Teaching Statement

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I am committed to excellence in teaching and have experience teaching at three universities: the University of New South Wales; Macquarie University; and the University of Western Australia. I have taught a range of courses, including econometrics, microeconomics, macroeconomics and monetary economics. During graduate school, I was supported by fellowships and research assistantships, and did not teach. But teaching is something I enjoy, and I am very much looking forward to resuming this role.

My teaching philosophy begins with getting students excited about the questions and problems we will encounter. I try to transmit my own passion for the subject and connect what we are learning to applications with real-world relevance. To explain difficult ideas, I like to present intuition first, before going into the details. I enjoy the challenge of communicating new ideas, actively engaging students in class, and sparking their intellectual curiosity.

I have excellent teaching evaluations. Overall, based on 171 responses across four classes, 95% of students agreed they were satisfied with the quality of my teaching (Table 1). Student responses to other aspects of my teaching — such as clarity, enthusiasm, encouragement — are similarly positive and can be viewed in more detail in my application materials. Student evaluations also include open-ended responses. One reads: ' You can tell that he knew what he was talking about and liked to teach. Would consistently ask for the class to answer questions even if no one would raise their hand.' Another writes: 'Extremely knowledgeable and very thorough and clear explanations of even difficult concepts.' These responses reflect what I aim to achieve in teaching: engaging students in active learning and communicating complex ideas with clarity.

I am prepared to teach a range of courses depending on department needs, especially at the undergraduate level. At the graduate level, I would be excited to teach courses in econometrics. This could be in theoretical econometrics or applied econometrics with applications, for example, to labor, health, and education.

TABLE 1 – Summary Statistics on Student Evaluations of Teaching Quality

University	Course	n	Agreement
University of New South Wales	Econometrics	30	93.3%
Macquarie University	Econometrics	17	93.8%
University of Western Australia	Macroeconomics	61	98.0%
University of Western Australia	Monetary Economics	63	92.0%

Notes: evaluation forms vary across universities and agreement percentages are for the statement which best corresponds to overall teaching quality. At the University of New South Wales, the question was "Overall I was satisfied with the quality of Patrick Vu's teaching." At the University of Western Australia, the question was "Overall, the tutor effectively supports my learning." At Macquarie, the question was "During tutorials, this tutor provides feedback that reinforces learning." The scale at Macquarie was not based on degrees of agreement but on a 5-points scale ranging from 'All of the time" to "Rarely of never". For aggregation purposes, I assume that ratings 4 and 5 correspond to agreement.