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### **Destination**

Macquarie Business School  
The Department of Economics  
Re. Lecturer Position

Dear Macquarie Business School Representative,

I write this letter to apply for the Lecturer position within the Department of Economics at Macquarie Business School, posted on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 on the American Economic Association Job Openings for Economists Network web-page.

My name is Sergey Alexeev and I am a PhD in Economics candidate (specialising in Applied Econometrics) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). I recently submitted my thesis on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and expect to receive my doctorate by October 2019.

In what follows, I hope to demonstrate that my research skills and interests, teaching abilities, and general life experience have shaped me as an ideal candidate for the opening at Macquarie University.

For convenience, this cover letter has been structured in accordance with the specified selection criteria of the position description.

### **1. A PhD in Economics or a closely related discipline**

I am an applied econometrician with a PhD in Economics (completed and awaiting conferral).

Throughout my Bachelor's (Honours) and Master's in Finance, and Master's and PhD in Economics, I have demonstrated a proven track record of contributing to research and teaching in various branches of econometrics, as well as micro- and macroeconomics, at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and proactively contributing to the efforts of the departments at which I worked.

I am excited by the potential opportunity to strengthen the Department of Economics' research and teaching capacities at Macquarie University through this position.

### **2. Evidence of progress towards a well-articulated research agenda and track record of publications in well-regarded economics and interdisciplinary journals**

Although I commenced my PhD program in 2015, my work on research papers did not begin until 2017, as PhD candidates at UTS are required to successfully finish coursework during the first two years of their degree. In only two years, from 2017 to 2019, I have produced three research papers currently under review:

1. *On Australian Exceptionalism: The Role of Home Ownership in Income Mobility, Inequality and Polarization* (Alexeev 2019a) “revise and resubmit” status in *The Journal of Housing Economics* (A level housing economics journal);
2. *The Structure of Wages in Russia: 1985–2015* (Alexeev 2019c) under review in *The European Economic Review* (A\* level general-interest economics journal); and
3. *The Effect of the Test-Preparation Industry on Centralized College Admission* (Alexeev 2019b) under review in *A Quarterly Journal of Operations Research* (B level economics theory journal).

Currently, I am developing a paper that uses difference-in-difference design and media induced 5G tower anxiety to measure the influence of communication towers on real estate prices in Sydney (co-authored with Associate Professor in Real Estate at Deakin University, Dr. Adrian Lee).

Another paper I have in development exploits difference-in-difference design to show that the announcement of the introduction of Russian gay propaganda laws increased violence against members of the LGBT community.

I also have a number of other research projects in progress. Several of them use unique datasets that I was able to retrieve through my industry and public sector connections or that I collected myself.<sup>1</sup>

My ongoing research agenda has two components. The first component is a focus on housing economics (i.e. housing and various economic outcomes), and the second is on transitional economies (e.g. propaganda (including education); abuse by police or secret service agencies; the consequences of army service; and election manipulation).

### **3. Demonstrated academic knowledge in the discipline and a commitment and capability to deliver high-quality learning and teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate level in a range of economic subjects**

As a father of two beautiful boys, I am a patient and passionate teacher. I have been regularly delivering high-quality learning and teaching outcomes in the discipline since 2013, and I would look forward to bringing my experience to Macquarie University’s Department of Economics.

My current teaching evaluation at UTS as a tutor for “Intermediate Microeconomics” is 4.55 out of 5.0. Some of my teaching success is due to my YouTube channel, which supplements my tutorials.<sup>2</sup>

From 2015 to 2017, whilst completing my coursework for the PhD in Economics program at UTS, I tutored students on the subjects “Time Series Econometrics”, “Pre-

dictive Analytics” and “Data Mining Methods” privately.

From 2014 to 2015, at the Graduate School of Management, Saint Petersburg State University (GSOM SPbU), I tutored “Macroeconomics” and “Macroeconomic Policies in the Global Environment” to undergraduate students; and “Global Governance” and “Contemporary Financial Intermediation” to postgraduate students.

Finally, from 2013 to 2014, I tutored “Introductory Microeconomics” and “Introductory Macroeconomics” to undergraduate students at York University.

#### **4. Capacity to independently conduct lectures, tutorials, assessments and exam marking in the relevant discipline area, and evidence of teaching quality**

In my 6 years of teaching experience, I have conducted lectures, tutorials, assessments and exam marking in various branches of economics, both independently and as part of a team.

At UTS and York University, I used pre-existing teaching and student assessment materials to independently teach and evaluate students.

However, at GSOM SPbU, in addition to conducting independent teaching and student evaluation, I developed my own teaching and assessment materials for “Macroeconomics”<sup>3</sup>, “Macroeconomic Policies in the Global Environment”<sup>4</sup> and “Global Governance”<sup>5</sup>.

In all capacities, my services received high assessment.

In addition to the aforementioned teaching evaluation by students at UTS, I have also received positive feedback from the course instructors. My LinkedIn web-profile shows feedback on my teaching by the instructor Associate Professor, Dr. Olga Garanina, for the course “Global Governance” at GSOM SPbU and by the instructor Assistant Professor, Dr. Xueda Song, for the course “Introductory Microeconomics” at York University.<sup>6</sup>

#### **5. Excellent communication skills, with an ability to relate well to staff and students from diverse backgrounds and to represent the Department to external stakeholders and the general public**

Throughout my employment at European, North American and Australian Universities, I successfully taught students from diverse backgrounds. My success is based on a mixture of a deep respect for the audience, a strong belief in meritocracy, and, of course, a healthy dose of fun.

I also believe that modern information technologies, if applied properly, can considerably increase the quality of communication. For example, during my PhD in Economics program, I created a custom Beamer template for a more efficient presentation of my research papers.<sup>7</sup> I have also created the aforementioned YouTube channel, which receives high appreciation from my students.

As evidence of my ability to represent the departments for which I have worked to external stakeholders and the general public, I am currently representing UTS as an Australian Postgraduate Research Intern engaged by the NSW Department of Education (DoE) to advise the DoE on the economic benefits of their programs. In 2017, while doing my PhD in Economics at UTS, I was asked to give an interview to the GSOM SPbU alumni organisation about my research.<sup>8</sup> In 2011, during my work as Lead Project Manager at Saint Petersburg University of IT, Mechanics and Optics, I gave an interview to a local magazine “Lumiere” about business development and entrepreneurship.<sup>9</sup> In the same year, I also wrote a piece that was published in a local newspaper “Gatchina-Info” about the utility of nations using history as guidance for modern-day problems.<sup>10</sup>

I also regularly post pieces about various subjects on my private blog.

## **6. Ability to proactively engage or partner with industry and professional bodies on relevant research and/or teaching projects**

My academic life has been closely related to my private and public sector employment, and I have always proactively engaged or partnered with industry and professional bodies on my research.

As an example, I am currently contracted by the NSW DoE, where I work to evaluate the influence of the “Bump It Up” program on NSW public school students. Similarly, in 2010, after finishing my Bachelor’s (Honours) in Finance degree, I was contracted as a mergers and acquisitions Data Analyst, where I partook in modelling the consequences of a hypothetical merger of key Russian IT companies.

Further, I always choose to research subjects that are of direct policy relevance and are of interest to professional bodies, including governmental agencies.

As described above in this letter, I have three finished papers which have been submitted into journals and have immediate policy implications. I also have papers currently in development which address ongoing policy issues. The project to measure the influence of communication towers on real estate prices in Sydney would be of interest to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The project on the negative consequences of Russian gay propaganda laws has the potential to start an important discussion on policy-making in Russia.

## **7. Demonstrated willingness and/or experience to make a contribution to the academic life and administrative tasks of the Department along with a track record of effective teamwork**

As evidence of my track record of effective teamwork, I am currently engaged by the NSW DoE where I work in a team of four people led by Principal Evaluator, Sara Rahman. I also tutor for “Intermediate Microeconomics” at UTS, where I am part of a three-person team led by Lecturer, Dr. Massimo Scotti.

To demonstrate my experience of making a contribution to the academic life and administrative tasks of a university department, I am currently managing the Australian

chapter of the GSOM SPbU alumni organisation, and I am an active participant of the Australian chapter of the University of Paris Dauphine alumni organisation.

Additionally, in 2015, while working at GSOM SPbU, I introduced a faculty member of York University, Associate Professor, Dr. Andrei Semenov, to GSOM SPbU Academic Director, Dr. Igor Baranov. This resulted in Dr. Andrei Semenov's appointment as Visiting Researcher and Visiting Professor at GSOM SPbU, and he still regularly visits Saint Petersburg to teach graduate students.

Before that, throughout my career, I similarly always demonstrated an ability to work effectively as part of a team and always found pleasure in contributing to the lives of the people around me.

These are a few examples of my contribution to academic life and the experience of those people around me, and I am keen to bring the same commitment to the Department of Economics and Macquarie University.

I hope I have addressed the selection criteria adequately, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or require further information.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Yours sincerely,

**Sergey Alexeev**

Enclosure:

Curriculum vitae 

## Notes

1. My current research projects in progress in the area of Applied Econometrics can be accessed on my private web-page  
<http://www.backwardinduction.blog/his-research/>.
2. The materials and student feedback for the course “Intermediate Microeconomics” can be accessed on my private web-page  
<http://www.backwardinduction.blog/2017-2018-intermediate-microeconomics-business-course-at-uts/>.
3. The materials for the course “Macroeconomics” taught at GSOM SPbU in 2014 can be accessed on my private web-page  
[http://www.backwardinduction.blog/macro\\_materials/](http://www.backwardinduction.blog/macro_materials/).
4. The materials for the course “Macroeconomic Policies in the Global Environment” taught at GSOM SPbU in 2014 can be accessed on my private web-page  
<http://www.backwardinduction.blog/macropolicies-in-global-environment/>.

5. The materials for my guest lecture “A Review of Unconventional Monetary Policy” given during the graduate level course “Global Governance” at GSOM SPbU can be accessed on my private web-page <http://www.backwardinduction.blog/macropolicies-in-global-environment/>.
6. My LinkedIn web-profile can be accessed at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sergeyvalexeev/>.
7. An example of the template can be accessed on my private web-page <http://www.backwardinduction.blog/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Alexeev.-14.08.2019-Mobility.pdf>.
8. The interview can be accessed at the GSOM Family web-page [https://gsom.spbu.ru/blog/blog2017\\_02\\_13/](https://gsom.spbu.ru/blog/blog2017_02_13/).
9. A copy of the magazine’s issue can be accessed at my private web-page [http://www.backwardinduction.blog/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/lumiere\\_4i.pdf](http://www.backwardinduction.blog/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/lumiere_4i.pdf).
10. A photocopy of the magazine’s issue can be found at my private web-page <http://www.backwardinduction.blog/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/WhatsApp-Image-2019-08-13-at-6.36.16-PM1-1.jpeg>.

## References

- Alexeev, S. (2019a). *On Australian Exceptionalism: The Role of Home Ownership in Income Mobility, Inequality and Polarization*. Working Paper. URL: [🔗](#).
- (2019b). *The Effect of the Test-Preparation Industry on Centralized College Admission*. Working Paper. URL: [🔗](#).
- (2019c). *The Structure of Wages in Russia: 1985–2015*. Working Paper. URL: [🔗](#).