



To whom it may concern

12th March 2024

Dear Madam/Dear Sir,

This letter is in strong support of the application of Martin Frenzel for the Mathematics (PhD) programme at the University of Bristol. Martin is one of the Mathematics undergraduate students in Exeter College, University of Oxford. In my capacity of Official Fellow in Mathematics at the same college, I got to know him quite well, through numerous tutorials, presentations and other academic events, and to follow his development over the years. It became quite clear from the beginning that Martin had very good intellectual abilities, that he was (and is) very clever and hard-working and that his favourite and strongest subjects were geometry, topology and algebra. Year after year, while the syllabus became more dense and difficult, Martin equally grew in capacity to organise his effort, and often displayed remarkable problem solving skills in his favourite topics.

By the end of his first year of studies, I always counted on the fact that Martin would hand in consistent work, that he would be active in tutorials, provide the right answers and often come up with clever unexpected ideas. When I asked him to explain his solutions for his colleagues, his explanations were always clear, methodical and focused on the difficult points. I do believe that he has very good presentation and teaching skills.

Related to Martin's attitude and character, besides the above, "integrity" is another word that comes to mind. While many undergraduates, in their choice of mathematical courses, also take into account the difficulty of the course and the reputedly severe way of marking of some lecturers, Martin always strived to find the mathematical courses that suited his inclinations best, and took them independently of any strategical considerations, to the point that his marks last year do not quite reflect his potential, due to the choice of many reputedly difficult courses. Added to that, there was an unfortunate choice of optional course in Statistics that was uncongenial to Martin's imaginative geometric frame of mind (guided by some career advice inattentive to the student's choices and skills).

To sum up, I find Martin very clever, talented, hard working, very keen to learn as much as possible about the current research in geometry and algebraic topology, highly equipped to start a PhD in Mathematics. I sincerely believe that one is entitled to expect much from his future research work and intellectual development. If further details are needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Cornelia Druțu".

Cornelia Druțu  
Professor of Mathematics