

Quito D.M., September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

**Solidarity Fund for Innovative Projects**  
**French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs**  
**General Leonidas Plaza street N19-09 and Patria avenue**  
**Quito, Ecuador**

**Program:** Scholarships for doctoral training in France for graduates (undergraduate and postgraduate) from the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE)

**Reference:** Recommendation letter

Dear Admission Committee,

It is a pleasure to recommend Mr. David Fernando Romero Estévez as candidate for the Ph.D. program in one of the Universities within this scholarship call. I have known Mr. Romero for the past seven years through his work as the Technical Manager in Centro de Servicios Ambientales y Químicos (PUCE) and then as a Researcher in the Centro de Estudios Aplicados en Química (CESAQ-PUCE). Mr. Romero has a Bachelor degree in Chemical Sciences and a Master degree in Safety and Prevention of Occupational Risks. He was appointed as Technical manager of the Center for its experience as laboratory analyst from 2009 to 2013 at Centro de Servicios Ambientales y Químicos (PUCE). Before he also served as a Research assistant while undergraduate.

During his work as a Technical manager, he demonstrated his ethics, integrity, and responsibility to direct the activities of the laboratory. Besides, his creativity to seek business opportunities and his commitment to the responsibilities of the position. One of his most outstanding achievements was his contribution to the rescuing the laboratory from being closed and obtaining again the certifications and good reputation after the previous managers leaving.

Since 2017, he has participated and led research projects. He has demonstrated his great interest and passion in research, which has led him to participate in several studies generating 10 scientific publications in national and international journals (3 of them in Q1), and at least 6 participations in national and international academic events as a speaker.

His principal research topics have been related to trace metals content in food products and its health risks assessment. Also, since 2019, he has been participating in two research projects related to the determination of lipids in palm fruits, collaborating with Dr. Rommel Montúfar, Principal Professor of Biology School at PUCE.

In December 2019, his hard work and professionalism were recognized by two researchers from IRD who worked directly with Mr. Romero in a training-related with lipids extraction techniques. This recognition led him to win two internships grants to complete the lipids analysis training in CIRAD and IRD platforms in France.

Mr. Romero is an excellent professional, researcher, and a committed scientist. I strongly recommend him for a Ph.D. program of scholarships for doctoral training in France for graduates (undergraduate and postgraduate) of PUCE. He would be an asset to any university he joins.

Sincerely,



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