

My experience in Brazil, so far, has been a very exciting one. The people are warm, welcoming and hospitable. Another interesting thing about it is that it is a different world, different culture, different weather, different language and different food. There is therefore a lot to learn and adjust to. It could involve some mental reconfigurations but it is not necessarily challenging because there is a lot of support around. Everybody around is willing to help which therefore cushions much of the challenges one could have faced. If you love learning languages, then it is an opportunity to learn Portuguese. For me, I am making good use of this advantage at no cost. Also, the campus where I am based has a language centre which gives me access to several other languages like Chinese, Japanese, German, French and Spanish, some of which I have learnt already and am in secret love with. It is therefore an opportunity for me to develop and improve on my knowledge of these languages.

Teaching English in Brazil has made me to value the English language more than I ever did. It is a valued currency in this land. It is an elitist preserve and a gateway to the rest of the world. It gives me a sense of fulfilment that what I am offering is so valued. The students I have had contact with so far have expressed a great deal of enthusiasm to learn the language and are internally motivated to learn. I therefore feel very honoured and privileged to be a teacher of English in this land. The Assis Campus of UNESP is experiencing this programme for the first time and it is therefore a remarkable achievement for it. David Graddol's title 'English Next Brazil' (2014) now makes more meaning to me than ever before. I see a revolution in English language learning and spread in Brazil.

I have also received IELTS Train the Trainer training here by British Council which is going to be useful to me now and in my future career. Since I arrived, I have been deeply involved in planning and training. I will commence full academic activities in October, but my experience so far has been very enriching, exciting as well as rewarding. It has offered me a new perspective to English language teaching. A perspective different from the one I am familiar with in which English is either a first or second language and has some enduring root in the nation. Here it is a foreign language that does not have official status for academic or administrative purposes. It is only a subject and not a lingua franca or the official language of the country. The approach is therefore very unique and provides insights into what one may have taken for granted in other learning and teaching contexts. It has really helped in widening my horizon about English language teaching and English as an international language. I am very optimistic that I will gain very inestimably at the end of the programme, and do hope to make a positive impact too.

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