

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to provide this teaching reference for Dr Ian Appleby, who received his PhD in Russian Studies from the University of Manchester in 2009.

During the latter stages of his PhD programme, Dr Appleby undertook a considerable amount of undergraduate teaching for Russian and East European Studies (REES). As the Undergraduate Programme Director for REES, I was responsible for overseeing Dr Appleby's teaching and monitoring student feedback thereon.

Over several semesters, Dr Appleby was fully responsible for teaching three first- and second-year course units on Russian history, literature and culture, for which he delivered all classroom sessions (lectures and seminars); prepared supplementary teaching materials; and marked written coursework and examinations. Additionally, he contributed to a team-taught second-year course unit on the history, culture and symbolism of St Petersburg, delivering a thematic set of lectures and seminars and assisting with assessment.

In preparing for and teaching these course units, Dr Appleby demonstrated considerable flexibility and very good organisational and time management skills. He also demonstrated very good understanding and effective use of best practice in teaching, providing his students with clear aims and learning objectives; delivering engaging lectures; fostering discussion in seminars; and giving students timely, personalised feedback on their work. All of these strengths are reflected in the Course Unit Evaluation Questionnaires for Dr Appleby's course units, for which he received particularly high marks for teaching quality; clarity of presentation; interest in the subject matter; approachability; and helpfulness of feedback.

While I have no direct knowledge of Dr Appleby's English language teaching, based on the above I can attest that he is an effective and engaging teacher with significant classroom experience. Therefore, I am happy to recommend him to you as a classroom teacher and/or tutor of English language.



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