

30 May 2020

Referee Report for Christina Ballew

1. Problem solving skills

I have a lot of confidence in Christina's ability to solve problems and take on new projects. I have observed her working under pressure, in unfamiliar environments and in challenging situations. This was made clear to me during the completion of her Honours project, where she was placed under considerable pressure to complete an extensive research program relating to tourism activities on Christmas Island. She had to complete this work within a 12-month time frame and her analysis of social qualitative data in relation to tourism on Christmas Island was tackled with persistence and expediency.

2. Skill sharing

Christina has excellent communication and interpersonal skills and desires to understand new situations, and this makes her a valuable member of discussion groups. Coupled with these traits, Christina is polite and very good at listening to other people's ideas in order to extract key issues and address the required objectives at hand. Her abilities in this area proven to me by her ability to synthesize the perspectives of a diverse range of stakeholder's regarding the development of tourism on Christmas Island.

3. Cultural awareness and sensitivity

Christina has spent a lot of time travelling across Australia and in South East Asia. She has personal skills that render her sensitive to the customs, traditions and belief systems of other people, both within Australia and abroad. She has acquired a broad understanding of different customs and cultures, which has given her the ability to feel comfortable communicating with people from different backgrounds. This is exemplified not only by her personal travelling ventures, but also in her work interests.

4. Key attributes

I have faith in Christina's maturity and especially in the way she approaches problems along with the determination with which she tackles difficult situations. This combined with the positive and light-hearted approach, she has to life, will ensure that she is able to adapt to diverse conditions and work within the team situation. Christina is acutely aware of the need for local communities to progress environmentally responsible ventures, and has committed her previous academic interests in regards to working toward such goals.

Christina will always have my support

David Newsome
Associate Prof. Environmental Science and Ecotourism