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Teaching Intensive, Research Informed





‘Stories and Voices from the International Teachers at the University of Bolton’

UCET





Yasodha Kanuwana Arachchige

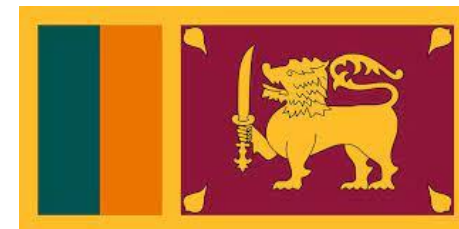


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International PGCE (M)
Trainee Teacher from
Sri Lanka

 [the one.mp4](#)



Questions



1. Can you share your initial **challenges** and **successes** in adapting to the UK education system, especially in the context of language and cultural differences? How did you overcome these challenges, and what did you learn from these experiences?
2. Can you describe a situation where you sought **support from university services** or faculty to overcome a challenge? How did the university community assist you, and what did you learn from this experience in terms of seeking help when needed?
3. Teaching involves not only language proficiency but also cultural understanding. How have you integrated your **cultural background and multilingual skills into your teaching practice**? Can you provide examples of how your unique perspective positively impacted your interactions with students and colleagues?

Questions



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4. In what ways do you believe your **unique linguistic background** adds value to the learning environment in UK schools?

5. Have you needed to work **on improving your English language** skills to ensure clear communication with students, colleagues, and mentors during your PGCE studies? Can you share any strategies that were particularly effective for you?

6. In a multicultural classroom, **understanding various accents and dialects is essential**. Can you share an experience where you successfully navigated communication challenges related to accents and dialects, both in your studies and during teaching practice? What did you learn from this experience?

Challenges faced-UK Education



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Question 1

Can you share your initial challenges and successes in adapting to the UK education system, especially in the context of language and cultural differences? How did you overcome these challenges, and what did you learn from these experiences?

'I faced initial challenges related to understanding diverse accents..grasping regional accents..'

'adapting to cultural differences..'

'adjusting to distinct teaching styles..'

University Support



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Question 2

Can you describe a situation where you sought support from university services or faculty to overcome a challenge? How did the university community assist you, and what did you learn from this experience in terms of seeking help when needed?

'I faced a challenge during my summer employment when my pay was put on hold due to the need for a letter confirming my summer break status. I approached the university's student services for assistance, and they provided me with the necessary letter on the same day. This experience taught me the importance of seeking help promptly..'

Cultural Understanding



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Question 3

Teaching involves not only language proficiency but also cultural understanding. How have you integrated your cultural background and multilingual skills into your teaching practice? Can you provide examples of how your unique perspective positively impacted your interactions with students and colleagues?

'I often incorporated examples and case studies from diverse international business contexts, making the subject matter more relatable. I drew upon my cultural background to illustrate management concepts and emphasized the value of global perspectives in business. Additionally, my multilingual skills facilitated effective communication and provided support for students with language barriers...'

Linguistic Background



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Question 4

In what ways do you believe your unique linguistic background adds value to the learning environment in UK education ?

'Proficiency in multiple languages enables me to support students facing language barriers. Furthermore, my cultural awareness allows me to bridge cultural gaps, fostering tolerance and inclusivity in a multicultural classroom that values every student's perspective. My linguistic skills facilitate effective communication with students and colleagues from diverse linguistic backgrounds, promoting clear interaction. Overall, my unique linguistic background enriches the educational experience, creating an inclusive, culturally diverse, and globally-aware classroom'

English Language Skills



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Question 5

Have you needed to work on improving your English language skills to ensure clear communication with students, colleagues, and mentors during your PGCE studies? Can you share any strategies that were particularly effective for you?

'Engaging in regular conversations with native English speakers, both in and outside of academic settings, bolstered my conversational skills and bolstered my confidence.....'

'Extensive reading of English-language materials, including books, newspapers, and academic journals, not only enriched my vocabulary but also exposed me to diverse writing styles and expressions...'

'utilized online language learning resources, actively listened to English speakers through various media..'

'regularly sought feedback from mentors and colleagues to pinpoint areas for enhancement'

Accents and Dialect



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Question 6

In a multicultural classroom, understanding various accents and dialects is essential. Can you share an experience where you successfully navigated communication challenges related to accents and dialects, both in your studies and during teaching practice? What did you learn from this experience?

'As the only international student in my PGCE program, I faced a communication challenge in a multicultural classroom where understanding various accents and dialects was essential. To address this, I actively listened, politely sought clarification when necessary, built strong relationships with my peers, and engaged in cultural exchange.'

'As a teaching assistant at a high school and while doing my teaching placementI encountered communication challenges related to accents and dialects in a multicultural classroom. Some students had strong regional accents, making it occasionally difficult to understand instructions and explanation.. To address this, I employed strategies such as clear and slow speech, visual aids, encouraging questions, promoting peer support, and fostering cultural awareness..'

Themes



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1. **Diverse accents**
2. **Cultural background**
3. **Language & Communication**
4. **Financial Matters**

Triumphs



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'I successfully overcame these challenges by actively engaging with individuals from diverse backgrounds and embracing the rich cultural diversity in the UK..'

'I learned a great deal from my placement and working experiences, which added depth to my understanding of the UK education system...'

'I learned the importance of resilience, cultural competence, and continuous learning as essential attributes for personal and professional growth in the field of education...'

'Overall, my unique linguistic background enriches the educational experience, creating an inclusive, culturally diverse, and globally-aware classroom...'

