

To whom it may concern:

**Maria Kasmirli**

This is to confirm that Maria taught courses for me at Keele University on *Consciousness and the Brain* between 1998 and 2000. These courses, each 24 weeks long, 2 hours per week, were at University Level 1 (first year undergraduate) but offered to the general public (with no necessary prior qualifications) as part of the University's outreach programme. As such the courses required exceptionally careful design and delivery in order to ensure that people with very diverse backgrounds were each motivated and guided individually to reach the required level. Similarly, the assessment methods had to be designed to be approachable by those for whom formal education was long in the past.

I am pleased to say that Maria proved exceptionally talented in designing the programmes, using a range of pedagogical approaches and ensuring inclusive of all the participants. This included hands-on approaches, discussion and reflective thinking. She was also very conscientious in working hard to offer students relevant and empathic support. The end result was courses that proved very popular, receiving good student feedback and that achieved excellent pass rates.

Success is demonstrated by each course being more popular than the last as Maria's success spread by word of mouth. Due to their success, we could readily have built a suite of courses in more specialized areas of cognitive psychology and at higher levels. The only reason this did not happen was that Maria moving away from Keele University.

Maria proved a capable and talented curriculum designer, and deliverer of educational objectives. If we could have kept her at Keele University in this capacity we would have been more than happy to do so, and it would have been very much to our benefit.



Dr Peter Thomas  
Senior Lecturer  
Deputy Head of School