

# USC Marshall

School of Business

## *Letter of Recommendation for Clara Knoll (page 1 of 3)*

Recommender: James P. Cunningham (For Clara Knoll)

Phone number: 714-794-7347

E-mail address: [jpcunnin@marshall.usc.edu](mailto:jpcunnin@marshall.usc.edu)

**How long have you known the applicant and in what context?** *Clara was my student in Econ 351, an undergraduate Microeconomics course taught at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business (Los Angeles, California, USA) in Fall 2017. The course began in August 2017 and continued to December 2017. We have also stayed in touch since then.*

**What do you consider the applicant's strengths and weaknesses?** *Ms. Knoll is open to new experiences, and has been an exchange student in high school in Miami, Florida previously, and now at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She has worked hard and has good fluency in English. Recently Clara graduated with a 1.65 (Sehr gut) average from the Vienna University of Economics and Business, equivalent in the American grading scale to an A, the very best.*

**In your opinion, how well thought out are the applicant's plans for postgraduate studies?** *Clara wants to supplement her classroom business skills to with real business experience to complement what she will learn in a graduate program. She is quite aware that learning goes on in many forms in class and out.*

**Many Programs are very intensive and students often feel highly pressured. Do you think the Applicant will be successful under these conditions?** *Yes, definitely. Clara was able to keep up with a class of mainly American students in a course taught in English. Her test scores are higher than most of the class, including many native English speakers. She has had perfect scores in multiple quizzes.*

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### **Rate the Applicant**

Please give us your appraisal of the applicant in terms of the qualities listed. Rate the Applicant in comparison with other students whom you have known.

**Personal motivation:** Clara ranks highly in personal motivation. I have no doubt that she will succeed at anything she attempts. She was a frequent visitor at my office hours. She wants not only to get the concept correct on an exam, but to know why the answer is correct. She is highly motivated to learn.

### **Work Experience Related to General Management:**

Since Summer, Clara has worked for Leica Camera Austria, the manufacturer and distributor of high quality cameras and optical equipment. Leica manufactures the best, and hires the best, like Clara Knoll.

### **Ability to work in a team**

Clara Knoll's experience in the competitive, upscale market served by Leica Austria demonstrates that she can adapt to a new situation. She has supplemented her classroom skills with the new challenges of applying her marketing and teamwork skills to accomplish a business objective under deadlines and budgets.

### **Potential for growth**

Clara Knoll will continue to grow, as she takes new courses, learns from different cultures in her travels, and puts her skills to work in real life situations.

### **Intellectual potential**

Clara Knoll has demonstrated the ability to understand difficult concepts in Economics, taught in English, that model the economy as a system. She functions on a high level, and is able to integrate separate concepts into a unified understanding. Her Sehr gut degree from Vienna University of Economics and Business is proof of her high intellectual potential.

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**Please comment on the Applicant as to relevant intellectual and administrative competence, ability to work with others, capacity in oral expression, imagination and probable creativity, and other personal qualities that you believe would be helpful to the Admissions Committee in considering this individual's application.**

As mentioned, Clara is a frequent visitor to my office hours, where we talk in more depth about Economics, and also about cultural difference between America and Austria. She is able to adjust to new situations and gets along well with people, whether students or faculty. Clara Knoll does definitely have what we in America call "people skills," which are an asset in working with other people.

**Please provide your appraisal of the applicant's ability to read, write, understand, and speak English.** Clara has excellent ability in reading, writing, understanding and speaking English. This is shown by her ability in my class, as well as her eagerness to improve her English by studying in America both in Miami in high school and now at the University of Southern California. She is fluent in English.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

I strongly and enthusiastically recommend Clara Knoll for study at any Business School or Finance Program. We are fortunate to have had her at the University of Southern California, and you will be fortunate to have her as a student! If you wish to talk with me about Clara or email, please feel free. I am happy to recommend her highly!

Signature: James P. Cunningham, Ph.D. (University of Chicago) 

Department of Finance and Business Economics

Marshall School of Business

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