

Bern, 11 December 2025

To whom it may concern

Letter of reference for Nicolás Duque Gardeazabal

I am pleased to write this letter of reference for Nicolás Duque Gardeazabal, who has been a member of my research group as a PhD student since September 2022. While his primary funding was provided through a Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship, I additionally supported his salary with extra work of 15% throughout the fellowship period (Assistant III position, 6.3 hours/week). I certify that he fulfilled his contract that started on 1 March 2023 and extended until 30 November 2025, and his research. He successfully defended his PhD on 24 November 2025. A description of the executed functions as Assistant III is attached to this letter.

Nicolás' doctoral research was an independent project that he conceived and developed himself. His work focused on understanding how ocean-atmosphere variability modes influence climate variability in tropical South America. Over the course of his PhD, he established a detailed chain of mechanisms explaining how these large-scale modes affect key sectors such as renewable energy. His scientific approach was rigorous, and his research resulted in three publications as well as several conference presentations.

Throughout his time in the group, Nicolás Duque Gardeazabal demonstrated a strong eagerness to learn and an openness to integrating new ideas into his research. He approached his project with high dedication, was well-organised, and handled occasional setbacks with resilience. His technical and methodological skills are of a very high standard, allowing him to implement new concepts rapidly and effectively. Communication with Nicolás was always smooth and constructive.

Beyond his research, Nicolás contributed to the broader activities of the climatology group. He assisted in teaching, workshops and examinations, supported fellow PhD and Master students, actively participated in group meetings, and took advantage of opportunities to present his work and expand his professional network.

Nicolás Duque Gardeazabal is now leaving the group following the successful completion of his PhD. I thank him for his valuable contributions and wish him every success in his future career.

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Stefan Brönnimann

Geographisches Institut, Hallerstr. 12, CH-3012 Bern

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Description of executed activities as Assistant III - Nicolás Duque Gardezabal

Course code	Course name	Time
Spring semester 2023 - teaching assistant: 465747	Weather and climate data	10 hours (teaching and workshops)
Fall semester 2023 - teaching assistant: 6414	Climatology III	10 hours (teaching and workshops)
Spring semester 2024 - teaching assistant: 465747	Weather and climate data	10 hours (teaching and workshops)
Fall semester 2024 - teaching assistant: 6414	Climatology III	10 hours (teaching and workshops)
Spring semester 2025 - teaching assistant: 465747	Weather and climate data	10 hours (teaching and workshops)
Fall semester 2025 - teaching assistant: 6414	Climatology III	10 hours (teaching and workshops)

Best regards,



Prof. Dr. Stefan Brönnimann