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Professor Gerard Gilfoyle
Physics Department
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Monday 15 September 2014

Dear Prof. Gilfoyle

I am writing to express my full support for your DoE research grant application, and also to confirm that we would be delighted to place a Surrey masters MPhys student under your supervision at U. Richmond to work at JLab. The previous placement of a student with you, in 2013, was a great success from our point of view. The student in question graduated with a first class degree thanks, in part, to the work he performed with you in U.Richmond/JLab.

To recapitulate some of the organisational aspects of our placements: They are only for students on our undergraduate masters programmes, which demand a constant high level of achievement to remain on the programme - the condition matching that given by the UK Research Council for PhD bursary funding. At the point of their placement, they will have achieved sufficient credit in the UK system to cash in their degree for an ordinary bachelors degree (BSc), though they do not actually do so, and work directly towards a masters degree.

The MPhys program has run for more than 15 years, and we have been sending students on successful placements around the world, including in the US and Canada, such as Notre Dame University, Yale university, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and TRIUMF in Vancouver. A measure of success of the quality of the students, and the success of the programme, is that twice (in 2003 and 2006) our students have won the UK's Physics Student of the Year competition - quite a feat given the relatively small size of the Surrey cohort in the UK, competing against students from the likes of Oxford and Cambridge. Surrey students have co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed research papers over the last decade in the area of nuclear physics alone from their research project work.

For each group of students, their research placement begins in the February, until Christmas time. We would be pleased to offer students for any such year that suits you. Note that the placement students remain enrolled in the University of Surrey, and we assess their performance, but we would expect the student to paid a salary/stipend by the host institution on the basis of their being a funded research student.

I wish you the best of luck with your DoE proposal, and sincerely hope to be able to send further students to you to benefit from working with you on your project,

yours,



Dr Paul Stevenson, MPhys Research Year Director, University of Surrey, UK

