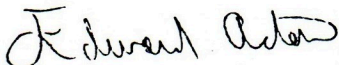


School of Modern Languages and European History

CONFIDENTIAL

BRUCE MITCHELL

I have come to know Bruce Mitchell well while teaching him Soviet history at UEA and have been highly impressed. He is an engaging, resourceful and intellectually lively young man. Overall his coursework marks point to a good Upper Second and for me he has produced two dissertation-length essays - one on Moldova and one on Nagorno-Karabakh - which are both of clear first-class quality. This work demonstrates not only an eye for detail and a real aptitude and appetite for independent research, but also a quite remarkable grasp of ethnic complexities. Combined with his flare for languages these skills seem to me to make him ideally suited to the SSEES MA. In terms of his own interests and intellectual development, the programme seems highly appropriate. The courses on relations between communist states and on the great powers and eastern Europe 1939-1949 will provide solid grounding for the area in which he envisages writing his dissertation. Given the opportunity which a year at SSEES would offer, I believe he could make a useful contribution to British expertise on the ethnic problems of eastern Europe and the Danube basin. I therefore strongly support his application.



Professor Edward Acton
23 May 1993