

POSTGRADUATE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

TESOL & LINGUISTICS

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Postgraduate Personal Statement Example: TESOL and Linguistics

“In me the tiger sniffs the rose.” Sassoon’s compelling line has always inspired me to enjoy both the “tiger” and “rose” in my own personal and professional life and offers me the motivation needed to become an outstanding English teacher. To achieve this goal, I intend to dedicate myself to exploring English teaching methods through courses such as Language Teaching Methodology and Teaching Young Learners. I am confident that by pursuing the TESOL and Applied Linguistics MA programme at Slater University, I will gain a rich understanding of critical ideas in English language teaching, adding value to my own life and those of my students.

My graduate studies in Teaching English have laid a robust foundation for my further studies. Taking courses covering educational theories, dialectics, English language and literature and English teaching assessment, I’ve developed my understanding of the theoretical aspects of English teaching. Equally, my experience supporting learners through the use of modern educational technology has prepared me for the Technology-Enhanced Language Learning module. To explore teaching and learning strategies, I’ve enhanced my critical thinking and analytical skills through extensive reading and essay writing. Participating in several tutor-led research projects, one of which focused on the design of micro-writing teaching activities in high school English, I applied literature research methodologies, classroom observation techniques and interviews. I identified and analysed the challenges students and teachers face, and the research results were included in a 30,000-word academic paper.

Consequently, I am confident that my capacity for research and data analysis will fully support my study of English language teaching and effectively underpin my studies at Slater. Equally, my meticulous attitude and strict logical thinking are reflected in my outstanding academic results and active participation in regular extracurricular activities. As vice president of the student union, I took responsibility for event planning, organising a wide range of student activities and raising team cohesion by showing excellent organisational and communication skills.

To deepen my theoretical understanding of English teaching methodology, I interned as an English teacher and class advisor at a technical school. By completing classroom observations, researching textbooks, preparing course materials and devising teaching syllabi according to the curriculum, I improved my knowledge of English, gained a deeper understanding of the relationship between English teaching and learning, and accumulated practical skills in English teaching. Applying my well-grounded knowledge of modern teaching theories and methods to conduct English teaching in various contexts, I was gratified to see my students progress confidently. I received sound feedback from students and a high appraisal from the instructor, increasing my confidence in working in the English teaching sector.

This valuable experience helped me realise that my current teaching methods need to be more expert if I am to help students move beyond the mechanical repetition of grammar rules and vocabulary. I am confident that by examining the theoretical and practical aspects of the English language and studying modules such as Practice of English Language Teaching and Psychology of Language Learning and Teaching, I will become the competent and inspirational teacher I desire to be.

Aware of Slater's competitive reputation for academic excellence, I have been developing my knowledge of linguistics, phonetics, semantics and pedagogy by reading relevant books and literature sources prior to starting the MA programme. During my postgraduate studies, I will treat every course seriously, endeavour to gain expert knowledge regarding the cognitive and social processes of language learning and lay a thorough grounding in current research, theories, principles and practices in English education. My goal is to learn how to design effective teaching plans and devise appropriate testing methods for English teaching and develop my capabilities in analysing, synthesising and evaluating research sources in TESOL and Applied Linguistics. I also intend to accumulate teaching experience by interning at various educational or training institutions. All of these experiences will combine to provide me with the advanced skills necessary to help students master knowledge as a result of my logical and dynamic teaching style.

I have selected the TESOL and Applied Linguistics MA programme at Slater University to engage in debate with the programme's erudite professors, access the rich alum resources and contribute to the worldwide prestige of a faculty which will be of great help to my intellectual growth and career development. I am confident that my previous experiences, my engaging and communicative nature and my capacity for detailed research and application will be of reciprocal value to the Slater community. An optimistic, positive, and sociable individual with the patience to teach and a strong desire to continually expand my knowledge and understanding, I'm convinced that, whatever the challenges, this course represents the next step on my personal and professional journey. I look forward to adding to the diversity of spirit, culture and opportunity that exemplifies Slater's ethos.

