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Department of Government
London School of Economics

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to be considered for the class teacher positions for the coming year in the Department of Methodology.

Over the past year I have taught extensively for the Methodology Department, teaching both introductory and advanced courses, for which I received extremely positive teaching evaluations. I developed strong relationships with both the students and my fellow teachers on these courses, and have continued to mentor a number of students in their MA theses. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and would like to build on this by teaching on further courses this year. I would like to be considered for the following courses: MY452, MY465, MY457, MY458, and MY459.

Having taught MY452 and (the old) MY459 this year, I am in a strong position to deliver these courses. The new courses for which I am applying focus on methods that I use extensively in my own research. In my PhD thesis I focus on the voting and speech-making behaviour of legislators in the European Parliament and the UK House of Commons. I make extensive use of quantitative text analysis methods in the papers in my thesis, as well as situating most of my work within the 'potential outcomes' causal inference framework. I therefore feel that I am a suitable candidate to teach on both MY457 and (the new) MY459. I intend to submit my PhD in March 2016.

As my CV makes clear, I have taken several courses in quantitative methods here at the LSE as well as in Oxford and, more recently, at Harvard and MIT. I have a strong command of the material of all of the courses mentioned above, and feel that I could deliver clear and engaging classes.

I would appreciate your consideration of my application for these positions.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Blumenau