Cover Sheet
to the letter of recommendation
for a scholarship application (DAAD)

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

DAADGA0000386160

Applicant details:

last name, first name: PhD Nussbaum, Christine

e-mail address: christine.nussbaum@uni-jena.de

application for the country: United Kingdom

name of funding programm (DAAD): PRIME Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience, 2025/26

subject: Psychology

start date of funding period (planned): Oct 1, 2026

end date of funding period (planned): Mar 31, 2028

DAAD section: ST43 - Forschungsprogramme

Referee details:

first name, last name: Annett Schirmer

academic title: Prof. Dr.

position at university/research institute: Professor for General Psychology II

name of the university/research institute: Leopold Franzens Universität Innsbruck

subject: General Psychology III (Emotion & Motivation)

address: Grauer Bär 5-7, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria

e-mail address for possible queries: Annett.Schirmer@uibk.ac.at

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Freely formulated letter of recommendation and cover sheet:

Applicants for a DAAD scholarship abroad submit a **freely formulated, supportive letter of recommendation** from a university lecturer as an application document. In the case of scholarship programmes for Bachelor's and Master's students and for teaching assistants ("Lehrassistentinnen und -assistenten"), the letter of recommendation and this form can also be issued by research assistants who hold a doctorate.

The **letter of recommendation** should be written on the notepaper and with the letterhead of the institute/chair of the referee. This **cover sheet** complements the letter of recommendation and summarizes the assessment once again.

The DAAD would like to thank all those who support our applicants for their efforts!

The DAAD's selection procedure:

Funding decisions within the framework of the DAAD scholarship programmes are made by **independent academic selection committees** that work on a voluntary basis. They play a central role in the work of the DAAD. For the success of the DAAD programmes, it is essential that **those with the greatest potential** are selected from a large number of applicants. The letters of recommendation, together with the university certificates/transcripts and the description of the study or research project, form an **important basis** for the evaluation of the scholarship application by the selection committee and thus for the awarding of the scholarship.

The central DAAD selection criteria are:

· **Academic qualification,** measured in terms of academic achievements (grade point average, grade development), course of study/doctorate, knowledge of the language of instruction or working language, if applicable, previous scientific achievements

· **Quality of the project,** measured in terms of study or research plan, if necessary, embedding of the project in the previous course of study or doctorate/career

· **Potential of the applicant,** measured in terms of motivation (professional and personal reasons for the stay abroad, knowledge of the national language if applicable, regional knowledge), perspectives (significance of the stay abroad for further academic, professional and personal development) and extracurricular commitment (extracurricular knowledge and skills, social commitment)

Please take these criteria into account when formulating your recommendation letter.

In addition, to ensure equal opportunities, **the selection committee may take into account special life circumstances**, that have had a negative effect on the course of studies, academic achievements or on the opportunity to volunteer alongside the studies - provided that the applicant wishes to do so and provides information on this in the application. Examples of special life circumstances/challenges are disability, chronic or prolonged illness, raising children, caring for relatives, extensive employment required to finance studies. In these or comparable cases, disadvantages will be compensated for when assessing the application.

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Summary of the freely formulated letter of recommendation:

I know (name) PhD Nussbaum, Christine   ☒well ☐fleetingly   since 2019

I know her/him from the following context: PhD supervision, collaboration

In my opinion, the applicant is in his or her field one of the best:

◉ 5%   ◯ 10%   ◯ 20%   ◯ 30%   ◯ No statement possible

Size of the comparison group (please explain in the freely formulated part):   ca. 30 evaluated PhD projects

To sum up, my overall assessment is:

Dr. Nussbaum is an excellent researcher. I know Christine Nussbaum since 2019 when I began co-supervising her PhD-project "Vocal emotions on the brain: The role of acoustic parameters and musicality", which she completed with summa cum laude in 2023 and has been awarded the 3rd Dissertation prize by the German Society for Psychology in the area of general psychology.

In her short time as an academic, Dr. Nussbaum already managed to outshine her peers with 11 peer reviewed publications of which 7 have her as the first author. Most notably, she recently published a conceptual paper entitled "Understanding voice naturalness" in Trends in Cognitive Sciences (TiCS), a highly-ranked journal in our field (5-year IPF: 21.8). This work attests to one of Dr. Nussbaum's greatest strengths: she is a sound and critical thinker, and capable of analyzing a research field, identifying important gaps, and pursuing meaningful research projects in order to push the field forward.

In sum, Dr. Nussbaum is an outstanding young scholar who is already a game-changer in the field of affective and cognitive neuroscience. This field is in need of scholars like her, who push theory forward and back it up with robust empirical insights. Dr. Nussbaum has repeatedly demonstrated research excellence and is thus greatly deserving of the PRIME Fellowship.

17.07.2025

_____   _____
date   signature (handwritten or electronic):