Dr Christian Laurent

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EXPERIENCE

Head of Knowledge Management at iwoca

I am responsible for iwoca's internal Handbook, which serves as the company's institutional memory. I manage two full-time writers and oversee contributions from approximately 100 developers and data scientists through a docs-as-code workflow. My team and I have built a culture of writing things down and we curate the Handbook so that people can find trustworthy information, ask smaller questions, and book fewer meetings.

- Collected feedback from thirty new starters who had joined from Series A startups, Big Tech companies, and all sizes of company in between. They unanimously reported that iwoca's documentation is the best they've seen.
- Wrote a style guide and developed a ruleset to correct errors in style, composition, and readability in a CI pipeline. Later, I applied the same linting rules to four public-facing API documentation sites.
- Oversaw the company's R&D tax claim for 2024 and 2025, reducing preparation time compared to 2023 by approximately 50%.
- Rewrote the company's job description templates and recruitment collateral. Stakeholders agree that candidate quality increased and time-to-hire decreased. In two weeks, we filled two roles that had been open for more than six months.
- Improved onboarding by redesigning the curriculum and consolidating supporting material. Onboarding training time has reduced by half a day.
- Identified and resolved a legislative misunderstanding that was blocking a feature launch, liaising directly with a partner's compliance team.

Technical Writer at Darktrace

- Principal writer for customer-facing and technician-facing documentation for two cybersecurity products. One was built in-house and one was acquired. My role entailed some product management.
- Worked with developers and researchers to prepare first-draft patent applications and managed the editorial process for a new R&D blog that summarised pending and granted patents.
- Led a large review of UX/UI, rewriting copy and delegating tasks to UI developers.

Technical Writer at Law Answered (contract)

I contributed material for a new revision guide, provided stylistic and technical feedback on existing books, and consulted on version control, document preparation, and publishing strategy.

Editor at various author services companies (contract)

I helped foreign authors rework manuscripts and grant applications for submission to top-tier journals and funding agencies in the West.

Scientist

I published seven articles in prestigious journals, and my Ph.D. thesis as a book. I won grant applications in China, Hungary, Romania, Switzerland, and the UK.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2024–	Head of Knowledge Management	iwoca
2022–24	Principal Technical Writer	
2021–22	Technical Writer	Darktrace
2020–21	Textbook Writer	Law Answered
2018–20	Visiting Researcher	Diamond Light Source, Oxford, UK
2018–20	Editor	Charlesworth Author Services, Enago, *et al.*
2018	Visiting Researcher	Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, CN
2017–20	Post-Doctoral Researcher	Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj, RO
2016–18	Visiting Researcher	Swiss Light Source, Villigen, CH
ad hoc	Journal Reviewer	Various journals inc. Nature Scientific Reports, Proc. National Academy of Sciences, *et al.*
2014–17	Instructor Trainer	Professional Association of Diving Instructors

EDUCATION

Uni. Southampton	**Ph.D.** Mechanical Engineering	**Without corrections**
2010–2020	Thesis: *The Mechanical Properties of Primary Feathers*	
	Methods: Synchrotron-Radiation Computed Tomography; Raman spectroscopy; Classical Laminate Mechanics; and Computer vision (Python)	
	M.Res. Vertebrate Palaeontology	**Distinction**
	B.Sc. Oceanography with Marine Biology	**Upper Second**
BPP Law School	**PG.Dip.** Law	**Pass**
2020–2021		

HONOURS, AWARDS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

2014–19	Grant intake exceeding £600,000 Seven articles published in leading academic journals; Eleven presentations at international conferences	
2021	Lord Denning scholarship	Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn
2020	Career Commitment scholarship	BPP University Law School
2019	Honourable mention	Romanian research funding agency (UEFISCDI)
2019	Invited talk	Chinese Academy of Sciences
2019	Spitfire placement prize	National Oceanography Centre
2018	Poster award	Engineering annual comp., Uni. Southampton
2017	Best presentation	Wessex DTN Annual Congress, Uni. Bristol
2016	Highest ranked proposal	UK Science and Technology Facilities Council
2015	Spitfire scholarship	National Environment Research Council
2015	Tizard scholarship	University of Southampton
2015	Thesis publication	The Royal Society
2014	Highest graduating student	University of Southampton

See `www.christianlaurent.me` *for past references and a breakdown of my publications and conference presentations.*