

Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck,
Chair, Biocomplexity Search Committee

Indiana University Bloomington,
Department of Physics,

Dear Dr van Steveninck,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Hassan Fathy Hassan Mohammad El-Nashar, who is applying for a position in your institution.

Hassan has been a student in the Diploma Course offered by the Condensed Matter group of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, during the term 1992-93. I cannot make any judgement about his performance in courses since I was not directly involved with the programme.

Hassan contacted me in June '93 to do his dissertation in the field of Fractals. He had listened about it during Professor N. Kumar's classes and he was interested in getting a better understanding of the subject. After some study of the basic facts we made sure that he was able to generate fractals by himself, not just copying some of the available computer packages. Then he started reading on the physics of surface growth. He did a very serious work in the understanding of some of the available models, random and ballistic deposition, and some variations of more realistic models. During that time he started collaboration also with Dr. Wang Wei, who was a postdoc here at ICTP at the time.

Hassan showed to be a very serious student, who understood the subject, as well as the tools for research. Then he went back to Egypt, where under adverse conditions he was able to pursue research, the quality of which you had been able to appreciate from his list of publications, and finish his thesis.

He has become a mature researcher and his abilities have developed substantially.

He is able to conduct independent research and is very accurate in his results. In particular he is excellent in large computer simulations.

Later he has started to work in synchronization of chaotic systems, where he has achieved very important results, which will soon be sent for publication.

He has a pleasant personality and takes work very seriously. I recommend him strongly and I am sure you will be very satisfied with him if you give him a chance.

With my best regards
Hilda Cerdeira
ICTP, Condensed Matter Group
e-mail:cerdeira@ictp.trieste.it
tel.: +39 040 2240 342
2240633

PS: Please acknowledge receipt of this mail.