

Dr Simon O'Callaghan
Tel: +61 2 8306 0511
Email: simon.ocallaghan@nicta.com.au



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Recommendation for Kelvin Yuan-Shuo Hsu

My name is Dr. Simon O'Callaghan and I am a senior research engineer at NICTA's Machine Learning Research Group. I supervised Mr. Kelvin Yuan-Shuo Hsu during his summer internship (24 November 2014 - 27 February 2015) as well as his subsequent casual employment (2 March 2015 - 15 August 2015) and honours thesis work. I would have no hesitation in recommending him for PhD candidacy.

Kelvin possesses many of traits required for a successful candidature in abundance. During his time at NICTA, he demonstrated an exemplary work ethic coupled with an innate ability to think critically about complex theoretical issues. Kelvin has always expressed a strong desire to develop a deep understanding of the machine learning techniques that we use daily and, as a result, has been able to effectively leverage their capabilities to solve real-world scientific problems.

As part of his honours thesis, Kelvin designed and coded an active sampling algorithm for guiding autonomous underwater vehicles during habitat mapping expeditions. I was struck by Kelvin's ability to operate under minimal guidance; suggestions that I would make to him would quickly become an implemented reality and iterated upon within days. His work has resulted in a paper getting accepted to the Australasian Conference on Robotics and Automation 2016.

Kelvin's communication skills are a rarity amongst undergraduates. On several occasions during his internship and honours work, he has been required to present his progress to others both in the form of written reports and oral presentations. My colleagues and I are frequently impressed with his talent to distil complicated methodologies into concise points and make them accessible to a variety of audiences.

It is this valuable combination of a natural ability to grasp abstract machine learning concepts and his dedication to producing high quality work outputs that makes me happy to recommend Kelvin as an ideal recipient of an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S O'Callaghan", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Simon O'Callaghan

