ACADEMIC ENGLISH FOR GRADUATE & DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Helping international scholars *prove* their English.



Many of the speakers I rate are graduate and doctoral candidates proving their English for a US programme. I support universities and their international students with assessment, test preparation, presentation coaching and academic writing feedback.

FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICES AND GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Pre-assessment before high-stakes speaking tests, preparation that builds real speaking rather than memorised answers, and support for international teaching assistants who need to be clearly understood in class.

2012
rating spoken English for ACTFL, remotely

OPIc
certified rater on the ACTFL proficiency scale

M.A.
TESOL, Teachers College, Columbia University

EN · FR · IT
native English, working French and Italian

WORKING TOGETHER

Remote and asynchronous
Recorded samples rated from Paris (CET), with batches arranged around your deadlines.

Per student or per cohort
Individual sessions, workshops or term-long programmes.

Confidential
Test-taker recordings, scores and client details stay private.

Online worldwide
Sessions online, scheduled across time zones.

WHAT I DO

Support from admission to defence.

Spoken proficiency pre-assessment	An honest reading of a candidate's level against the ACTFL scale before they sit a required test.
Speaking test preparation	Mock interviews and feedback that build flexible, natural speaking, which is what raters reward.
Teaching and presentation coaching	For international teaching assistants and researchers: pacing, pronunciation, intelligibility and delivery.
Academic writing feedback	Feedback on theses, articles and applications. I've taught academic writing at Teachers College, Columbia, and run thesis workshops.

WHY A PERSON

A test score opens the door. Being understood keeps it open.

Whether the meaning lands.
In a seminar, a lab or a lecture hall, not just on a test.

A script versus a speaker.
Memorised answers are rated lower. I help candidates prepare in a way that holds up.

The difference between an accent and a problem.
Accents are fine. I focus on what actually gets in the way of being understood.

Feedback that helps.
Every session ends with what to work on next.

EXPERIENCE

Fourteen years at the rating desk, twenty-five in the classroom.

2012 – present
Language Consultant, English as an Additional Language
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), remote

2005 – 2010
Middle School EAL Instructor
Washington Township Schools, Indianapolis

2002 – 2005
Family Literacy EAL & GED Instructor
PS 396, Even Start National Grant, Bronx, NY

2000 – 2002
Adult EAL Teacher
Riverside Language Program, New York

2000 – 2002
EAL Writing Tutor
Teachers College, Columbia University

EDUCATION

M.A., TESOL
Teachers College, Columbia University, 2002

BFA, Film & Theatre
NYU Tisch School of the Arts, 1996

French Literature
University of Pennsylvania, 1988–89

LICENCES

New York Board of Education EAL Teaching Licence

California Adult Education Teaching Licence

LANGUAGES

English
native

Français

Italiano

CONTACT

Supporting international students this year?

Tell me about your programme and the students you're working with.

EMAIL
purpleflowers112@gmail.com

BASED IN
Paris · remote worldwide