



Potsdam, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Letter of recommendation for Lorena Ruiz Montes**

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my distinct pleasure to write in support of Lorena Ruiz Montes. As a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Sustainable and Bio-inspired Materials at the Max-Planck-Institute of Colloids and Interfaces, I had the privilege of supervising Lorena during her Erasmus internship training as a technician. Over the course of her 3-month training, she consistently demonstrated proactivity, exceptional learning capabilities, and a remarkable commitment to our project.

Lorena worked extensively with various amino acid derivatives, focusing on precursor synthesis and purification for polypeptide production. She quickly mastered the chemical reaction setup, including the use of the Schlenk line for water and oxygen-sensitive reactions. Her proficiency with laboratory instruments, such as the rotary evaporator, centrifuge, and vacuum oven, was evident early on. Additionally, Lorena adhered strictly to safety instructions and excelled in product purification techniques, including filtration, crystallization, and flash chromatography. Her quick adaptation to these complex procedures demonstrated her strong foundation in laboratory practices and her ability to contribute effectively to our research team.

One of Lorena's standout qualities was her meticulous documentation practice. I was particularly impressed by her ability to sketch detailed processes upon her initial exposure to new apparatus and gradually familiarize herself with each step involved. This methodical approach ensured thorough understanding and efficient operation of the equipment. Her comprehensive and precise record-keeping not only facilitated her own learning but also provided valuable references for our team, enhancing the overall efficiency and accuracy of our work.

The compounds Lorena synthesized were of exceptionally high purity, which was crucial for the subsequent polymerization steps. Her contributions significantly advanced our project, showcasing her ability to produce high-quality work that meets stringent standards. In addition to her technical prowess, Lorena demonstrated strong interpersonal skills and a collaborative spirit. Her proactive nature extended beyond her assigned tasks. She frequently sought out additional responsibilities and expressed a keen interest in understanding the broader context of our research. Her inquisitive mindset and desire to expand her knowledge base were evident throughout her internship, making her an invaluable asset to our team.

For these reasons, I am confident that Lorena Ruiz Montes is well-prepared for the next challenge in her career. She possesses the skills, dedication, and meticulousness to be a highly productive and responsible member of any team. I wholeheartedly recommend her for any position she chooses to pursue, knowing that she will continue to excel and contribute significantly to any endeavor she undertakes.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Xiaowen Wu

*Xiaowen Wu*