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|  **EXPERIENCE** **Visiting English Professor | Kongju National University** March 2011 – February 2012 **University Freshman Class** Focusing on student participation in speaking, reading, writing and thinking through English. 25 per class of mixed ability. Responsible for lesson planning, assessment and grading. **Institute of International Language Education (IILE)** Smaller, more intense classes focusing on specific areas of English. Areas covered included business, media and modern communication. Students ranged from freshman to final year students. Class size from 2 – 7 students. **Teaching assistant | Educate together, Skerries** November 2010 – February 2011 Worked as a classroom assistant in a local school. Dealt with a range of students of different ages and abilities. Assisted students with reading, writing and mathematics. **Sports coach | O Dwyers GAA club** November 2004 – February 2007 Organized and supervised local children in a sports nursery. Responsible for children’s wellbeing and to ensure their safety in my care. Development of basic skills, team play and an emphasis on fair play. **Site foreman |Keating Carpenters and Joiners, Sydney, Australia** February 2008 – February 2010 Contracted by a builder to supervise and oversee building and renovation developments. Lead and worked as part of a team using my graduate design skills. I was responsible for ensuring workers followed engineers plans and specs and that the work was completed correctly and safely.  |

Reasons for teaching, and why Korea?

I am a 26 year old ESL teacher and I hold a post graduate degree in design. I come from a strong teaching background with my parents and sisters teaching in Ireland. I have been heavily involved in my local school and sports club interacting with children and helping them reach their full potential. In February 2011 I worked in Kongju National University, Cheonan campus dealing mainly with freshman students.

This experience has been invaluable to me as I learned a lot about the Korean education system and the needs of the students. I learned that a student’s early years are the most important in terms of learning a new language. With my experience of teaching third level I have a lot of qualities that I can bring to second level students in preparing them for their later life.

The reason I want to return to live and teach in Korea is simple. I find the Korean people very welcoming and friendly to non-nationals and at the same time they are extremely proud of their customs and culture. This is something that I admire about Korea and is something I believe Ireland and Korea share. I love teaching Korean students because of their passion and determination to learn and succeed. This ethos makes teaching innovative and fun for both teacher and students.

Interacting with a different culture

Outside the classroom I was very active in the community. As a member of Seoul Gaels GAA club we organised an event on Children’s Day for under privileged children from the Sunhansaram Orphanage. These children had little if any interaction with other cultures before. We introduced them to our native sport of Gaelic Football by holding a demonstration and coaching clinic. This experience was invaluable to me and this day was a highlight for me in Korea. Watching the children having fun and learning in a different environment was very fulfilling and has driven me to resume a career in teaching.

Teaching philosophy

I believe that teaching needs to be student centred. Teachers need to identify students’ strengths and weaknesses and differentiate appropriately. It is important to establish what the student already knows and build on that knowledge. I have some simple guidelines that I think are imperative for a successful learning environment. I like my classes to be creative and fun but at the same time deliver the necessary message to the students. I believe that the class time is not for the benefit of the teacher but rather that of the students, therefore I encourage my students to feel relaxed and to express themselves in class and to participate and interact with each other through English. While many teachers feel the need to lecture classes, I believe it is crucial to engage students at a level which encourages interaction and collaboration. In my time at KNU I noticed all my students had a good level of English, the most common problem in the various classes was their lack of confidence to speak and think through English. I feel as an ESL instructor I have the skills to prepare these students for using their language more effectively in University and their post graduate careers.