

To R. Cooper  
Lancaster University

Letter of Reference for David Stokes  
Liverpool, October 27, 2006-10-27

Dear Prof Cooper,

It is a pleasure to write a letter of reference for David Stokes. We have been working together over the last months on the graphical presentation of the newly forming Liverpool Institute for Nanoscale Science, Technology and Engineering. My brief, as member of the management board was to develop a logotype for this institute, and to develop a three dimensional research map, which will allow visitors of the institute website to search for names and particular fields of expertise with maximum efficiency.

In this I worked closely with David Stokes, who showed a keen interest in the whole field. I tried to communicate the scientific and semantic content of nanoscale science, and on the basis of this brief David developed the graphical solutions.

The work was extremely successful. The design has been presented to the management committee today, and my colleagues were very enthusiastic with the design solutions David developed. I think this is a very good example of the interaction of scientists and graphical designers, and it shows how heterogeneous scientific fields can be framed and presented with the help of an integrating medium, in this case graphical art.

On the personal level I found the interaction quite inspiring. I am sure you know that we scientists tend to think in boxes, and are commonly quite keen to find diversity even in the tiniest phenomenon. In this respect, it takes a different attitude to remove departmental and disciplinary boundaries and to integrate all the various fields of research. I found that David in this respect is highly gifted and easy to communicate with. Of particular importance, for any work in a heterogeneous environment, should be his ability to listen, and to work constructively with an input he receives from the outside.

I can therefore only recommend David to Lancaster University, and I am sure that he will succeed in any environment, where his particular talents are required.

Best regards,

Werner A Hofer  
Royal Society URF  
Professor of Chemistry and Physics  
The University of Liverpool

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