

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Athina Chatzipetrou, and I am the CEO of the Hellenic Development Bank, where I had the immense pleasure to work with Lazaros Efraimoglou during his employment in our Strategy Department between February 1 and June 30, 2022. I am writing to express my highest recommendation for his admission to the Bayes Business School MSc programme in Energy, Trade and Finance. He has an exceptionally experienced and accomplished background in finance, and his work at our bank made an impact that will inform our operations well into the future. In my many years of working in finance, I have not met a young professional who would be in a better position to derive the most out of an education in the three fields of your degree. I would like to share his work in these areas in articulating the strength of his candidacy for Bayes.

Lazaros' initial responsibility at our bank was a global competitive analysis of the funding instruments at international development banks and the four central Greek banks. This monumental project was taken on with comprehensive breadth and penetrating insight. He did not hesitate to provide information based on his research that went beyond our expectations for such an analysis, and he also exceeded the norm in the excitement and energy he brought to his creative and thorough presentations. He was always ahead of our schedule, which allowed him to improve the quality of his work by soliciting feedback and seeking tutelage under my supervision. The precision of his inquiries, as well as his overall attitude and behaviour toward his work, are indicative of the congeniality, professionalism, and intellectual vigour he would bring to Bayes (and which he has demonstrated in his excellent work in his previous studies at Warwick).

Because of our bank's recent restructuring, the Strategy Department in which Lazaros worked consisted of only five other colleagues. Therefore, Lazaros often received multiple projects that he was asked to execute concurrently. Despite the unusually demanding responsibilities we assigned him, he demonstrated exceptional intellectual abilities and exciting professional promise by surpassing our quality requirements and meeting all his deadlines. He also displayed excellent numerical and statistical analysis skills and underwent extensive training in a corporate learning course on PowerBI, which enabled him to learn and master our statistical analysis software. Consequently, he was entrusted with important Bank operations that affect the Greek economy at large, such as his creation of a new funding instrument for small and medium-sized entities to be sold to Greek commercial banks - an amazing contribution to our firm.

The Hellenic Development Bank is currently preparing for the proclamation of the EU Funding Calls for the 2021-2027 programming period. In the Strategy Department, all European funds will be structured into funding products according to pre-specified frameworks designed by the Ministry of Development and Investments. I am completely confident in Lazaros' expertise, which we will draw upon to satisfy these new regulations.

I fully support Lazaros and his application to your master's programme. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information about his candidacy.

Sincerely,


Athina Chatzipetrou
CEO – Hellenic Development Bank

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