

January 14, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

This purpose of this letter is to offer our support in regards to the teaching abilities and diligence demonstrated by Jiangtao (Jason) Li while working for us during the Fall 2013 term as a teaching assistant (TA) for the course 2.301 Microeconomics, an undergraduate level calculus-based microeconomics course required of all students in the Engineering Systems and Design Pillar at SUTD. All three of us felt that Jiangtao did an exceptional job throughout the 14 weeks of the term and that it was a pleasure to work with him.

The students taking this course were divided into three separate classes, each taught by one of us as the primary instructor and assisted by a TA. These classes met twice a week for two hours each meeting. The educational pedagogy at SUTD values the blending of theory and practice in the classroom simultaneously and rather than having separate lecture and problem solving ("recitation") sections, the two are combined with theoretical and conceptual material being interleaved together with problems that the students are given to work on immediately in the classroom. This necessitates time in the classroom for teaching staff to go around and help students learn how to address the various problems they're being faced with and to facilitate their development of how to think about the material. For two of the classes Jaingtao served as the TA and did an excellent and pro-active job in helping students and addressing their concerns. He was consistently very friendly and patient with the students in addition to being very organized and responsible. Furthermore, it was clear that he was very well versed in the course's material and was well-prepared going into each session.

Not only was Jiangtao involved in in-class education, but he also played an important roll outside the classroom by holding well-attended office hours, developing and checking solutions to various homework and exam problems, as well as grading homeworks and exams. Although unfortunately the SUTD class surveys do not collect student feedback regarding TAs, it was clear that Jiangtao was popular amongst the students as his office hours seemed to always be well attended. Finally, we were very impressed by his excellent communication skills, always telling us what he was working on, letting us know well ahead of time of any necessary conference travel, etc.

In summary, Jiangtao did a superb job and we would be very happy to work with him again if the opportunity arose and the students would greatly benefit as well.

Best regards,



Prof. Michael Padilla
Assistant Professor, ESD



Prof. Nilanjan Roy
Assistant Professor, ESD



Prof. Yunjian Xu
Assistant Professor, ESD