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Padova, September 8th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of my student Ali Aghababaei, who is applying for a Ph.D. position at your university.

I am an Associate Professor at the Department of Information Engineering of the University of Padova, Italy. I received the B.Sc. Degree in Information Engineering, the M.Sc. Degree in Telecommunication Engineering, and the Ph.D. Degree in Information Engineering from the same university in 2013, 2015, and 2020, respectively. During my Ph.D., I visited New York University (NYU), USA, and TOYOTA Infotechnology Center Inc., USA, in 2016 and 2019, respectively. Since then, I have been collaborating with several academic and industrial research partners, including InterDigital, NYU, TOYOTA, NIST, the US Army Research Office, Orange, Inmarsat, Huawei, King's College, KAUST, ESA, and the European Commission. I have authored more than 70 published articles in the area of wireless networks, three of which have received Best Paper Awards. I was a recipient of several awards, including the 2018 IEEE Daniel E. Noble Fellowship Award from the IEEE Vehicular Technology Society, the 2021 IEEE ComSoc Outstanding Young Researcher Award for EMEA, and the Francesco Carassa Prize from the Italian Telecommunications and Information Theory Group (GTTI). I am an IEEE Member, and serve as an Associate Editor for the IEEE Transactions of Wireless Communications, as well as a Guest Editor for several Special Issues of Sensors. I participated to numerous international conferences with the roles of General co-Chair, Tutorial Speaker, Panelist and Rapporteur. Furthermore, I am a Reviewer for international IEEE/ACM journals and conferences in the ICT domain. Since 2024, he has been the Director of the DEI/IEEE Summer School of Information Engineering (SSIE), held yearly in Brixen, Italy. Therefore, besides being very active in research myself, I also have extensive experience in evaluating the soundness and relevance of the research work of others.

I have known Ali for several months as his professor of the “Internet” class that I teach for the Master’s Degree Program in ICT for Internet and Multimedia Engineering (MIME) at the University of Padova. Ali showed himself as a reliable student, maintaining an excellent academic profile during his study. Eventually, he passed the “Internet” exam with excellent results, achieving top marks in both theoretical and practical assessments, and ranking within the top 5% of the class.

Ali has a strong technical background, combining his experience in Electrical Engineering from his Bachelor’s Degree with his current Master’s Degree studies in ICT. His academic journey reflects his ability to adapt in multidisciplinary environments, particularly in data science, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. Through various university projects in deep learning, pattern recognition, and computer vision, Ali has consistently demonstrated his ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical challenges effectively, and with success in terms of performance. Besides, as an

international student, he managed to adapt well to his new academic environment and life within a short period of time, which shows great resilience and strength.

In addition to his academic achievements, Ali brings valuable professional experience from his previous role as a technical expert. During this period, he developed strong teamwork and communication skills, as well as valuable technical qualities that are essential in both academic and research environments.

Currently, Ali is doing research for his Master's Thesis project on large language models and explainable AI, under the supervision of another Professor in Padova.

With his solid academic background, and in view of his early performance, I am confident that Ali would be a valuable asset to any PhD program. With his experience and potential, I strongly endorse Ali for admission to a PhD program, and I give him my full support.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marco Giordani", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Marco Giordani, Ph.D.
Associate Professor | University of Padova
Director of the SSIE PhD Summer School

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