

# A reference for postgraduate study

Your relationship to the applicant

Dr R Jackson  
Department of Humanities  
University of Wessex  
Wilchester  
Dorset WL2 5KL

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Dear Dr Jackson

**Reference for Alan Smith**

Alan is in his final year here studying Sociology. I have been his personal tutor for the past three years and have taught him personally on several modules.

His academic record is excellent. His high standard of academic achievement was apparent from the first year where he gained an average of 71%, obtaining particularly high marks for Social Theory and Introduction to Social Research. He has continued to do well, specialising in social policy and welfare and is expected to graduate with a very high 2:1.

Alan is very methodical in his approach to study. As a mature student, he has managed a busy part time job here in the University Admissions Office as well as completing all his course work and dissertation on time.

His work for his dissertation: *Will the Welfare State last no more than 100 years?* was well structured, and cogently argued. He is able to think creatively and logically.

Much of the course involves leading seminars and giving presentations and Alan is able to research and present his work to a high standard both orally and in writing. His seminar on *Lone parents and Employment* for the module 'Women's Employment in Europe' was particularly enjoyable and well researched.

Personally, Alan is able to get on with a wide range of people; he is popular and has made many friends in Oxford. As President of the People and Planets Society, he has increased membership and organised an interesting series of speakers, including Jonathan Porritt, last year.

I feel Alan would gain much from taking his research further by studying for an MPhil, especially as he hopes to work eventually for the Department of Health. I would be delighted if he could have this opportunity to further his study of Social Policy, to which he would bring the qualities he has demonstrated so successfully in his undergraduate studies.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Richards  
Senior Lecturer in Sociology

Expected class of degree

Academic record

Work experience

Thinking ability

Communication skills

Extra curricular activity

Career interests and motivations