

National Centre for Advanced Tribology at Southampton (nCATS)  
School of Engineering Sciences  
University of Southampton  
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide a reference for Mr. Christian Laurent to support his application for the PhD Studentship in epithelial mechanics and the stem cell niche within the bioengineering research group. I have known Christian for the last 6 months since he took on his master's research project with me and Gareth Dyke of the National Oceanographic Centre.

The project Christian worked on was to study the structure of feather rachises and the variation in the number and dimensions of the laminae. During his time on the project Christian gathered and reviewed relevant literature from a range of sources, while also undertaking the experimental work.

I found his work ethic to be excellent during the time he worked for me. He demonstrated the ability to systematically think through and overcome problems as and when they arose. He frequently went above and beyond what was required to ensure the work was completed to the highest standard.

Christian has taken the data and submitted a paper to Journal of the Royal Society Interface, which has been reviewed and has been accepted subject to some minor additions.

Christian is an extremely dedicated and focused individual, while also being friendly and approachable. I am happy to recommend Christian to you and based on the specifications of the role that you sent me, I believe he would be excellently suited for the PhD Studentship in epithelial mechanics and the stem cell niche. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Cook  
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