

6 July 2020

Dear Selection Committee,

### Teaching Evaluations – Lukas Freund

We are delighted to write to recommend the teaching abilities of Lukas Freund. We know Lukas in our capacity as Directors of Studies in Economics at the University of Cambridge, where we are responsible for the academic progress of students under our direction. We both direct studies for students who have been taught second-year macroeconomics by Lukas. The course covers intertemporal macroeconomics, unemployment, monetary economics and international economics.

Teaching is in the form of eight small-group classes (group size ~3-4, classes are called “supervisions”). Supervisions cover problem sets which are submitted and marked in advance, plus a revision session based on a mock exam that Lukas has drawn up from scratch. Lukas also added a collaborative literature review, in which students were each assigned a key paper from the course and told to present it to the group. Students also provided a structured summary of the paper that Lukas compiled into an anthology. This is additional to the standard teaching programme but makes a very valuable addition to students’ skills. The skills developed are of the sort which can be overlooked. It also shows Lukas’s commitment to going beyond his duties to ensure the students get a good education.

Lukas is one of our most popular supervisors. His students value both his excellent teaching abilities, but also his kindness and willingness to help them learn. Our students have nothing but praise for Lukas’s supervisions, and they are certainly not shy when it comes to expressing dissatisfaction. In particular, Lukas’s students praise his careful and detailed comments and feedback on their work and the clarity of his explanations. They say that Lukas has high standards for them and appreciate his efforts to push them to constantly improve. Lukas adapted seamlessly to moving to remote teaching as required by the coronavirus pandemic.

Students fill in a questionnaire regarding their satisfaction with supervision arrangements. Lukas’s scores are close to perfect. We enclose a summary of Lukas’s scores below. Please note the scoring scheme: 1 = seriously deficient, 2 = deficient, 3 = acceptable, 4 = good, 5 = excellent.

How good is your supervisor at...	Mean	N
Explaining those parts of the course with which you need most help?	4.67	12
Expanding your knowledge beyond the lectures?	4.75	12
Giving feedback on your written work?	4.67	12
Giving encouragement?	4.50	12

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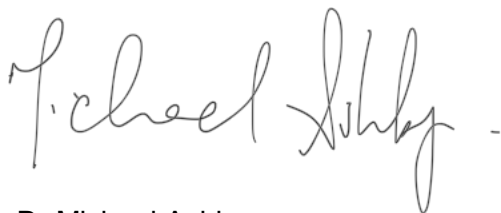
Below, we provide some testimonials collected via our usual feedback collection mechanisms:

Lukas is incredibly dedicated towards his students, not only caring for our well-being but also providing very detailed, tailored feedback in our work, an example of this is how he provides an extensive general supervision feedback report for every supervision on top of the individual feedback on your submitted work. His supervisions are very structured, always challenging our deeper understanding of the material and theory used in the questions, and Lukas also never fails to add extra details beyond the syllabus with enthusiasm which makes the learning experience rewarding and enjoyable – I remember after supervisions talking with other attendees about how clear and concise he explained concepts we were previously muddled by.

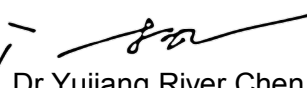
Lukas has been one of the best supervisors I've had this year. Throughout, Lukas has been incredibly encouraging and always goes the extra mile to make sure we are up to speed with the material. Lukas is extremely dedicated to his teaching and often challenges us to engage with the material on a deeper level. The macro syllabus was, for me at least, the most difficult paper this year but having Lukas as a supervisor really helped.

Lukas Freund puts in a lot more time and effort than the average supervisor. He arranged for us to do a collaborative literature review and he also wrote his own mock exam for us to do.

Yours sincerely,



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