble, fun spirited and good-humoured. He is both well-liked and respected by his peers.

I believe that Tyron will be a great addition to the ESTEEM program. If given the opportunity, I have little doubt that he will make a great contribution in both academics and the innovation activities. Furthermore, his upbeat personality and humour will likely make him an excellent ambassador for ESTEEM in the time to come.

I see a huge amount of potential in Tyron, and I know that whatever the future holds, his creativity and initiative will make him successful in any venture he undertakes.

Kind regards,

Dr. Conor McGinn
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