

January 15, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a first year postgraduate research student within the School of Mathematics, Cardiff University. I have recently completed my B.Sc. Mathematics at Cardiff, graduating with First Class Honours, and have now begun a Ph.D. in Applied Statistics, Operational Research and Data Analytics. The purpose of this letter is to outline my motivation for applying for support from EURO to attend NATCOR courses in the UK.

My research is focussed on the large-scale modelling of healthcare systems to better understand cost variations and increase the effectiveness of healthcare provision in the National Health Service, particularly in South Wales. The work in this project will be reliant on a number of fields from pure and applied mathematics such as data analytics and stochastic modelling, but none more than operational research. I believe it to be in my best interests to seize as many opportunities as possible to learn more about the field so as to help improve my research. Even with the knowledge I have gained from my undergraduate modules, I have been able to begin a promising line of research into how game-theoretic heuristics could be used to improve classification models. I do believe that attending courses with NATCOR will help me to obtain expert knowledge in, and draw inspiration from, higher-level concepts from operational research. In turn, these experiences will help further lines of work around my main research as well as providing me with a stronger foundation from which to build my thesis.

It should also be noted that as a young academic, the fact that NATCOR represents a collaborative group of 13 universities means that my being able to attend their courses would help me begin some early networking in my field with like-minded researchers and demonstrators from other universities.

In summary, I have hoped to convey that I am a keen and highly enthusiastic mathematician with a burning desire to both learn and develop myself as a committed member of the operational research community. I thank you for your time in considering my application, and am at your disposal for any queries that may arise.

Sincerely,

Henry Wilde