

μ-VIS X-ray Imaging Centre  
Engineering Sciences  
Faculty of Engineering and the Environment  
University of Southampton  
Highfield  
Southampton  
SO17 1BJ

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide a reference for Christian Laurent, in support of his recent application for a PhD studentship: "Mechanical Properties of Feathers and their Evolution".

Christian has recently worked on a publication exploring the mechanics and structure of feather rachises. Part of this work was performed using computed tomography using an X-ray microscope, and subsequent analysis using advanced 3D voxel processing software. The publication was of a high standard, and was subsequently accepted by a high-impact journal.

I have found his work ethic to be strong, and he exhibits a due diligence commensurate with a high standard of independent research. The description of the doctoral project is already closely matched with Christian's skill set, and I would be hard pressed to think of a more suitable candidate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Richard Boardman  
Principal Scientist  
μ-VIS X-ray Imaging Centre  
University of Southampton  
Southampton SO17 1BJ  
Tel: +44(0)2380593468  
Email: rpb@soton.ac.uk