

4 September 2024

Subject: Letter of support for supervising Taylor Bratton for PhD studies at Southern Cross University, Australia

To whom it may concern,

I wish to attest my support to be the primary academic supervisor for Taylor Bratton in a PhD project about the implementation of CITES requirements for sea cucumber fisheries.

Taylor is a motivated marine science postgraduate, holding a Master of Science degree through Université Côte D'azur. Taylor's research experience includes studies on social and physical drivers of compliance in Belize's marine protected areas and the use of traditional ecological knowledge of Filipino fishers to monitor and manage crown of thorns starfish outbreaks. Her past research and recent work roles align well with the proposed PhD project on supporting Indian Ocean countries to deal with the recent CITES listing of commercially-exploited sea cucumbers.

As primary supervisor, I would take charge of guiding and assisting Taylor's research project and providing mentorship through the academic requirements of her candidature. I have authored more than 120 [scientific publications](#) and have more than 20 years' experience in supervising postgraduate students.

At Southern Cross University, each PhD candidate is also squired by a co-supervisor to provide further guidance and ensure continuity of mentorship in periods of absence of the primary supervisor.

Our Graduate School advises that applications for PhD admission "are not normally submitted until it has been confirmed that the applicant has secured the scholarship". International students are expected to pay a tuition fee but there is a possibility for a fee waiver in cases where the student has a scholarship. Taylor would also need to have an approved scholarship by an external provider in order that I can request a tuition fee waiver from the Graduate School.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Steven W Purcell, PhD

Professor, Marine Science and Management

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