



Universidad  
Nacional  
de Córdoba



Facultad de Matemática,  
Astronomía, Física y  
Computación

April 11 st, 2025

### Letter of Recommendation for Martín Bassola

Dear Application Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for the application of Martín Bassola to attend the 2nd Hong Kong Laureate Forum.

I first met Martín virtually during the first semester of 2021, when he was a first-year Mathematics student at the Facultad de Matemática, Astronomía, Física y Computación (FAMAF), Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (UNC). At that time, he was enrolled in Álgebra I (Discrete Mathematics), a course I was co-teaching. Due to the large number of students, the class was divided into several groups, and Martín was not in mine. Despite this, I came to know him through the extra review sessions I offered to all students in the course ahead of midterms and finals. Even though he was not part of my assigned group, Martín actively participated in these sessions. He consistently engaged with both myself and the other students in the Google Meet meetings in a relaxed, respectful, and open manner—asking thoughtful questions and contributing as if he had known us for a long time. Now, four years later, I can confidently say that this was not a one-time occurrence—it is simply who Martín is. He is an exceptionally friendly, approachable, and pleasant person.

In the second semester of 2022, I taught the course Differential Geometry (in presence). I would like to share some details about the course content and Martín's performance. This course introduces the differential geometry of curves and surfaces, addressing both local and global aspects. Students are expected not only to understand the theoretical material but also to solve problems that are significantly more challenging than those assigned as homework, including during examinations. A strong emphasis is placed on clear mathematical exposition and proof-writing. An essential component of the course involves weekly practical sessions in which students collaboratively solve problems. Throughout the semester, Martín stood out for his consistent and meaningful participation. He asked insightful questions in every class and approached the material with depth and care. His engagement reflected a genuine desire to fully grasp the underlying concepts before moving on to new topics. Martín also proved to be an empathetic and collaborative classmate. During the practical sessions, he regularly worked with peers, demonstrating strong interpersonal and teamwork skills. He contributed thoughtfully to group discussions and helped create a productive learning environment. The course also included



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two midterm exams, in which Martín achieved the highest score in both. He later obtained the highest grade on the final exam, which—according to our university’s grading policy—is the only score formally recorded.

In the first semester of 2024, I had the opportunity to co-teach a fourth-year course on Smooth Manifolds with Prof. Adrián Andrada. This course is widely considered one of the most demanding in the mathematics curriculum, requiring a high level of abstraction, mathematical rigor, and problem-solving skill. Students must grapple with complex, interrelated topics and solve problems well beyond the standard homework. Once again, Martín distinguished himself as an outstanding student. He not only acquired a solid understanding of smooth manifolds, but also developed sophisticated problem-solving strategies and refined his abilities in mathematical proof and exposition. His progress in this course underscored both his intellectual maturity and his capacity for deep, independent thinking.

Martín has developed a strong and comprehensive foundation in mathematics. He is currently in the final year of his five-year degree program, having successfully completed advanced courses in real and complex analysis, algebra, topology, differential geometry (including curves, surfaces, and manifolds), etc. As a student, Martín possesses several qualities that distinguish him academically: he is intellectually gifted, independent, respectful, and hard working. In short, Martín is an outstanding student.

Beyond his academic strengths, Martín is a genuinely inquisitive and intellectually curious student. Despite still being an undergraduate, he regularly attends the Junior Seminar—a series of lectures organized by PhD students that explore a wide range of advanced mathematical topics. In addition, he actively participates in other mathematical seminars and talks, in mathematics olympiads, and enjoys teaching mathematics to younger students. His involvement in these activities reflects not only a deep passion for the subject but also a strong commitment to engaging with the broader mathematical community.

I firmly believe that Martín’s strong mathematical background, his engaging and respectful personality, and his excellent command of English make him a perfect candidate for the 2nd Hong Kong Laureate Forum. I am also confident that this experience would be of great value to him—providing the opportunity to connect with peers from all around the world, gain inspiration from the Laureates, and build a broader academic network that will support his future career. In particular, Martín would have the rare and valuable opportunity to engage in person with Professors Hitchin and Lusztig—an experience that is seldom available to young mathematics students from developing countries like Argentina. Limited financial support often prevents them from accessing such enriching academic environments. Martín is already at a point in his career where he can engage in meaningful mathematical conversations with these leading figures, and I



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am confident he will make the most of this opportunity.

As you can see, Martín is an excellent candidate to participate in this event, and therefore I strongly support his application. Please, don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions about Martín's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Romina Arroyo', with a decorative flourish at the end.

Romina Melisa Arroyo  
Profesora Asociada - FAMAF, UNC  
Investigadora Adjunta - CIEM, CONICET  
[romina.melisa.arroyo@unc.edu.ar](mailto:romina.melisa.arroyo@unc.edu.ar)  
[romina.arroyo@gmail.com](mailto:romina.arroyo@gmail.com)