

ELTE TALENT SUPPORT TRAVEL GRANT TRIP REPORT

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As a Doctoral student, it is of paramount importance that I write, present and even publish research papers.

This is for my personal development as a student, but also it professionally capacitates me, because, during conferences, I have an opportunity to meet and network, scholars and academics who share the same ideas as myself, and we ultimately learn from each other.

On the 15-17th January 2020, I was honoured to present a conference paper titled: Teacher and Pedagogy Literacy: Teaching for Social Justice and Agency, in Osaka Japan.

From this conference, I gained a lot of experience in terms of improving on my writing skills. One of the mistakes I had made, was not to include the methodology, but through other conference attendees' inputs, I was able to learn that in my next article, it is important to also include a methodology.



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Public speaking has been one of my most fears, but I am happy that through attending conferences, I have been able to overcome this fear. When I attended the IConEGS2020, I was not aware that I will meet people that have the same fear as me, but speaking to people and receiving professional support, made my presentation smooth and easy.

I would like to mention that attending conferences and presenting conference papers is one way of learning the etiquettes of speaking. This is not taught to us during class at the university, but it is almost a hands-on experience, type of experience.

As a PhD student, it is of critical importance that I acquire these skills, because at the level of my education, it is important that I am able to stand in front of people that I am familiar and not familiar with, and put forward my academic arguments, and be able to respond to critiques without fear.

Speaking about my own experiences as a former teacher, gave me a lot of pleasure, because I met other teachers, and student teachers as well, from across the globe, who shared their own unique experiences about similar topics, like mine. For example, I met Molly, from a university in the USA. She is a professor but working with schoolteachers. Her topic was on critical thinking and social justice. Her paper spoke a lot about how student teachers can creatively use text,

particularly in English Literature, to teach critical thinking. This resonated with my own paper, because it was discussing similar issues.



Another important lesson learnt from this conference, was how to look at topics in a multi-disciplinary approach. For example, education papers were simultaneously presented with papers from other disciplines. This gave me an idea that, the discipline of education is multifaceted one.



There is always a new lesson or experience learnt when you engage with academics, scholars and researchers. The experiences that I received in this conference have allowed me to have a new perspective regarding my own Doctoral proposed dissertation. Often, we tend to box and confine our studies to particular and certain schools of thoughts and do not open ourselves to other ways of thinking.

I have obtained a lot of ideas that I hope to implement, both for the PhD programme and other conference papers. For example, I met colleagues from Myanmar, who presented a paper on local tourism. This intrigued me, because, it immediately made me think of how I can study immigration (a part of my PhD topic) from a heritage and tourism perspective, maybe for future conferences.

Moreover, besides, multi-disciplinary approach, I also acquired networks from other universities, who are interested in future research partnership in the area of teacher education. Teacher education is one area of interest that is very close to my heart, because I believe that if teachers are well developed, both academically and professionally, then the future for our children in schools, is bright. It is also important to learn how in other countries the same matter is addressed, this gives a researcher ample data to work with, in order to arrive at recommendations that are justified and practical.

From the Thailand participants, I learnt very important information from teacher education professors. They presented to us that, teaching English as a foreign language in primary schools is a challenge, but one teacher educators uses the same principles and approach that is used to teach students, then the teaching of English as a foreign language might become a little bit easier in schools.

From Indonesia, we were presented with an innovative technological approach to education. Three university professors have created an Application that will assist both parents and guardians to help children with homework and other school related activities. These professors saw a niche, in society, that the Indonesian society, is active social media users, and if that is the case, then, with the

minimum interests, displayed by parents particularly fathers to be involved in their children's homework, the App. can be a solution.

In conclusion, I can confidently say that, through this conference, I was exposed to many interesting things, such as different cultures, from all over the world, including the Japanese culture.

Most importantly, I was able to professionally represent my university, ELTE and gain a lot of scientific academic experience.