

## **COMENIUS Assistantships (ASSISTANTS) 2011-2012**

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION (AIMS)

I have a passion for travel and learning from and about other cultures, which is why I am so keen to take part in an assistantship abroad. I enjoy challenging myself, meeting new people and, having already gained experience in the field, working in education. I feel I have a lot to offer as a candidate and would value my time and experience if given the opportunity. I really believe in the aims of the EU Lifelong Learning programme, especially the promotion of learning foreign languages, and would be proud to be a part of it.

Having already spent time abroad from a young age and having faced the various challenges posed with enthusiasm and good-humour, I know I am able to adapt well and thrive in new environments. I enjoy working with young people, and my previous experience volunteering and teaching had allowed me to learn the most effective methods of working with them.

Having always had a deep interest in Portugal, its history and politics, I would find out as much as possible about the area in which I would be working in preparation for the assistantship. As my university degree involves modules specialising in the history, politics, literature and language of Portugal, I feel as though I am constantly learning more about the nation and its people which also acts as preparation for spending time in the country. Before leaving for the assistantship I would practice regularly with my Portuguese-speaking friends to ensure my language level was the best it could be, and in terms of pedagogic preparation, I would go over all of my notes and lesson plans from teacher training and my previous teaching experience and pick out principle methods and ideas that would be suitable for my role as an assistant. I am keen to involve myself in lesson planning and projects as far as allowed during the assistantship, as well as setting up or taking part in out-of-classroom activities such as an after-school drama workshop, an English reading group or an art club.

If given the opportunity to take part in the assistantship programme, I would gain extensive knowledge of EU school organisation, in particular the curriculums and teaching methods of Portuguese schools, which would allow me to further my understanding and involvement in future European cooperation between schools. I think it is important that member states are aware of other education systems and are able to modernise and adapt according to what they learn from one another, and I believe the Comenius assistantship would allow me an insight into this.

Drama and performing arts are hobbies that I have carried through from secondary school to university along with an interest in art and crafts, and I believe that these can be used as effective and fun learning methods for young people. I think that allowing children to get up and be active in class as well as giving them the opportunity to be creative in their learning has benefits for both the teacher and the students, and can be stimulating and make them more keen to take an active part in their own education. I am also computer literate and think it is important to explore ways in which ICT can be used as a tool in educating young people.