



Queen's-Trent Concurrent Education

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Re: Natalie Visser

I have had the pleasure of knowing Natalie since she entered the first year of our program in September, 2011, both in my capacity as coordinator of the Queen's-Trent Concurrent Education program, and as her instructor for her Professional Studies courses in Year 1 and 3. I got to know her even better during her third and fourth year, when she worked in our office.

As one of our two Smartboard assistants, hired to provide workshops and other learning opportunities for students in our program, Natalie quickly took on much of the organizational, record-keeping, and event management software responsibilities as well as collaborating with the other assistant to develop and deliver successful workshops. We had intended to run the Smartboard program for one year, but the response from the participants was so positive we kept it going for a second year. At the urging of both assistants we expanded the program to provide other support for using technology in education, and they successfully developed and ran a well-attended mini-conference on using technology in the classroom. Natalie's organizational and leadership capabilities, consideration for her audience, and her competence and enthusiasm were all evident in her work.

The Queen's-Trent Concurrent Education program is unique in requiring a professional and academic commitment from the beginning. Our students take an Honours Bachelor's program at Trent, with five full courses each year, while also completing a half course in Professional Studies from the Queen's Faculty of Education in their first year, and for two of their subsequent years at Trent. They also receive Queen's credits for a total of 40 days of placement, starting with 10 days in first year. Natalie had no trouble with managing this demanding load. She did so while also volunteering considerable time to other extra-curricular activities, including her work in our office, in college activities, and with the Music Society. Her cheerful support for and consideration of her peers was always evident – it was truly a pleasure to work with her.

Since my own academic background is in science, it is always a pleasure to be able to work with students whose interests lie in that field. Natalie was able to pursue that interest in her assignments for my courses, demonstrating a thoughtful and inclusive approach to science education, as well as ways to connect it to the broader world in which we live.

I have no hesitation in recommending Natalie for employment in education. I know she will be an asset to any staff, enthusiastically supporting her professional community and providing engaging learning opportunities for her students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fiona White", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Fiona White
Coordinator