

Since most of the positions I will be applying for are faculty positions in China, I thought it might also be helpful to provide a few points that could potentially be discussed in the letter. Of course, please feel free to use only the points that you feel comfortable commenting on based on our collaboration:

- Recent publication: My first-author paper is Unclaimed Territory: Analyzing Subdomain Takeover Risks in GitHub Pages (ICSE 2027). The authors are Yueke Zhang, Zihan Fang, Yuxin Hu, Kevin Leach, and Yu Huang. The study combines repository history with DNS and HTTP measurements to confirm 284 vulnerable subdomains and surveys 288 participants about domain trust.
- Our research collaboration: We have worked together on many projects. It would be particularly helpful if you could comment on my contributions, research ownership, and ability to carry a project from identifying a problem through study design, analysis, and publication.
- Research independence and problem formulation: My ability to identify important and practical research problems in software engineering and security, formulate them as concrete research questions, and independently push the research forward.
- Research rigor and interdisciplinary breadth: My work combines empirical software engineering, software security, human/developer studies, and more recently AI for software engineering. If appropriate, it would be helpful to comment on my ability to work across different research methods and areas.
- Collaboration and communication: Based on our experience working together, my ability to collaborate with researchers across institutions, communicate research ideas clearly, respond to feedback, and take responsibility for the work.
- Research trajectory and potential as a faculty member: My broader research agenda focuses on trustworthy AI for software engineering, including software provenance and security, developer cognition, and reliable AI-assisted software development. If you feel comfortable, it would be very helpful to comment on my potential to develop an independent research program and contribute as a faculty member.
- Teaching and student mentoring: I have teaching experience at Vanderbilt in both undergraduate and graduate software engineering courses, including helping students with coding and debugging, guiding graduate research projects, and providing project feedback. If appropriate, it would be helpful to comment on my ability to explain technical ideas clearly, mentor students at different levels, and connect research with teaching.

These are only some suggestions in case they are useful. Please feel completely free to structure the letter in whatever way you think is most appropriate. Thank you again for your time and support. I really appreciate it!