

Testimonials of Effectiveness in Teaching and Mentoring

“Leo is an exceptionally reliable, creative, and thoughtful teaching assistant who consistently goes above and beyond to achieve the pedagogical goals he sets. His commitment to ensuring students' understanding and engagement with the material is truly commendable. I have had the pleasure of employing him on two occasions, and in both instances, I was thoroughly impressed with his dedication and skill. In the first instance, Leo produced a comprehensive video introducing students to RStudio, which was widely praised by our students. This resource became the foundation for all introductory sessions we taught, both to undergraduate and graduate students, serving as a clear and accessible guide. In the second instance, I tasked Leo with rewriting the material for the first-year methods course at Oxford. His thoughtful approach and attention to detail resulted in a significant improvement of the curriculum, ensuring it was not only engaging but also academically rigorous.”

(Associate Professor)

“As a teaching assistant for a course I taught on Introduction to Statistics, Leonardo was absolutely stellar. He was in charge of the lab sessions, for which he always prepared exercises to make students better understand the materials from the lectures. He would always send the .R markdown file for revision a couple of days before. These materials were always extremely well-designed, with exercises that were simultaneously challenging, interesting, and helpful to make students understand the contents better. Leonardo was also extremely organized. In a course with over 100 students enrolled, things would have become very hectic had it not been for excellent teaching assistance like that of Leonardo. In meetings that we had, Leonardo also shared his passion for teaching often. I cannot think of anyone better equipped to teach in Higher Education.”

(Assistant Professor)

“I'm incredibly grateful to Leo for all his support during my MPhil, and I'm very thankful that he was my supervisor. Leo went above and beyond in helping me to do my best: in particular, his high quality, timely feedback on my work was really notable. Leo constantly seemed to know what scholarship I may find most instructive, showing a really impressive depth and breadth of knowledge, and was a valuable source of guidance for academic matters generally. Our supervisions were friendly, relaxed but always productive and leaving me feeling like I had learnt a lot. I was Leo's first supervisee but it felt like he always knew how to help me during the MPhil.”

(Graduate Student, MPhil Politics)

“Dr Carella taught me quantitative methods and British politics. Not only was his teaching style engaging and his classes enjoyable, but he was also extremely helpful and supportive to me, regularly going the extra mile by providing me with lightning-fast feedback and guidance to help me develop my

masters research. During my two years at Oxford, he was always so approachable and I'm very grateful for the support he offered me and my fellow classmates.”

(Graduate Student, MPhil Politics)

Leo delivered the Introduction to Statistics class which I took during my postgraduate degree at the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford. My experience with Leo was exclusively positive. The class was very useful and he made sure that everyone understood contents of the programme before we moved on to further aspects of it. More importantly though, he was always willing to help and did so with genuine expertise. When I asked for help with the quantitative side of one of my projects, he did not just direct me to where I could find advice – he sat down with me and showed ways of approaching the problem I was facing, while also thoroughly explaining them. His knowledge of R and its use for social science research was impressive, needless to say.”

(Graduate Student, MPhil Politics)

“I felt the instructor was very well versed into the literature on electoral systems, electoral reform and electoral politics both in the British and comparative contexts to the extent that he was comfortable with allowing students to discuss quite liberally any points they felt interesting or intriguing during his classes. At the same time, the lecture component of his classes was structured in a way that the underlying theories, conceptions and phenomena of the topic in question were well highlighted, which I felt gave confidence to students’ learning and reading of the literature and class topics. His peer reviews on my research proposals and working papers mainly on electoral and legislative institutions in advanced democracies have also been very spot-on and constructive.”

(Graduate Student, MPhil Politics)

“Of the many tutors I had during my time at Oxford, Leo was an absolute stand out. He was meticulously prepared for every tutorial and managed our learning with a fantastic balance between delivering course-driven structure and fostering an open environment for challenging, intellectual discussion. I was always impressed with the incredible, and up to date grasp Leo had on the literature, able to link new research to core texts on the reading list in order to challenge and develop our arguments. In the run up to my finals, Leo provided fantastic exam-based preparation and was a great source of moral support. I would recommend Leo for any tutoring/lecturing position without hesitation.”

(Undergraduate Student, PPE)