

DIRO
Université de Montréal
CP 6128, Succ. Centre-Ville,
Montréal, Québec, Canada, H3C 3J7

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To whom it may concern

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this reference for Mr Tarek Chaaban who is applying for an internship position at your company.

I have known Mr Chaaban for slightly more than a year in my capacity as assistant professor at DIRO, Université de Montréal. My knowledge of him is based on our collaboration within an international software development project. In fact, I supervised Tarek's internship whose aim was the design of Web site for our open-source concept analysis system GALICIA. The site needed to feature a combination of functionalities that are uncommon for typical Web sites such as a Wiki server, a database and storage and search capabilities for scientific publications and references to them in the BibTex format.

As a supervisor, I could work with him on several non-trivial topics and on numerous occasions appreciate his capacities for intellectual work, critical thinking and communication. Based on my observations, I consider that Tarek Chaaban has a number of strengths to offer to an employer.

First, he is a very knowledgeable person. This appeared clearly to me during his internship: For instance, from the very beginning, Tarek was working in a completely autonomous mode, gathering all the necessary information about the related technologies — Wikis, content management systems (CMS), BibTex — by his own. It is noteworthy that he had to face complex issues such

as the integration of database management features to well known CMS like PLONE which required extensive exploration of the technical documentation of that tool. At the end, not only did the produced Web site satisfy all the requirements, but he was also able to offer individual components thereof, e.g., a BibTex analysis plug-in, to the broader scientific community as they proved both original and on demand.

The ultimate success of his internship has only been possible because of his excellent knowledge of PHP and Internet programming, his solid self-discipline and, more importantly so, his strong motivation for having all his tasks accomplished in the best possible way. The above facts bring also to the fore his abilities to learn rapidly when confronted to a new area, such as the BibTex technology whom he was completely unaware of beforehand.

On the personal side, Tarek is extremely polite and helpful person which is why he is particularly appreciated by his colleagues from our team. Moreover, he established easily contacts with members of the communities around the technologies he had to study and/or use in his project. Interestingly enough, he could even help detect and solve some technical problems with the tools. Finally, the presentation he gave at his internship defense has clearly shown his capacity of a skillful communicator.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend Tarek Chaaban for the internship position at your company. If his performance in our project is any indication of how he would perform in your service, he will certainly be a precious addition to your team.

With very best regards

Petko Valtchev