Eric Atwell as Research Supervisor: FEEDBACK from postgraduate research students

“I am not the first person to say that Eric has a very good understanding of people and what motivates them. For me, his style of supervision has been the right one: it gives the student freedom, it is positive and encouraging, and I’ve come out of this with lots of publications, an achievement I really value.” (Claire Brierley, 2011)

“Dr. Eric Atwell, my supervisor, words can not express how much I am grateful to you not only for being helpful and professional but also for your understanding, kindness and support. Our work meetings were always something that I would look forward to and enjoy. I have learnt so much from you. Thank you for helping me always and for being there whenever I needed you.” (Nora Abbas, 2009)

“I can highly recommend Eric as a supervisor. I found his supervision to be excellent. In particular, he has guided me towards publication of relevant parts of my research, and has encouraged me to attend workshops and conferences. This has been highly valuable, and has allowed me to develop my skills as an academic researcher. ... With regards to collaboration, my understanding is that it is a common practice for doctoral supervisors to co-author with their students, assuming that the student's research is of sufficient quality. This has certainly been the case with myself and Eric, and we have successfully collaborated on several peer-reviewed research papers. In short, I would highly recommend Eric as a supervisor, especially if you are considering Arabic language computing research. The group at Leeds has become one the key places to research this particular topic within the UK. ... In between meetings I tend to research independently, but I do give Eric regular updates or contact him in between if something interesting has come up in the research, or if I am really stuck. I have never had a problem getting in touch with Eric. Of course, given that has other students to supervise (as well as other academic responsibilities within the university) I can't expect to always be answered instantly. However, I have always managed to get in touch, maybe not straight away, but certainly all my e-mail queries have been responded to within a day or two at most.” (Kais Dukes, 2011)

“Mostly, I thank you for putting up with me, and for continuing to guide me with ideas and suggestions even when I sometimes unceremoniously discard them before you've scarcely finished. In particular, I also thank you for having the vision to support my desire to pursue this academic path from the very start!” (Justin Washtell, 2011)

“I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Eric Atwell for supervising me during these four years. Thank you very much for your patience, guidance and encouragement. I learnt from how to be a real researcher, how to think differently and how to understand life better.” (Majdi Sawalha, 2011)

“Thank you my dear supervisor, Eric Atwell, for your inspiration to do this research. It was an honour working with you and having you as a supervisor. All this was not to start or to finish without your support, without the regular excellent supervision and the significant advice you provided. Thank you for your help and your support every time I struggled. In addition to your academic mind, I ould like to thank you for your kindness, your concern, and for believing in me to achieve his, which made it both motivating and interesting at the same time. I’m so grateful for all the times we discussed ideas, and all the times you let me in your office without an appointment, even though I was distracting you. My sincere appreciation for the lovely enjoyable times we had.” (Bayan Abu Shawar, 2005)