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To Whom It May Concern,

I am very pleased to support Dr Christine Nussbaum's application to the DAAD PRIME program and to invite her to visit the London Vocal Communication Laboratory (VoCoLab), which spans the research groups at the Department of Psychology at Queen Mary University of London and Speech, Hearing and Phonetic Sciences at UCL. Our lab is ideally suited to host her for this fellowship as the VoCoLab (https://www.vocolab.net/) is a collaborative, multi-institutional team of researchers working across experimental psychology, speech science, and cognitive neuroscience.

During Dr Nussbaum's research revisit, she will be primarily based at University College London, although I will act as Dr Nussbaum's mentor, alongside Prof Carolyn McGettigan. We have a strong research focus on the perception of human and synthetic or AI-generated voices. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to collaborate with Dr Nussbaum on her proposed work on synthetic voices and voice naturalness. Her work complements ongoing projects in our lab in which we examine how human-like or natural synthetic voices sound. We will support Dr Nussbaum with our expertise in stimulus design, acoustic analysis, and large-scale online data collection. She will also be an active participant in our regular lab meetings, where we discuss research plans, share findings, and engage with the latest developments in the field. In return, Dr Nussbaum will share with us her expertise in acoustic manipulations of naturalness via voice morphing algorithms.

In sum, Dr Nussbaum's proposed studies form an ambitious program of research that will open up new avenues for understanding how listeners engage with synthetic voices. I am confident that Dr Nussbaum's visit will be mutually enriching, will contribute significantly to our shared research goals, and I would greatly enjoy the opportunity to be a mentor to Dr Nussbaum if this application is funded.

Sincerely,

Nadine Lavan