

EPFL – CDM – SFI                      Phone :    +41 21 693 1283  
Quartier UNIL-Dorigny                Mobile :   +41 78 620 6101  
Bâtiment Extranef                    E-mail :   jiahua.xu@epfl.ch  
CH – 1015 Lausanne                   www:        <https://people.epfl.ch/jiahua.xu/>

Jiahua Xu  
Postdoctoral Researcher in Finance  
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne  
Switzerland

Lausanne, March 18, 2020

## Commitment letter

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to recommend one of my best students, Mr. Henry Decléty, for the position ‘Quantitative Research Intern’.

Henry took my class, *Financial applications of blockchains and distributed ledgers*, for the fall semester 2019. Henry stood out as a bright student with a solid background in both finance and technology. His active contribution to the class discussion not only helped his peers understand the topic taught, but often also inspired me as a teacher!

Henry strikes me as a quick learner and always ready to embrace new endeavours. For his class project, I urged Henry to conduct forensics on Ripple’s XRP Ledger, a challenging research question that was not covered in class. With little prior knowledge on XRP, Henry studied the relevant documents and code for two days and was then able to build a program from scratch to interact with the ledger within 24 hours. He soon detected several vulnerabilities and arbitrage opportunities through cross-currency transactions on the ledger. His project write-up exhibits not only high technical rigour, but also a great command of the English language, with a quality comparable to peer-reviewed academic journal articles. Impressed by his talents and convinced that his class project would need a larger stage to shine, I encouraged Henry to form a team to participate in the Block-Sprint Hackathon organized by University College London in November 2019. Henry did not disappoint – he led his team to program a bot that automates arbitrage transactions on the ledger, *Jack the Rippler*. After four highly competitive elimination rounds, Henry and his team won the *Fast as Lightning Prize* of £3,000 for having a prototype that gets closest to production status and use.

Henry is an entrepreneurial, adventurous, humorous individual and a humble, committed, hardworking team player. I am certain that Henry would be a valuable asset for your company, and in return, he would be working on a project of his personal interest, where he could bring forward his expertise and also learn from his more experienced colleagues. Therefore, I strongly recommend him for this position.

Sincerely yours,

Jiahua Xu  
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne,

