

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the chance to apply for this programme and for reading this statement. I hope that you will find it equally entertaining and informative about myself as a prospective student and an educator.

In my academic and professional career, I have held many roles: salesman, tutor, coach, consultant, bank teller, entrepreneur, startup CEO, lorry driver, landscaper, mechanic, financial advisor, social media personality, full-time traveller, and Private in the Canadian Army Reserves. At times successful and occasionally bankrupt, now I am finally a TEFL teacher. Despite my varied experiences, I have always seemed to come back to teaching. As a child I hated school and was a terrible pupil, so I never expected to teach. However, as an adult I have come to better understand myself and there's nothing I am better suited for, or that brings me more joy and fulfillment than to teach. To take my knowledge and life experiences and apply them towards that unique goal of helping someone else reach their own goals is rewarding beyond description. That is why I have decided to pursue your program and advance my skills and career opportunities.

I first started teaching as a Peer Tutor at my university, Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where I taught Business Statistics 1 & 2. I had a great deal of difficulty in the course myself and was failing it going into the final exam. I had to teach myself as much as possible in the last few days before the examination and relied on the school's study materials as well as on online resources. Khan Academy was the reason I aced the exam and passed the course. Shortly thereafter I was accepted into the school's Peer Tutor program and began teaching the same material to my colleagues.

After I started teaching the course, I had a fascinating revelation: despite acing the exam it seemed I barely understood the material. During my very first session, my student asked me a simple question that I had never considered and the only answer I had for her was a blank stare. She was not impressed and told me point blank I was a terrible tutor. She was my friend (and secret crush) so it was a pretty horrible moment for me... we finished the lesson early. I resolved to get better: I needed the money after all.

I quickly realized that my initial mistake was thinking that others would learn the material the same way I did. Despite knowing theoretically that everyone's learning style is unique, the true consequences of that fact had escaped me until I was on the other side of the desk. I had a great opportunity to participate in the University's Peer Tutor Training as certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) and earn my International Tutoring Certificate (ITC). This training, along with some experience under my belt, shaped my burgeoning philosophy as an educator: every student is unique.

With this idea in mind I founded my first corporation, Vestra Students, pursuing a simple goal: provide affordable, personalized, tutoring to my university community. Together with a small team, we acted as facilitators and valuable resources in complementation with the teaching occurring in the lecture halls. Over the next 3 years, I personally helped dozens of students to learn Statistics. My company grew and I became a leader, a tutor trainer, and general fire-putter-outer, and together with my team helped close to 100 of our peers learn Statistics, Finance, Accounting, Math, and a few other miscellaneous subjects. Our specialty was 1-1 Tutoring and small group Exam Prep sessions. We were very good at what we did and always endeavoured to remember that every student was unique and must be taught as such.

After graduating from university, I spent the next few years unsure of what to do. I started different businesses, had a few relationships, and travelled. I gained lots of experience and had plenty of adventures from startups to backpacking the mountains and beaches of Southeast Asia. I had a great lifestyle but felt that I was missing a direction or greater purpose in life. Eventually, I decided in 2019 to get back in the classroom and become a TEFL teacher. Other than some consulting/coaching roles I had not been an educator in several years. I decided to obtain my TEFL certificate, on location in Prague, The Czech Republic, to help me get back into the education mentality.

TEFL has its own unique set of challenges and opportunities: how can you explain a concept to someone who can't understand your explanation? I wish I had a clever answer to that question but the truth is that it just depends on the situation. Sometimes all you need is a little bit of TPR or modelling, other times you tell your student "okay so pretend you're at a bar talking to a girl and she says 'I like you, but', do you think the 'but' is good or bad?". That is a real example by the way and it was very effective in explaining the different meanings of the word "but". Challenges being what they are, the true appeal of TEFL, in my opinion, is the absolute infinite breadth of opportunity. I may teach English as a foreign language, but in reality I have taught business, academics, aviation, philosophy, religion, public speaking, negotiation, finance, travel, art, music, film, psychology, the list is endless. I am only limited by my imagination and my students' interests, and there are billions of people all over the world with countless interests and a great many of them want to communicate those interests in English. The very thought of it is thrilling. TEFL has become the answer to my lack of direction, this vocation is reigniting my passion for education.

I now find myself in quite a strange position, I am self-isolating in my home due to the COVID-19 pandemic and I teach everything online. I start my day at 4 am, teaching primary age kids in China, next are my adult learners, most of which are Czech businesspeople, and I finish by teaching my Public Classes, for adults and children. If you have never tried to teach a group of 6-8-year-old Czech kids English over Skype I envy you. Each day is different but on a full day, I see 8-10 individual students and another 20 in group classes all without leaving the room. Ever since my university days of studying Statistics on Khan Academy, I have always been comfortable with EdTech

and have always incorporated it into my teaching so the technological component feels very natural to me. EdTech has proven itself invaluable in tailoring my lessons to my unique students, and now more than ever as the whole world is relying on technology to connect and continue learning and working I am certain that it will continue to be a crucial part of the modern classroom. I have plenty of extra time on my hands so I have resolved this year to continue studying both education and technology by pursuing my Master's Degree in Education as well as my Teaching License from an American Institution. I know that by next year I will have accomplished both goals. I sincerely hope that the Master's Degree will come from your institution. After reviewing your prospectus I believe the degree is a perfect fit, both for the educational philosophy, as well as the technological component.

With these final qualifications added to my Bachelor's of Business Administration and Tutoring and TEFL certificates, I intend to advance my career in TEFL and hope to gain several years of experience in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. In parallel, I intend to begin developing an Online TEFL School drawing on the best practices from my own studies in several countries and my international teaching experience. I hope in the future to earn the opportunity to set up a fully fledged international school based on EdTech and online deliverables. I believe I can make a real contribution to this industry and give anyone in the world the same incredible opportunity I was given at age 9: an English education. I was born in the formerly-communist Romania in 1992 and grew up in Canada. Now I have so many incredible opportunities, and I know better than most the power of an English education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tudor Bucataru