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### Teaching Testimonial: Edward Pearce

I am a Senior Lecturer of Applied Mathematics in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sheffield. It has been my pleasure to work with Mr Edward Pearce over the past two years on the second-year undergraduate module *Scientific Computing and Simulation*. Mr Pearce has repeatedly demonstrated to me excellence in teaching ability, in technical and programming skills, and in communication and interpersonal skills. It is my pleasure to give him my personal endorsement without reservation.

In 2019, Mr Pearce was an assistant demonstrator for this module. In 2020, he progressed to become the lead demonstrator, amid the university's move to mostly-online provision. Since the start of semester 1 in 2020, Mr Pearce has been delivering online weekly one-hour tutorials of a high quality to classes of approximately 25 second-year undergraduates, via Blackboard Collaborate.

There are three parallel tutorial sessions for this module. Two are led by experienced lecturers, and the third is led by Mr Pearce. Early indications are that the sessions led by Mr Pearce are at least as successful as those led by the more experienced staff, if not more so. I have had the pleasure to sit in on these online sessions, and I have seen his abilities first-hand.

Mr Pearce has built a strong rapport with the class, which is not straightforward in the online setting. He works smoothly with the Assistant Demonstrator. He encourages interaction and discussion, but he also delivers the session plan and the learning objectives in a professional manner. His sessions are characterised by a calm competence, and an engaging and friendly manner. His live-coding demonstrations are particularly valued by the students.

Mr Pearce regularly draws upon his expert knowledge of advanced Python to show tips to the students which go beyond the lecturer's examples, and on occasion, beyond the lecturer's expertise. He always prepares thoroughly for the class, often by adding to or improving upon the lecturer's codes and worked solutions.

Going further, my impression is that Mr Pearce is valued as a role-model by the students. He demonstrates and embodies the graduate-level skills and attributes which we are seeking to inculcate. He encourages students to engage and persist by the example he sets.

I have no doubt that Mr Pearce is ready to progress to the next step, in (for example) leading his own modules, or designing syllabuses and curricula. He has all the skills and personal qualities needed to excel in his next teaching challenge.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Dolan', written in a cursive style.

Dr Sam Dolan  
Senior Lecturer  
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