

To Hiring Manager,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Ian Ryan, an exceptional Computer Science graduate from California State University Channel Islands. I had the privilege of teaching Ian in five courses **Introduction to Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, Analysis of Algorithms, Automaton Languages and Computations, Capstone Prep, and Capstone** overseeing his **capstone project** as **advisor**. Throughout this time, Ian consistently demonstrated an eagerness to learn, technical expertise, analytical thinking, and a strong fascination for **computer vision, deep learning, and artificial intelligence**.

For Ian's **capstone project**, he developed a **multi-class image classification model** to detect humans and **17 varying animal classes** from an **imbalanced dataset**, leveraging **convolutional neural networks (CNNs)** in **PyTorch**. This project required expertise in **data preprocessing, model architecture tuning, and overfitting mitigation**, all of which he handled with skill and precision. His ability to iterate on model performance, fine-tune hyperparameters, and present his findings in a structured, reproducible manner speaks to his strong **problem-solving abilities and technical acumen**.

Beyond the classroom, Ian has remained deeply engaged in advancing his knowledge of AI through consumption of research papers and **his involvement in the Artificial Intelligence Club**. His dedication to learning, coupled with his hands-on experience in **Python, Linux, Amazon SageMaker, and Jupyter Notebook**, makes him a highly capable candidate for industry roles in **computer vision, object detection, and AI-driven applications**.

Ian is not only technically proficient but also an **excellent team player and has an obsession on seeing things through**. He has the ability to be receptive to criticism and an appreciation for different perspectives. Given his expertise and work ethic, I am confident that Ian will be an invaluable asset to any organization looking for a talented **computer vision or ML/AI engineer**.

I give Ian my recommendation for employment in the field of **computer vision, deep learning, and AI**. Please feel free to contact me at michael.soltys@csuci.edu if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Michael Soltys

Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science
California State University Channel Islands