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Re: Reference for PhDr. Hana Kriaková

To Whom It May Concern:

Having known Dr. Hana Kriaková for several years, I am pleased to serve as a reference in regard to her professional qualities. Dr. Kriaková was my Czech language teacher for some 2-1/2 years during much of the time (September 1994 – March 1998) that I was employed by Brno-based Atlantik Financial Markets, where I worked as a Senior Equities Analyst and then Head of Research and Member of the Management Board. In addition to teaching me Czech, Dr. Kriaková taught Czech to additional expatriates at Atlantik and English to several of my Czech subordinates and colleagues.

For my purposes, I found Dr. Kriaková to be an excellent teacher. In that I had a very hectic work schedule during that time, I was particularly impressed with her flexibility and adaptability. By that I refer not only to her time flexibility, but also to her willingness and ability to adjust her teaching plan to changing circumstances and my unique learning needs. (I came into this private instruction with a considerable but piecemeal understanding of Czech grammar and a need to develop the language for use in my work.) I never heard that any of my colleagues were in any way unsatisfied with Dr. Kriaková's teaching.

As her knowledge of English grammar will certainly exceed that of all but the most highly trained native-speaking teachers of English, I believe that Dr. Kriaková should have good potential for teaching English in a Czech setting. Her spoken English is of course fully fluent, albeit not native. Having taught for many years now in corporate settings, I would assume that her business-English vocabulary is now considerable, as should be her understanding of just what language knowledge is most valuable for Czechs who are learning English in the workplace.

Should you find it useful, I would be happy to speak with you personally in regard to Dr. Kriaková's bid or candidacy for any project or position.

With kindest regards,



Gale A. Kirking, CFA, MBA