**Loke Centre for Trophoblast Research PhD studentship reference request**

Thank you for agreeing to provide a reference for an applicant to the Loke CTR-funded PhD studentship. Please complete this form and upload it to the Loke CTR academic reference portal by 4th November 2025: <https://www.trophoblast.cam.ac.uk/academic-reference-submission-portal>

Please note that this reference supports the applicant’s application for funding from the Loke Centre, but the applicant will be required to make a separate application for a place at the University of Cambridge. The applicant may ask you to submit an additional reference to support their application to the University of Cambridge, which will request identical content. Please contact the applicant in the first instance if you have any queries about this request, or do not wish to act as a referee. This reference request will ask you to (1) confirm some basic details about yourself and how you know the applicant, (2) provide a ranking of the applicant, (3) provide a written reference.

**Section 1: About you and how you know the applicant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Your title and full name:** |  |
| **Department:** |  |
| **Institution/Organisation:** |  |
| **City, Country:** |  |
| **Applicant name:** |  |
| **Relationship to the applicant:** *e.g. Supervisor, Line Manager, Tutor* |  |
| **Known applicant for:***Please provide an estimate of the time period you knew the applicant (e.g. October 2013 to July 2014, September 2015 to present/last three years)* |  |

**Section 2: Applicant evaluation**

**Was the candidate’s academic performance (please select one option, delete as applicable):**

Select the most appropriate description of the candidate for which you are providing a reference. If you select the first option "The best performance you have known in the last 5 years" it will indicate to the internal assessors that the candidate is also the "The best performer in their year" and "Among the top 5%" therefore only the first option needs to be selected. This also follows for the options below - selecting "The best performer in their year" indicates that they are also "Among the top 5%".

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| --- |
| * The best performance you have known in the last 5 years
* The best performance in their year
* Among the top 5% in year (i.e., in the top 2 if the group size was 40)
* Among the top 10% in year (i.e., in the top 4 if the group size was 40)
* Among the top 20% in year (i.e., in the top 8 if the group size was 40)
* Not in any of the above categories
* I am not able to provide an academic judgement
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**How large is the cohort of students with which you are comparing this candidate’s performance? (max 1,000 characters)**

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|  |

**How would you describe the candidate's potential for originality / creativity / independence of thought in the work they did for you when you taught them? (please select one option, delete as applicable)**

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| --- |
| * Outstandingly original/creative/independent of thought
* Distinctly original/creative/independent of thought
* Displays some originality/creativity/independence of thought
* Not particularly original, but able to critique current approaches
* Largely working within routine modes of analysis
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**Suitability for the course:**

Please give your assessment of the applicant’s academic fitness and general suitability to undertake the proposed course of research or study, in relation to the qualification sought.

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| --- |
| * Exceptionally Suitable
* Very Suitable
* Moderately Suitable
* Unsuitable
* Other
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**Section 3: Written reference**

Please provide a written reference at the end of this We strongly encourage you to clearly comment on the areas below in your reference, based on your knowledge of the applicant. This will allow us to accurately and fairly assess the applicant's capability and potential. You may wish to include these areas as headers in your statement or letter:

**Academic results to date**

How the academic results achieved by the applicant demonstrate their suitability for the proposed course of study or research. Please include a justification of any difference between the applicant's academic ranking and your estimate of their suitability for the course. This section should also include contextual factors, such as circumstances that affected the applicant’s ability to fully devote time to their studies or a background of educational or social capital disadvantage.

**Knowledge of the proposed field of study**

The relevance of courses taken to date, the applicant’s ability and confidence to apply and communicate their knowledge (and any factors that might inhibit this) and the applicant’s rationale for choosing the course of research or study applied for.

**Critical evaluation skills and independence of thought**

The degree to which the applicant has demonstrated critical evaluation skills, independence of thought and/or originality in their previous study

**Aptitude and potential**

Your assessment of the applicant’s potential to be successful on the course of study or research that they have applied for, and any additional factors that should be taken into account by those assessing the application.

**Other relevant experience and skills**

Any additional relevant experience or skills that the applicant has demonstrated, for example participation in conference oral or poster presentations, significant contribution to a publication, etc.

**Non-native English speakers only**

The applicant’s level of fluency and proficiency in English, particularly in the context of their academic work.

**Part-time study applicants only**

The applicant’s ability to manage different responsibilities simultaneously

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