

Foreign Language Assistant – Spanish

by Carmen Vilchez, 2017

Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.

Confucius

¡Hola! My name is Carmen and I am about to tell you why it came to my mind to travel from Spain to the other part of the planet and what I achieved here, in New Zealand.

Back home, I finished my degree on Primary teaching a year ago. However, I did not feel either prepared or keen on taking the required examinations to start teaching in a Primary school. Instead, I decided to take a gap year (it is never too late!) and work as a Language Assistant. By working as an assistant I could learn from more experienced teachers, improve my English skills and discover new places. And where about? New Zealand, of course. Spain's antipode is well-known for its friendly people, breathtaking sceneries and good education system. There was nothing else I could ask for.



During my year in the beautiful Aotearoa, I was lucky enough to become part of the teaching community of two colleges in Auckland. In total, I worked hand in hand with six Spanish teachers and more than a hundred students. They had really different teaching styles, but I could always help in one way or another. My responsibilities included small group conversations, preparing games, creating listening and reading resources... Tasks changed very often, so that I could explore how to work with diverse learning styles and improve my own teaching method.

From all the work done, bringing the Spanish culture to the classroom is what I loved the most. It was really exciting for me to talk about festivities and traditions that take place in Spain or in some South American countries. To discuss about them with the students made me appreciate the cultural similarities and differences between the two countries. Moreover, as there is no huge age gap between me and the students, they felt confident to try to speak the foreign language or ask questions.

After being a Spanish Language Assistant this year, I see my future much clearer. The Spanish language is gaining popularity all over the world and this job has shown me how much I enjoy sharing my language and my culture. Shortly I will complete a Masters in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign language and wherever I end up, I am confident that all the experience I have gained over this year will help me in my future working and personal life.