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Reference letter for Pieterjan Bartels, in the context of his application for entering an Advanced Study Program.

To whom it may concern.

I have known Pieterjan Bartels as a student in my course on Artificial Intelligence. I am also familiar with his study programs: the Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science and the Master of Engineering in Computer Science of KU Leuven, and with his study results in these programs, and can provide an evaluation of the merits of these results.

Pieterjan Bartels studied in my course on Artificial Intelligence in the academic year 2011-2012. He obtained a mark of 17/20, which is a very high mark. For this course, students are allowed to choose between a standard exam or a larger project. The project requires more work, but is also intellectually more rewarding for the student. Pieterjan chose the project and he made an impressive work of excellent quality. His mark on the project was 18/20, which is exceptional. The work showed deep insight, a lot of own initiative and much creativity.

The degrees of Bachelor and Master of Engineering in Computer Science of KU Leuven are of the highest international standards. The level of these programs is very high. Internally at KU Leuven the engineering degrees are considered among the most demanding study programs in terms of intellectual capacities.

The study results of Pieterjan Bartels on these programs were very good. Especially on courses that are closely related to his specialization (Computer Science) the results are often outstanding. In particular, on courses like Databases, Object Oriented Programming, Computer Networks, Computer Architecture and System Software and Artificial Intelligence, which are essentially all the Computer Science specific courses in his Bachelor program, he consistently obtained scores between 16/20 and 18/20.

Also in the first year of his Master program, he obtained very high scores on the conceptually higher-level courses in Computer Science (Computer Graphics, Fundamentals of Computer Science, Declarative Languages, Computer Vision). Many of these courses are project based, and for such courses he clearly is able to make the difference.

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I am confident that Pieterjan Bartels will graduate this year with an overall percentage which is significantly above 70% (his current average for the first year is 74%), while 68% is the minimal requirement required at KU Leuven for entering PhD programs.

I therefore recommend Pieterjan Bartels as a student in your Master program.

Prof. Dr. Daniel De Schreye
Vice Head of the Department of Computer Science