Kassandra Robertson

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sabancı University — Istanbul, Türkiye
School of Languages (SL) Facilitator, Social & Political Science (SPS) Program — Sept 2017 – Present

- Facilitate weekly discussion sessions to 50+ first-year students each semester for a series of core curriculum humanities courses, integrating innovative approaches and technologies to maximize engagement and learning outcomes
- Develop active learning experiences and assessments in collaboration with a large team of faculty and early-career researchers, writing original content-integrated skills-based materials and exams on a range of social science topics
- Advise and provide ongoing support to students through regular feedback and tutorials to develop advanced academic reading skills and the capacity to critically evaluate and formulate arguments in research writing
- Deliver annual orientation trainings to cohorts of 20+ graduate teaching assistants (TAs) on learning design and pedagogical best practices (last 5 years), and provide ongoing peer mentorship to enhance instructional quality
- Co-lead a university-wide pedagogical training course for 300+ graduate TAs across disciplines each year, and partner with cross-institutional initiatives to support the development of teaching competencies among future faculty

Affina Training & Consulting Ltd. (formerly Dragoman Akademi) — Istanbul, Türkiye
Director of Studies & ***Executive English Coach*** — July 2015 – Aug 2016

- Coordinated end-to-end delivery of custom training programs for a portfolio of 50+ corporate clients of diverse sectors through needs analysis, scheduling, progress reporting, and quality assurance evaluation
- Expanded executive client base by cultivating productive, trust-based relationships through 1:1 coaching toward specific communication and career advancement targets, particularly in the banking sector
- Conducted engaging on-site language and communication training and tailored skills-based workshops aligned with client KPIs, consistently attaining outstanding feedback and complete client satisfaction
- Leveraged pedagogical expertise during client consultations and internal sales meetings, effectively highlighting training program value and supporting alignment with client needs and aims
- Facilitated recruitment, onboarding, and continuous professional development of 15+ freelance trainers, assisting with materials selection aligned with learner profiles and leading in-service workshops

Mediterranean School of Business (MSB) — Tunis, Tunisia
Instructor, English & Communication Program — Aug 2014 – July 2015

- Designed and delivered core courses for its competitive License Degree in Business Management focused on writing and presentation skills, cultivating essential communication competencies for global business leadership
- Facilitated Business English and Communication trainings as part of the open programs for professionals both in-house and on-site, tailoring instruction for diverse learning needs, particularly within the pharmaceutical sector
- Collaborated with faculty to ensure a quality educational experience, assisting with a selective admissions process for undergraduate and MBA programs and evaluating experiential learning requirements, including internships
- Spearheaded the returning edition of TEDxMSB, coordinating stakeholders over a six-month period to curate the program, secure sponsorships, and manage production, resulting in a sold-out trilingual event with 100+ guests
- Advised students in formulating academic plans aligned with program requirements and career aspirations while mentoring student organizations to promote academic success, foster professional growth, and enhance impact

Additional Experience

Sabancı University, Executive Development Unit (EDU) — Istanbul, Türkiye
Trainer, NanoBio4Can, Nanotechnology Research & Application Centre (SUNUM) — Nov 2025 – Present

- Deliver a 3-hour Business English Writing training annually for an international cohort of 12 postdoctoral cancer researchers, focusing on principles for industry-facing communication, technology transfer, and professional writing conventions
- Design and develop original, field-specific learning materials and interactive exercises on writing clear and concise emails and reports, structuring proposals and summaries, and communicating effectively with senior stakeholders

University of Wisconsin–Madison — USA (Remote)
Alumni Mentor, SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science — Feb 2024 – Present

- Participate as a guest speaker for a course focused on taking career initiative, drawing on nearly 15 years international experience in higher education and language education to illustrate diverse professional trajectories and opportunities abroad
- Featured alumni contributor to promotional materials highlighting the skills and career pathways associated with a degree in African Cultural Studies to support informed major selection and academic planning

Study in UK (SI–UK) — Istanbul, Türkiye
Occupational English Test (OET) ***Interlocutor*** — July 2018 – May 2024

- Collaborated effectively to administer the speaking component of the leading language proficiency exam for medical professionals, simulating authentic healthcare scenarios for 10 candidates each month

University of Wisconsin–Madison — USA
Teaching Assistant, Dept of English — Aug 2014 – July 2015

- Taught academic reading and writing courses to 15+ first-year international students each semester, emphasizing critical analysis and vocabulary skills, and supported progress with ongoing feedback and reporting

Presentations & Awards

Eaquals International Conference

- *Beyond the Margins: Developing Pedagogical Competencies Across the Curriculum* — Germany, March 2026
- *Charting the Jagged Frontier of AI-Empowered Research Writing* — Malta, March 2025
  Recipient of the Eaquals Scholarship Award, honoring exceptional expertise and passion in language teaching
- *Less But Better: Streamlining Technology-Enhanced Learning* — Portugal, April 2024

Education

University of Wisconsin–Madison — USA
M.A. Applied English Linguistics — August 2013

B.S. Human Development & Family Studies — May 2011
Additional Major: ***African Cultural Studies*** (formerly African Languages & Literature)

Certificates

Google Project Management Professional Certificate (240 hours) — Feb 2025

University of Wisconsin–Madison — USA
Certificate: ***Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)*** — August 2013

Wisconsin ESL Institute — USA
TEFL Certificate (130 hours) — June 2012

Skills

Languages: Standard American **English** (Native) | **Turkish** (B1+) | **French** (B1) | Spanish (A2)