

Letter of Motivation for Prof. Warren du Plessis

J.N. Samuel

March 9, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

It is my privilege to write this letter of motivation for Prof. Warren du Plessis. Prof. du Plessis has been my mentor for the past four years where he has supervised me on undergraduate and postgraduate studies, as well as career advice.

I first encountered Prof. du Plessis, when I decided to undertake one of his final year undergraduate projects. The project entailed identifying cellular telephone of the same make and model using only the analogue signals transmitted by the phones. The project was challenging and it was a matter of being thrown in the deep end given my limited knowledge in radio frequency technologies and pattern recognition. However, within a short while of accepting the project, Prof. du Plessis rendered various beacons of support in the way of reading materials and industry experts that could provide me with advice. Prof. du Plessis himself also made himself available to provide sound technical advice and research equipment whenever I required assistance. In this way Prof. du Plessis would always provide me with excellent support. Furthermore, Prof. du Plessis's assistance would never be prescriptive or take some form of spoon-feeding. He would always allow me to take full-ownership of the task at hand and make it my own, which is the best type of mentorship any person can ask for. As a result, I decided to pursue a masters degree under Prof. du Plessis at the University of Pretoria which I completed in early 2018.

Prof. du Plessis and I have also co-authored a peer-reviewed journal article, and he has also assisted me with writing a newspaper article on my masters topic. During the process of writing these articles, Prof. du Plessis provided me with excellent insights into how to clearly communicate my ideas and work to an expert audience, in the case of the journal article, and non-technical audience in the case of newspaper article. I have been able to harness this skill in both my professional and academic life thanks to Prof. du Plessis.

Prof. du Plessis has also provided me with advice outside of the academic realm. He has provided me with notes and advice about various questions I had about the engineering industry and how I could position myself as a professional in the industry.

Lastly, Prof. du Plessis's infectious enthusiasm in virtually all aspects of what he does has motivated me to approach whatever I do with zeal. Working with Prof. du Plessis has always been a great pleasure as a result and there has never been a dull moment under his mentorship.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way in which I can further assist.

Sincerely,
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