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Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Imperial College
London, UK

Dear Sir or Madame,

I have been asked to write a letter to support Shahram Heydari in joining the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Imperial College London. I first collaborated with Shahram in February 2016, and since that time we have worked on several projects. Prior to that time he audited one of my graduate courses in Bayesian analysis.

Shahram's area of research is statistical models for traffic safety data. Shahram approached me to collaborate on his work for his doctoral studies because of my expertise in complex Bayesian modeling, but in working with him I can see that, despite my many years experience in the area compared to his relatively junior status, he knows the area almost as well as I do. Indeed, the three papers we have worked on in the past few months have been as true collaborators, and not as professor and student. He is a very quick study, learning new methods and how to program them rapidly, and suggesting extensions before I can think of them myself. He completes work quickly and accurately, and has a keen sense of the importance of the results. I would rank him as equal to many of my other collaborators, most of whom have been professors for a long time.

Overall, I have been extremely impressed with Shahram's judgment, knowledge of the past research in traffic safety, and his extremely good and modern skills in Bayesian statistical analysis. The combination of these two abilities will lead to many important improvements in the way traffic data will be analyzed. I have no hesitation in giving Shahram my highest possible recommendation for your position.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Joseph, Ph.D.
Full Professor, McGill