



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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January 8, 2004

Dear Admissions Faculty and Staff,

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Mr. Manuel Scherer. I was advisor for his senior honors project here at UC Santa Barbara, a year-long individualized study under my close direction.

I will start right off by saying that Mr. Scherer is exceptionally well qualified for the course of study he is pursuing. His qualifications are many. First, he is very smart and very learned. He stands way out among our undergraduates, and even among our honors students. In short, he attained very high levels of scholarship while an undergraduate here.

Manuel is also the most organized, careful, conscientious and hard-working honors student I've seen in several years. These might be adjectives used to conceal other deficits in some people, but for Manuel this is not the case - they are just great strengths. They add to his intelligence. He brings exceptionally strong organization and time-management skills to the table, on top of his abilities to read and understand complex material involving world affairs and politics. During the course of his honors project, he met with me roughly weekly, and each week without fail he would e-mail me his latest written work one day in advance of our meeting so I could prepare, and then showed up with a checklist of his questions for me and his tentative work plan for the next week. His eagerness to learn and to go beyond the minimum required is among the greatest I have observed among students in my eleven years in the professoriate. He thrives in situations requiring independence of thought and action as well as in structured situations requiring attention to detail and fulfillment of set requirements in an ordered way. If only I could get other students to approach their work with such forethought, planning, and enthusiasm.

On top of these qualities, Manuel is extremely engaging and friendly on an interpersonal level; one might go so far as to describe him as charming, in an entirely sincere and courteous way. He will be very successful in any endeavor requiring negotiation, public interaction, or diplomacy.

I would add finally a note about Manuel's language skills. Though he is an Austrian, he is absolutely fluent in spoken English and his written command of the language is superior to some native English speakers - certainly more than adequate for graduate study in the English language, as his strong performance at the University of California should demonstrate. His skills in German and French round out a really good package of language abilities.

One the whole, Mr. Scherer is a very impressive, highly capable, and well-rounded individual. He has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Bimber', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Bruce Bimber, PhD**

**Associate Professor, Departments of Political Science and Communication  
Director, Center for Information Technology and Society**