

Dear Colleagues,

I serve as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Astrophysics PhD program at Smith University. I am writing to provide formal support for Robert's application for a SAO Predoctoral Fellowship. Robert had been admitted to our PhD and he is now enrolled as a full-time graduate student at Smith University. I approve of Robert's plan to pursue doctoral research at SAO. I understand that if his application is approved, a Predoctoral Research Review Committee that includes his SAO adviser will be established to monitor and support his research activities.

Dr. Andrew Xiong  
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