

Laura M. Blumenthal, MA/TEFL  
TESL Coordinator  
TESL & EASL Instructor  
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**Personal Message to the Learning Community:**

*After spending many years pursuing degrees I did not really want and working in careers I was not interested in, in 1987 I came to a time in my life when I needed to assess my priorities. I decided that I wanted three things in my career life: 1) to work with many different cultures, 2) to work with lots of people, and 3) to use my linguistic abilities. When I told someone about this realization, he suggested the field of ESL to me. Although I had never heard of it before, I decided to look into it. After my first interview with Patricia Porter at San Francisco State University's MA/TEFL program, I felt like I had come home. This was where I wanted to be and what I wanted to do, and I have never looked back.*

*I found almost every minute of my Master's Degree program exhilarating and eye-opening, and afterwards I went to live in Turkey, and teach at a Turkish university. Those of us who travel as tourists will never know the things I learned intimately through living in and earning a living in another country. I feel forever bound to that country and its culture and language, as I do to Germany, where I had lived previously. These experiences have shaped my life and my personality.*

*I feel so privileged to be able to continue pursuing my career and being exposed to different peoples and different cultures in my work at Douglas College. I hope never to stop learning from the people I teach, and never to stop enabling them to succeed with their life goals in a supportive atmosphere conducive to important cross-cultural dialogue and the exchange of information.*

Laura Blumenthal  
Vancouver, January, 2010

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### Curriculum Vitae

Professional Certification: **TESL Canada Level IV** Professional Certificate, 03/2005.  
Professional Activity: Co-Chair, BC TEAL 2013-4; 2nd Vice President, BC TEAL, since 2012

#### Coordinating Experience

Dates	Department, Institution, Location	Title(s)
Fall 2013 -	TESL Certificate Program, <b>Douglas College</b> , New Westminster, BC	TESL Coordinator
Summer & Fall 2010	Academic Health Care Foundations Program	AHCF Coordinator
06/2006 – 04/2008	TEFL Program, <b>Archer College</b> (formerly <b>Winfield College</b> ), Vancouver, BC	Program Director

#### Teacher Training Experience

Dates	Department, Institution, Location	Title(s)
05/2010 –	TESL Program, <b>Douglas College</b> , New Westminster, BC	Instructor
06/2004 – 04/2008	TEFL Program, <b>Archer College</b> (formerly <b>Winfield College</b> ), Vancouver, BC	Instructor and Practicum Coordinator
11/2000 – 11/2003	TESL Program, <b>English Bay College</b> , Vancouver, BC	Instructor, Online Course Developer and Instructor
08/1999 & 08/2000	Centre for Teaching and Learning Excellence, <b>University of Utah</b> , Salt Lake City, UT	Senior Facilitator, ITA (International Teaching Assistant) Training Program

Significant ESL/EFL Teaching Experience

Dates	Department, Institution, Location	Title(s)
05/2008 –	EASL Department, <b>Douglas College</b> , New Westminster, BC	Instructor
03/2008 – 07/2009	ELSA Department, <b>Vancouver Community College</b> , Vancouver, BC	Instructor, Contract (and on-call Sub)
07/2004	English Language Institute, <b>University of British Columbia</b> , Vancouver, BC	Instructor, Contract
01/2000 – 07/2000	Department of Linguistics, <b>University of Utah</b> , Salt Lake City, UT	Instructor, ESL <sup>1</sup>
06/1996 – 07/2000	Developmental Education Division, <b>Salt Lake Community College</b> , Salt Lake City, UT	Instructor, ESL and Developmental Writing
05/1995 – 05/1996	English Department, <b>Raritan Valley Community College</b> , North Branch, NJ	Instructor, ESL
10/1990 – 09/1993	English Department, School of Communication Sciences, <b>Anadolu University</b> , Eskisehir, Turkey	Instructor, English
01/1990 – 07/1990	English Department, <b>Skyline College</b> , San Bruno, CA	Instructor, ESL
01/1989 – 07/1990	English Department, <b>City College of San Francisco</b> , San Francisco, CA	Instructor, ESL
06/1988 – 08/1989	American Language Institute, <b>San Francisco State University</b> , San Francisco, CA	Instructor, ESL

Other Relevant Work Experience:

08/1995 – 05/1996	TOEFL Test Development, <b>Educational Testing Service (ETS)</b> , Princeton, NJ	Test Developer
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<sup>1</sup> Note: Although they were not called this, all of the ESL courses in this section were EAP (English for Academic Purposes).

Education:

1987-1989	English Department, <b>San Francisco State University, CA</b>	MA/TEFL
1982-1985	Graduate Courses in Linguistics, Department of Historical and Comparative Indo-European Linguistics, <b>Freie Universität Berlin (West), Germany</b>	no degree objective
1974-1977	<b>University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA</b>	BA/Biology

Publications & Conference Presentations:

Blumenthal, L. How would you teach this? The use of conditionals for hypothetical situations without an "if" clause. *BC TEAL Newsletter*, Fall 2012. [also presented at BC TEAL, April 2013]

Densky et al. What I wish I had learned in my TESOL program: a critical issues dialogue between teacher educators and new teachers. *Share*, Issue 3 2013. [also presented at TESL Canada, October 2012]

Densky et al. Teacher training across borders. Tri-TESOL. October 2011.

MacPherson et al. Life after ESL: Learning from ELLs' critical incidents. Tri-TESOL. October 2011.

MacPherson et al. Beyond the Benchmarks: Learning from critical incidents encountered by advanced ELLs. BC TEAL, May 2011.

In-House Publications at English Bay College:

- 1) Complete Online TEFL Course: *Teaching English as a Second Language*, 2003.
- 2) 4-level in-house ESL Textbook Series: *The "English in Vancouver" Series*, 2003.

Other Interests:

Music and Dance of the Balkans, Greece, & Turkey	Singer, Musician, and Dancer
Languages & Linguistics	Fluent in six languages, Life-long language learner