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## To whom it may concern

Ihr Zeichen:

Unser Zeichen:

München, 08.05.2008

### Re: Forkel, Stephanie, born 08 July 1985, Application for Neuroscience MSc

It is a pleasure to follow Mrs. Forkel's request for a reference concerning her application.

I have known her since early 2006 after she had applied for a student internship ("Praktikum") in my group of psychologists which carries out the psychometric testing and neuropsychologic diagnosis for the patients of the University Department of Neurology at which I enjoy a permanent position as associate professor of cognitive neurology. I was also truly impressed by the persistence and interest that she showed after I had announced to her an unexpected personnel change and shortage within my staff which would make her learning experience much more demanding than anticipated. In spite of this difficulty (which had caused other students to withdraw) she faced the challenge and very successfully spent three months (July–Sept 2006) in my cognitive neurology group.

She was involved in all aspects of cognitive testing and quickly became familiar with almost all current procedures. These she soon applied independently with great skill in interaction with the patients. Her willingness as well as her ability to contribute was a great asset for our team, where she blended in extremely well.

As a sign of appreciation of that unfortunately unpaid work I offered her free admission to our three day brain dissection training class ([www.intensivkurs-neuroanatomie.de](http://www.intensivkurs-neuroanatomie.de)) of which she made excellent use in widening her knowledge of neuroanatomy.

From October to December 2006 I provided her with a paid position as research assistant in a study on executive function in normal controls and patient with well-defined brain lesions after surgical treatment of epilepsy. As expected from her previous performance, she showed a very high level of self-organisation and discipline to achieve the goals of this task

and was given an opportunity to present some of her work internationally at the Cognitive Neuroscience Symposium in Marmaris, Turkey, in 2007 ("Sürer, F., Forkel, S.J., Hinz, A., Danek, A. Towers of London and Hanoi on a tablet-PC: standardization and correlation with other executive tests").

Her interest in neuroanatomy led to a research proposal by Marco Catani who with she currently studies tractography ("Forkel, S.J., Danek, A., Catani, M. Direct connections between occipital and frontal lobes unique to the human brain? Presented at the 26th European Workshop on Cognitive Neuropsychology in Bressanone, Italy").

Thus, I have had ample opportunity to follow the development of Mrs. Forkel and had many a chance to exchange ideas and opinions with her. She presents in a pleasant and friendly manner and interacts with great social intelligence within her peer group as well as with the teaching staff.

Her contributions during our cognitive neurology meetings were excellent e.g. in the form of diligent verbal comments and questions. Mrs. Forkel impressed me with a great interest and good knowledge about the biological foundations of cognition and is a highly motivated student who pursues her goals with discipline and commitment. I would place her in the top 5% of her peer group.

In conclusion, Mrs. Forkel has all the prerequisites for a successful academic performance. Her character, professional standing and intellectual as well as social intelligence recommend her for whichever field of neuroscience she judges appropriate. Her proficiency in English is excellent and in addition has been trained through her stays in English-speaking countries.



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