

To the application board,

I am writing with reference to the internship position, assisting in the organisation of the October 2018 Gifford Lecture and Research Seminar series. I would be an ideal candidate for the position, given my experience organising academic events and my extensive knowledge of the writings of the upcoming Gifford speaker, Professor Judith Butler, whose work formed the foundation of my completed doctoral thesis. Beyond this, I have a record of excellent teamwork, interpersonal and communication skills. This is proven through my work as a lecturer at Glasgow and other UK institutions and through my frequent international conference appearances. Finally, I have an excellent knowledge of information-technology, gained through an MSc in computer science and work as a front-end web-designer. I hope you will peruse my covering letter and CV, and that we may come to discuss my application in person.

At Glasgow, I have been actively involved in the organisation of many academic events, the largest and most applicable of which were the 2014 Film-Philosophy conference and the 2016 FTV Doctoral Symposium. I gained valuable experiencing in helping organise these conferences, through structuring programmes, generating publicity materials (including posters, websites, social media pages and Twitter threads), booking and organising rooms, organising funding sources, handling expenses and liaising with accommodation and catering. A primary role I have undertaken has been taking care of the needs of keynote speakers, ensuring they are as prepared for their journey and presentations as possible, from the airport to the podium. This experience could be put to good use in organising the Gifford lecture series with the aim of extending the maximum possible outreach while maintaining the international reputation of the historic lectures. I gained similar experience in smaller positions working with Screen, 2015, the Glasgow World Cinemas Conference, 2017, Film Tourism Conference, 2016, and the Technocultures Symposium, 2014.

Working with Professor Butler would be a particular honour for me as my PhD thesis aimed to extend her work on the social construction of concepts. As such, I am very familiar with her vast body of research. This familiarity would be useful when writing publicity materials, when liaising with other speakers, should Professor Butler be given introductions at the lecture series, or more generally when speaking to co-organisers.

Having worked as a lecturer in Glasgow for the last two semesters, it is my hope that my teaching experience serves as a recommendation of my interpersonal and communication skills, given their central importance in the role. Beyond this, however, I have worked in teams in other higher education institutions, in other roles within Glasgow and in organising academic events.

Finally, I would hope that my experience working in web-design also works in my favour. As an experienced front-end developer and competent back-end developer (please see examples of my past work with independent Glasgow Publishers Vagabond Voices at www.vagabondvoices.co.uk) I would be comfortable creating, maintaining or discussing the development of online materials as part of a larger group.

I look forward to the opportunity of discussing my application in person.

Dr Conor Mckeown