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Department of Germanic and Slavic
Studies

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this character reference and letter of recommendation for **Cameron Robinson**. I have known Mr. Robinson since the fall of 2010, when he was accepted into the *I-witness Holocaust Field School Project*. This academic study trip explored ways in which the Holocaust has become memorialized in Central Europe by focusing on memorial sites, museums, and monuments of the Holocaust and acquiring a deeper understanding of antisemitism, racism, religious intolerance, homophobia and the stigmatization of the mentally and physically disabled communities. The group of 23 students met monthly from January through April 2011 for orientation and informational sessions. The course itself took place over a four-week period in May, one week at the University of Victoria and three weeks on the road in Central Europe (Germany, Poland, and Austria). On account of this intense travel and learning experience—often under stressful and emotionally draining conditions—I feel like I got to know each of the course participants particularly well.

As a history major, Cam Robinson was quite knowledgeable about the Holocaust before the course even began. However, he was extremely motivated to learn more at every site we visited and always tried to expand his knowledge. Upon return the course participants had to process the information in three different ways: a private reflection paper, a public presentation, and an academic paper. Mr. Robinson excelled in each of these assignments—receiving an A in the course.

Cam Robinson is a bright individual filled with curiosity and the desire to learn. Through his History degree as well as his studies in Physical Education he has acquired many important skills: excellent critical thinking skills, outstanding written and oral communication, high quality research, and strong interpersonal and organizational skills. Furthermore, he works efficiently in teams as well as individually. He is a tolerant and open-minded individual, who enjoys challenges and thrives on expanding his horizons. Above all else, he is a joy to be around. He possesses excellent people skills including highly effective social skills, respect for other people of all ages, and empathy and trust.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss his application in further detail. I can be reached via email (helgat@uvic.ca) or by phone (250-721-7320).

Sincerely,

Helga Thorson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor