

## Support letter to Dr. Saeed Salehi's application to "oavlönad docent"

With this document, I would like to give my strong support to Dr. Saeed Salehi's application to "oavlönad docent" at Chalmers University of Technology. I have recently engaged Dr. Saeed Salehi as a post-doc for four years. We are presently continuing to collaborate through his employment as a researcher at Chalmers Industriteknik (CIT).

I am well aware of the regulations regarding "oavlönad docent" in Chalmers' rules of procedures. Dr. Saeed Salehi has had a PhD degree for many years. He has a number of publications that is much more than twice the number of publications in a PhD thesis, and they are of high quality in good journals. He has been fully engaged in both research and education for more than four years since his PhD. He has all the required courses in pedagogy, and in fact also the full pedagogic diploma. He has experience in teaching at different levels, and he has in particular been an extremely important asset in my PhD courses for several years. He is one of the reasons why we got an overall grade 5.0 from the students in the latest course evaluation. He also delivered a PhD course completely by himself, and he has been invited to TU Delft to support their PhD students. He is co-supervisor of three PhD students at Chalmers, and for one of them he has soon been involved the entire PhD time. He has also been involved in supervision of master students, both together with me and by himself.

An important aspect when being appointed the title "oavlönad docent" is to show independence. A primary way to show this is to publish high quality journal papers without the PhD supervisor. Saeed has shown independence from his PhD supervisor by moving to another country and another university to do two post-doc projects and publish many high-quality journal papers without his PhD supervisor, both as main author and as co-author for a PhD student. After his two post-docs, he is now employed as a researcher at CIT, and he has recently also published a high-quality journal paper together with authors he never published with before. Saeed has been active in formulating research topics for both himself and the PhD students he is involved in. He has identified the combination of CFD and Machine Learning as his own special research field. With this in mind, he defined the contents of the project he is currently working in, and he was also a major driving force for the definition of a PhD project in Physics-Informed Neural Networks for solving partial differential equations – something that has never been done at Chalmers before. He initiated the formation of the team and made invaluable contributions to the application for the funding. I have been Saeed's mentor since he came to Chalmers, and I have been co-authoring all his papers except one, but it should be noted that I have no knowledge in Machine Learning. Saeed has also introduced other kinds of advanced modeling and analysis techniques in our papers.



Prof. Håkan Nilsson

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICS AND MARITIME SCIENCES  
Division of Fluid Dynamics  
Chalmers University of Technology  
SE- 412 96 Gothenburg, Sweden  
Håkan Nilsson  
+46 31-772 14 14  
hakan.nilsson@chalmers.se  
www.chalmers.se  
<https://www.chalmers.se/en/Staff/Pages/hakan-nilsson.aspx>  
Chalmers University of Technology  
Corporate Identity No: 556479-5598



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