

MICAH PEXA

31 Helani Pl.
Hilo, HI 96720
+1 (503) 564-5080
pexa@hawaii.edu



OBJECTIVE

I would like to find work as an English teacher, working anywhere from the high school to college or university level. I have previous experience teaching English in Thailand, Japan, Hawaii, and Saudi Arabia, and did my BA in Teaching English at the University of Hawaii. In addition, I received an MA in Second Language Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, got my teaching license from the Education department at UH, and took the CELTA course. I very much enjoy connecting with students in an educational environment, both through teaching and by inspiring and counseling students through the sharing of life experiences. I believe the teacher/life coach role can be a powerful tool to help students from all walks of life receive better opportunities and move in more positive directions.

In addition, I am also interested in international exchange work, giving students around the world the opportunity to study overseas and broaden their horizons. I coordinated homestays and ran activities for international students at LCC, coordinated activities and worked with international students at HELP, and assisted with the incoming and outgoing international exchange students at Yoshida High School in Japan. Having had many chances to travel and study abroad myself, I have a strong passion for helping young people receive similar opportunities.

EDUCATION

CELTA- Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages- (Grade: Pass B)

July 2013- August 2013, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

A 4-week intensive course on teaching English as a second or other language to adults. This included 6 hours of assessed teaching, and 6 hours of observing experienced teachers, in addition to classroom sessions on teaching ESOL and four written research assignments on teaching ESOL.

MA in Second Language Studies (ESL) (3.97 GPA)

Aug. 2009- May 2012, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

I received an MA in Second Language Studies. This degree covered the major theories and practices in second language learning, teaching, and research.

Teaching License- Secondary Education (ESL Focus) (3.97 GPA)

Aug. 2009- May 2012, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

In conjunction with my MA in Second Language Studies, I also studied for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Secondary Education (PBCSE) in the Education department at the University of Hawaii, where I earned a Hawaii state teacher's license focused on ESL.

MA in Asian Studies- SE Asia (GPA 3.75)

Aug. 2003- Aug. 2005, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

Thesis title: Water in Mainland SE Asia: From Sacred to Secular- This thesis covered the sacredness of water in mainland SE Asia from ancient times to present, and argues that it is partially the decline of these sacred views that has contributed to current environmental problems involving water, including issues with the Mekong River. While working towards this MA, I also did some research on human trafficking in the Mekong sub-region

BA in ESL (3.95 GPA)

Aug. 2000- Dec. 2002, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

This degree covered the major theories and practices in second language learning, teaching, and research, and also included courses in SE Asian Studies as well as Thai language.

Outdoor Recreation Leadership

Aug. 1994-May 1995, Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado

Studied Outdoor Recreation Leadership for one year on the NSE (National Student Exchange) Program. No degree earned.

Liberal Arts

Aug. 1992- May 1994, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii

Studied for my general education requirements for 2 years at University of Hawaii at Hilo. No degree earned

High School Diploma

May 1992, Parker School, Kamuela, Hawaii

EXPERIENCE

March 2015- present

KAADA (King Abdullah Air Defense Academy), Taif, Saudi Arabia

English Teacher

Teaching English to Royal Saudi Air Defense officers-in-training at KAADA (King Abdulaziz Air Defense Academy) in Taif, Saudi Arabia. Teaching a 4-skills curriculum designed to give the officers a well-rounded

command of English. Part of a larger "Saudi-ization" program designed to give educational and employment opportunities to young adults in Saudi Arabia, reducing dependence on foreign workers and using these opportunities to steer people away from the recruiting efforts of extremist groups.

September 2014- February 2015

B3H Corporation, Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia

English Teacher

Teaching the Defense Language Institute (DLI) American Language Curriculum (ALC) to Saudi Arabian Air Force cadets who will later be sent on to San Antonio, Texas in the US for mechanic training on F-15 planes. Part of a larger "Saudi-ization" program designed to give educational and employment opportunities to young adults in Saudi Arabia, reducing dependence on foreign workers and using these opportunities to steer people away from the recruiting efforts of extremist groups.

July 2014- August 2014

Kapi`olani Community College, Honolulu, HI

English Teacher

Teaching a conversational English class and an American culture class to short term summer groups from Korea and Macau.

Aug 2013 – Dec 2013/ May 2013- June 2013/June 2012- July 2012/Aug 2009- Dec. 2011

Hawaii English Language Program, Honolulu, Hawaii

English Teacher

I taught ESOL at HELP (Hawaii English Language Program), an academic prep English language school that is run by the Second Language Studies department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I taught a variety of grammar, listening, speaking, reading, and writing classes to adults and young adults.

Aug. 2012- May 2013

Leeward Community College, Pearl City, Hawaii

English Teacher/ Homestay Coordinator/Student Activity Coordinator

I worked as an ESOL teacher at Leeward Community College, teaching academic listening/ speaking and grammar courses to international pre-admission community college students. 15 hours a week classroom time.

In addition to teaching, I also worked in the Office of International Programs at Leeward Community College and was in charge of arranging homestays with local families for incoming international students. My duties included advertising to local families, evaluating potential homestay families and their homes, matching incoming students with families, and coordinating and mediating between students and families in order to ensure both parties were happy and being treated fairly.

Further, I was also in charge of planning, advertising, and leading activities for the international students. Activities included trips to the beach, hikes, movie nights, BBQs, bowling, kayaking, trips to sporting events, karaoke, Halloween in Waikiki, and a day at the water park.

Sept. 2011- May 2012

Farrington High School, Honolulu, Hawaii

Student Teacher/Observation-Participation

As part of my post-baccalaureate teacher licensure program, I spent one semester observing and assisting an ESL teacher at Farrington High School. I spent 60 hours there observing and learning from my mentor teacher, as well as tutoring and assisting students from the Philippines, Micronesia, and China with their ESL classes and assignments.

The following semester, I did one semester of student teaching under a mentor teacher at Farrington High School, teaching ESL to students from the Philippines, Micronesia, and China. This was my final requirement in order to attain my Hawaii state teaching license through the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Aug. 2010/Aug. 2011/Aug. 2012

Kyoto Women's University, Kyoto, Japan

English Teacher/Camp Leader

I taught at a 10-day intensive summer English camp for university students, through Kyoto Women's University in Kyoto and Nagahama, Japan. Teachers lived together with the students in a small hotel for the entire length of the camp, conducted daily English lessons, led English activities and games for the students, had all meals with the students, and went on field trips together with the group.

April 2009-July 2009

Friends of Thai Daughters NGO, Chiang Mai, Thailand

English Teacher/ NGO Volunteer

I taught a conversational English class to at-risk young girls aged 15-23 at an anti-human trafficking NGO in Chiang Mai, Thailand (see volunteer experience details below for more information). This class included conversation, listening, reading, and vocabulary expansion. I also assisted the girls with a project to write their personal life stories in English. 2-10 hours per week classroom time.

My duties there also included conducting a research project to find more information on scholarships for the girls in university as well as general information on getting them into graduate school, interviewing and hiring staff for the NGO, planning and carrying out activities and study tours for the girls, and helping to manage their daily living situations, including homework, discipline, etc.

August 2005- July 2008

Yoshida High School, Shizuoka, Japan

English Teacher

I worked as a high school English teacher in Japan through the JET Program, teaching reading, writing, listening, and speaking to 15-18 year olds. I also assisted with the international student exchange program, helping the Japanese students abroad, as well as international students studying at our high school in Japan, with the variety of issues they faced. 15 hours per week classroom time.

Nov. 2006- Nov. 2007

Bowers English School, Shizuoka, Japan

English Teacher

I worked in a private language school, teaching EFL to adults. 2 hours per week classroom time.

Jan. 2002- May 2002

Hawaii English Language Program, Honolulu, Hawaii

Conversation Partner

I worked as a conversation partner for small groups of ESOL students in Hawaii at HELP (Hawaii English Language Program), an academic prep English language school that is run by the Second Language Studies department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. 2 hours per week classroom time.

April 1998- October 1998

Education through Communication for the Community (ECC) Thailand, Chiang Rai, Thailand

English Teacher

I taught EFL in Chiang Rai, Thailand to adults, teenagers, and children. Up to 22 hours per week classroom time.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

March 2017

TESOL Conference- Seattle, USA

Traveled from Saudi Arabia to Seattle for the annual TESOL conference in order to keep current on the latest research and trends in the language teaching field for the purpose of professional development and becoming a better educator.

September 2014

DLI ALC Familiarization Course B3H Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia

A course designed to train and familiarize teachers with the Defense Language Institute (DLI) American Language Course (ALC) teaching methods, textbooks, and materials. The 2 week course included familiarization with the ALC textbooks and teaching methods, IMI software, smart board training, observing experienced teachers, being observed teaching, cultural training, etc.

CELTA- Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages- (Grade: Pass B)

July 2013- August 2013, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

A 4-week intensive course on teaching English as a second or other language to adults. This included 6 hours of assessed teaching, and 6 hours of observing experienced teachers, in addition to classroom sessions on teaching ESOL and four written research assignments on teaching ESOL.

TEACHER TRAINING EXPERIENCE

November 2007

Co-led a 3-day seminar to orient a group of new English teachers in Japan to the basics of teaching EFL, as well as to life in Japan and teaching in Japanese high schools.

February 2008

Co-led a 1-day seminar on teaching communicative English to a group of Japanese high school English teachers.

April 2008

Led a 1-day professional development seminar in Japan for English teachers on the basic principles of teaching communicative English to high school students

LANGUAGES

Thai Language-

Sept. 2000- May 2001- Studied Thai 101 and 102 at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

June 2001- Aug. 2001- Studied Thai 201 and 202 at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Apr. 2003- May 2003- Studied intermediate level Thai language at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, while doing a home stay with a Thai family.

Aug. 2003- May 2004- Studied Thai 301 and 302 at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Aug. 2004- May 2005- Studied Thai 401 and 402 at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Aug. 2009- Dec. 2011

Graduate Assistantship- Second Language Studies Department

Received tuition waivers, medical insurance, and a monthly salary for 2 years of study in the Second Language Studies MA program, in exchange for teaching ESOL classes half-time at the Hawaii English Language Program (HELP).

REFERENCES

April 2009-July 2009 Friends of Thai Daughters Chiang Mai, Thailand

I volunteered for 4 months at an NGO called Ban Tantawan (Sunflower House) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Ban Tantawan (www.friendsofthaidughters.org) is an NGO that helps at-risk young girls (aged 15-23) avoid being human trafficked into the sex trade, by providing them with a high-level education and a stable living environment. Completely free of charge, the girls are sent to a high level high school in Chiang Mai city, and upon graduation, are sent on to university. Plans are also in the works for continued study in graduate school when the girls finish their undergraduate degrees. All of the 10 girls currently in the program come from very difficult family backgrounds that include drug and alcohol abuse, girls orphaned by AIDS, extreme poverty, etc. My duties there included teaching a conversational English class, assisting the girls in a project to write their individual life stories in English, conducting a research project to find more information on scholarships for the girls in university, as well as general information on getting them into graduate school, interviewing and hiring staff for the NGO, planning and carrying out activities and study tours for the girls, and helping to manage their daily living situations, including homework, discipline, etc.

June 2003- July 2003 DEPDC Mae Sai, Thailand

I volunteered at an NGO called "Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities" (DEPDC) for 2 months in Mae Sai, Thailand. This NGO was established to combat human trafficking for sex and labor in the Mekong Sub-region by targeting at-risk youth and bringing them into a center to live and study. In this way, the NGO hoped to educate the children and move their lives in a more positive direction. My job at DEPDC was mainly to work in the office and handle English correspondence with foreign visitors, researchers, potential volunteers, donators, etc., as well as to conduct tours of the facilities, explain its purpose, teach a few EFL classes, and spend time with the children.

December 1997-January 1998 Orphanage School Andhra Pradesh, India

I volunteered at an orphanage school in southern India for 2 months, assisting teachers with English and math classes, as well as spending time with the children.

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

I have a variety of interests outside of the workplace, including travel, sports, and outdoor activities. I have lived/traveled/worked/studied/volunteered/done home stays, etc. in several countries and regions, including Hawaii, the mainland US, Alaska, England, France, Australia, Canada, India, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Japan, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy, and San Marino. I also enjoy watching and playing sports such as basketball, American football, and soccer, in addition to outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, backpacking, surfing, snow sports, scuba diving, etc.

Aug. 2003- May 2005; Aug. 2009- Dec. 2011 East-West Center Affiliate

Accepted as an affiliate of the East-West center for 4.5 years total, allowing me to live and take part in

their international Asia/Pacific community and variety of programs during my graduate study at University of Hawaii at Manoa.

August 2003-May 2005

Foreign Language and Area Studies Program (FLAS)

Received 2 years of tuition and funding from the US Department of Education in order to study the region of SE Asia as well as a language from the region (Thai).