

Guelph, December 31, 2020

Reference for Robert Proner

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very happy to write this reference letter for Robert Proner. I met Robert as a second-year undergraduate student in my course 'Intermediate Microeconomics' in Fall 2019. Robert stood out as one of the best students that I have had in my many years at the University of Guelph. One year later, after having been my research assistant from January to August 2020, he volunteered to be a part-time teaching assistant for the course during Fall 2020.

At the time, he was also working in a full-time co-op work position as part of his co-op program, as well as taking courses. So, it is very impressive that he dedicated time to being a teaching assistant. Usually, our teaching assistant positions are held by our master and Ph.D. students. However, knowing Robert, I had full confidence in this ability to help my students even as a third-year undergraduate student.

Due to his time constraints, we agreed that Robert would only hold office hours. Because of his busy week, he offered them on weekends, which I found very admirable. In total, he offered 2 office hours per week for the entire semester from early September to early December 2020.

TA office hours are not overseen by the professor. So, naturally, I am often concerned with the quality of the instruction because I cannot verify it easily. Please take it as a sign of my utmost confidence in Robert that I allowed him to hold office hours as a third-year undergraduate (the regular TAs were master and PH.D. students).

Due to the ongoing pandemic, office hours were held remotely. Students booked them in advance. Robert's office hours were at least as frequently booked as those of my regular TAs, if not more, and usually by the same students. This is an indication that students were very happy with his help. One student specifically mentioned Robert during a mid-semester anonymous survey, saying: "I've found Robert very helpful. I've had others help me with questions, but afterwards realized they were wrong after speaking to you [the professor] in the Q&A session, which is really stressful, if you have to unlearn a whole concept."

Besides holding office hours, Robert occasionally answered student questions on the course website. I found his answers very insightful, professional and kind.

I hope that I may be able to hire Robert as a regular TA some day. Until then, I wish him all the best. I am sure he will do well in any position he applies for and will be a pleasant colleague and co-worker to have around.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Goertz". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

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