STANFORD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305-6072

NICHOLAS BLOOM
PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS
NBLOOM@STANFORD.EDU
(650) 723-3712

March 23rd 2015

Dear Boot-Camp Committee,

Brian Lucking reference letter

I want to recommend Brian Lucking for the bootcamp – he is very hard working, focused on applied micro productivity topics (i.e. into the field of entrepreneurship) and also casting around for a PhD topic (he is currently a second year). I would say much like Robin Gong he would be a great choice for the boot camp because of the high potential impact this would have on him, in terms of helping him formulate a research topic, meet key people in the field etc.

As background Brian has been my research assistant (RA) at Stanford University since September 2014 and also took the 2nd year graduate course in Labor Economics which I taught this winter. He came well recommended from the San Francisco Fed before (I talked to Mary Daly who had hired him before, and was a big fan of Brian's). At the SF Fed he had been working for two years as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (SF Fed) in the Applied Micro group.

As a research assistant Brian is currently working with Philippe Aghion, Raffaella Sadun, John Van Reenen, and myself on a project on firm organization during the Great Recession. As part of this project he has merged data from several confidential Census Bureau surveys

(including the Annual Survey of Manufactures, the Census of Manufactures, and the Management and Organizational Practices Survey), constructed summary statistics, estimated linear regression models, and constructed regression tables. He is smart, hard-working and independent – as in he is more than happy to work on large chunks of research, pushing ahead, dealing with issues, coming up with his own ideas and solutions. The types of things you look for in successful PhD students. Working on this project, Brian has also shown strong technical skills and an ability to learn new concepts on the fly. He also picked up applied economics programming and data organization skills.

Because of this, I highly recommend Brian to the NBER Entrepreneurship Boot Camp. He is a smart, well-prepared, independent, and experienced candidate. Moreover, he is amiable and pleasant to have around as a colleague and student.

And once again finally thanks again for organizing this – the boot-camp is really an amazing set-up and has benefitted many of my students over the years, so extremely grateful for this!

Sincerely,



Nicholas Bloom

March 22, 2015

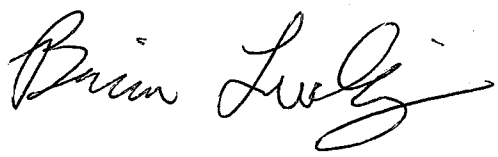
579 Serra Mall
Stanford, CA 94305
Phone: (845) 537-6036
Email: blucking@stanford.edu

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in application to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2015. I was made aware of this opportunity by my PhD advisor Professor Nick Bloom, who has written me a letter of recommendation.

Please find enclosed a Curricululum Vitae, a list of all current and completed PhD courses, and a two-page essay relating to my interest in attending the boot camp. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding my application. I can be reached by phone at 845-537-6036 or by email at blucking@stanford.edu. Thank you for you consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Brian Lucking

Brian Lucking

Department of Economics
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-6072

Phone: +1 845-537-6036
Email: blucking@stanford.edu

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Stanford University — Expected 2018
B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, Brandeis University — 2011

Professional Experience

Research Assistant to Professor Nick Bloom — September 2014 - Present

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
Research Associate, Economic Research — June 2011 - June 2013

National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University
Research Assistant, Family Economic Security Division — 2010 (Summer)

HOP Energy, LLC
Accounting Intern — 2008 (Summer)

Scholarships and Awards

Stanford University Graduate Fellowship — 2013-2014
Phi Beta Kappa — 2011
Morris and Anna Feldberg Prize for Excellence in Economics — 2011
Justice Louis D. Brandeis Scholarship — 2007-2011
Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship — 2007-2011

Refereed Publications

"Is Australia One Recession Away from Disability Blowout? Lessons from Other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Countries" *Australian Economic Review*. 46.3 (2013): 357-68 (with Richard V. Burkhauser and Mary C. Daly).

Federal Reserve System Publications

"The Future of Social Security Disability Insurance" *FRBSF Economic Letter* 2013-17, June 24 (with Mary C. Daly and Jonathan A. Schwabish).

"Fiscal Headwinds: Is the Other Shoe About to Drop?" *FRBSF Economic Letter* 2013-16, June 3 (with Daniel Wilson).

"U.S. Fiscal Policy: Headwind or Tailwind?" *FRBSF Economic Letter* 2012-20, July 2 (with Daniel Wilson).

"Why Has Wage Growth Stayed Strong?" *FRBSF Economic Letter* 2012-10, April 2 (with Mary C. Daly and Bart Hobijn).

PhD Coursework

Course Name	**Instructors**
Labor Economics I	Luigi Pistaferri
Labor Economics II	Nick Bloom
Public Finance and Taxation I	Caroline Hoxby
Public Finance and Taxation II	Petra Persson
Advanced Econometrics	Han Hong
The Economics of Technology and Innovation	Petra Moser
Industrial Organization I	Tim Bresnahan and Liran Einav
Topics in International Trade	Kalina Manova
Core Microeconomics I	Ilya Sega
Core Microeconomics II	Doug Bernheim
Core Microeconomics III	Paul Milgrom and Alex Wolitsky
Core Macroeconomics I	Pablo Kurlat
Core Macroeconomics II	Pete Klenow and Monica Piazzesi
Core Macroeconomics III	John Taylor and Martin Schneider
Core Econometrics I	Joe Romano and Han Hong
Core Econometrics II	Frank Wolak
Core Econometrics III	Tom MaCurdy

Brian Lucking

NBER Entrepreneurship Boot Camp Application Essay

I am a 2nd year PhD student in Stanford University's Department of Economics interested in attending the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. My primary fields are Public Finance and Labor Economics. My research interests include firm behavior and organization, small business dynamics and financing, and the role of firms in spurring innovation. Over the next couple of years I hope to develop a research agenda centered on these areas of study. Thus I think I would benefit tremendously from the opportunity to learn from leading researchers in the areas of entrepreneurial economics and finance at the boot camp.

My research to date has focused on firm organization and management. Specifically I have been working with my advisor Nick Bloom and coauthors on a project investigating the link between organizational practices and firm performance during the Great Recession. I have also started working on a project, as part of a course on the economics of technology and innovation, concerning the effect of patent litigation on small business formation and innovation. The preliminary work hypothesizes that litigation or the threat of litigation involving broad patents in innovative industries, e.g. the software industry, may reduce the incentives for firms to innovate. Small firms in particularly may be deterred from entering in or from innovating if they have fewer resources with which to fend off frivolous patent infringement litigation. In the future, I am interested in studying certain aspects of the individual's decision to form new businesses. For example to what extent does an entrepreneur's personal debt capacity and personal finances influence the entrepreneurship decision? Are prevailing labor market conditions, and hence the entrepreneur's opportunity cost of starting her own firm, a key factor?

Attending the NBER boot camp will help me identify potential avenues of research both in terms of identifying pressing questions in the economics of entrepreneurship and in learning the tools, methods, and data sources used by the leading researchers in the field.

As a 2nd year PhD student I am in the process of narrowing my research focus and deciding which areas of research to pursue during the remainder of my PhD. I would like to focus my future research on questions, broadly construed, about firm performance, formation, and financing. There is a wealth of interesting questions about entrepreneurship and the financing of firms which I think would make for a fruitful research agenda going forward through my PhD program and afterwards. Hence, I wish to attend the NBER entrepreneurship boot camp to learn about the frontier in entrepreneurship economics from leading researchers, which I believe will help me to identify promising research questions in the field and to develop a research agenda in this field.