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To whom it may concern,

During the last two years of the 1990s whilst working and teaching at Keele University's department of Biological sciences I was invited to design a course for adults who were not attending University and were eager to extend their knowledge in a variety of fields. I approached a fellow postgraduate Miss Maria Kasmirli from the department of Philosophy and invited her to join me in designing a course exploring the science of brain function and the philosophical theories of the mind. Maria and I produced material and designed a course, entitled Brain and Consciousness, which was accepted by the University and provided a certificate of completion at the end of the course to each student who had reached the standard required.

The course was designed to guide students who may not possess an in depth knowledge of the topics representing the polarized notions of science and philosophy and to ultimately encourage lateral thinking about the important factors which may support bridge these theories. The pedagogical methods engaged combined use of presentation, tutorials, forums for exchange and dissemination of theories and ideas, games, debates of case studies, group collaboration to name but a few.

The course proved exceptionally successful and was offered the following years. It attracted the most students for any of the adult courses provided by the University and ultimately led to a mature group being organized which still runs today. Maria's exceptional talent in contributing to designing, organizing and implementing a course that had to accommodate extremely complicated and in depth concepts, which not only had to be comprehended by individuals who had limited backgrounds in the field, but had to further, achieve a certain level of expertise to successfully guide them through tests and an exam was made abundantly evident to me at Keele University. Maria's mastery of her subject rendered the class room a warm and inviting cocoon where students were encouraged to not just listen but actively participate in lectures and presentations. I along with all students who attended the course over the two years found Maria to be exceptionally professional, who possesses a hard working and dedicated personality to tackle the task at hand and make the most complicated of issues interesting and simple to digest. I would be delighted to provide a letter of support to an individual who would in my opinion be a tremendous asset to any organisation.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr. Shafa Abedi