

ECIE5007

Skills for employment for the 21st century

E-Portfolio

Student Number: 2118579

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Element 1

Write a Zander letter to yourself (600 words)

Dear Future, Me,

Congratulations on this incredible milestone: graduating with your Foundation Degree in Inclusive Education from the University of Trinity St. Davids! I am writing to celebrate your hard work. What an accomplishment, especially considering the dedication and perseverance you showed while balancing a full-time job and caring for your father with dementia. This milestone is a testament to your academic abilities and reflects your commitment to making a more inclusive and equitable educational environment for all learners.

As you read this letter, take a moment to reflect on your journey. You have faced challenges with strength and grace, demonstrating a genuine commitment to your education and family. The effort you put in every day has not gone

unnoticed and has shaped you into an even more compassionate and knowledgeable individual.

As you look back on your journey, take a moment to acknowledge the countless hours you spent studying, engaging in meaningful discussions, and collaborating with your peers. You faced challenges but approached each obstacle with resilience and determination. Your ability to navigate complex concepts and apply them in practical settings demonstrates your intelligence and passion for making a difference in the lives of others.

Completing your degree is a significant accomplishment, opening a world of opportunities for you. You now possess the knowledge and skills to advocate for diverse learners and implement inclusive practices in various educational settings. Remember, this is just the beginning of your journey as an inclusive educator, and your impact on your future students will be profoundly impacted.

As you move forward, embrace the excitement that comes with new possibilities. There will be

challenges ahead, but you are more than capable of facing them head-on. Continue to cultivate your personal brand as an advocate for inclusion, and don't hesitate to seek out opportunities that allow you to grow and develop further.

Your passion for working with children who have additional learning needs shines brightly. Think about the beautiful experiences you will create in the classroom as part of your school's Additional Learning Needs team. You are not just a teaching assistant but a beacon of hope for those children, helping them thrive and succeed in ways they never thought possible. Your work will significantly impact their lives, paving the way for their futures. (Escalante, 2018)

As you plan, envision the skills you acquired through your studies and how to apply them to your role. Allow your vision to encompass what you have accomplished and the dreams you have yet to fulfil. Continue to nurture that positivity and enthusiasm for helping others; it is an invaluable quality that will inspire your students and colleagues.

Remember to celebrate your achievements regularly, both big and small. Surround yourself with supportive people who believe in the positive change you bring to the learning environment. (www.youtube.com, 1998)

Be proud of what you have accomplished and celebrate this moment. You have worked hard and deserve recognition for your efforts. Remember that your journey in education is lifelong, and the skills you have gained will serve you well in your future endeavours.

A year from now, I hope you thrive in your role, filled with joy from your work and making a significant difference in your students' lives. Stay focused, stay passionate, and always remember why you embarked on this journey in the first place.

Congratulations once again on this remarkable achievement! The world of inclusive education is lucky to have you.

With pride and anticipation for all that is to come, I wish you well on your exciting journey. (Culture of Belief, 2018)

Yours Sincerely.

My Future Self

Reference list

Culture of Belief. (2018). Giving Yourself an A.

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<https://entregurus.com/give-yourself-an-a/> [Accessed 25 Oct. 2024].

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Element 2

Write a personal statement for applying for a postgraduate degree (700 words)

Personal Statement for Postgraduate Degree in Inclusive Education

As a passionate advocate for educational equity, I am eager to further my understanding and expertise in Inclusive Education through this postgraduate program. My journey in the field of education has been shaped by my experiences working with diverse student populations, and I am committed to ensuring that every learner has access to a high-quality education that meets their individual needs. Throughout my undergraduate studies in Inclusive Education, I became increasingly aware of the disparities within the educational system. My work at a local primary school in Swansea, where I assist children with special educational needs, opened my eyes to their challenges. I witnessed firsthand how tailored support can transform a student's learning experience and instil a sense of

belonging. This realisation ignited my desire to specialise in Inclusive Education, where I believe I can make a meaningful impact. In my professional experience as a teaching assistant, I have had the privilege of working alongside educators who prioritise inclusivity in their classrooms.

Collaborating with teachers to adapt lesson plans and create accessible learning environments has deepened my understanding of the importance of differentiated instruction. I have also engaged in professional development workshops focused on inclusive strategies, which have equipped me with practical tools to support diverse learners effectively. A solid academic foundation will enable me to advocate for systemic changes that promote inclusivity at all levels of education.

Furthermore, I am drawn to the opportunity to conduct research within this program. I am particularly interested in examining how policy reforms can facilitate inclusive practices in mainstream classrooms.

My passion for inclusive education stems from personal experiences and my belief that everyone deserves access to quality education in an environment that fosters growth and development, regardless of their background or abilities. My educational background in a Foundation degree in Inclusive Education has provided me with a solid foundation in educational theory and practice. During my undergraduate studies at the University of Trinity St. Davids, I worked closely with diverse students, including those with special educational needs. This experience was transformative and confirmed my desire to pursue a career in inclusive education. I have worked at Brynmill Primary School for 24 years, assisting in developing tailored learning plans for students with varying abilities. This hands-on experience taught me the importance of flexibility and creativity in teaching and the need for collaboration among educators, families, and the community. In addition to my academic background, I have actively sought opportunities to enhance my understanding of inclusive education through

professional development. I attended workshops and conferences on inclusive teaching strategies, disability awareness, and cultural competence.

These experiences have equipped me with practical tools and frameworks to support diverse learners effectively. In my future career, I envision myself advocating for inclusive education policy locally or nationally.

I aim to contribute to initiatives that promote inclusive practices within schools and support educators in implementing these strategies. I believe that by fostering collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders, we can create an educational environment that is responsive to the needs of all learners. I am also interested in researching the effectiveness of various inclusive practices and their impact on student outcomes, ultimately contributing to the body of knowledge in this critical field. Moreover, I recognise the importance of community engagement in promoting inclusive education. I have been involved in community outreach programs that aim to raise awareness about the value of

diversity and inclusion in education. These initiatives have reinforced my belief that education extends beyond the classroom and that collaboration with families and communities is essential for fostering an inclusive culture. I hope to continue this work as part of my postgraduate experience, exploring ways to engage communities in the educational process and advocating for policies that support inclusive practices. In conclusion, I am eager to embark on this next chapter of my academic journey in Inclusive Education. I am confident that this program will provide me with the skills, knowledge, and network necessary to become an effective advocate for inclusive practices in education. I am committed to making a positive difference in the lives of all learners, and I believe that this next step in my academic journey will bring me closer to realising that goal. Thank you for considering my application.

Element 3

Write a cover letter for applying for a job based on your plans for the future (700 words)

Miss Lyndsey Copp,
51 Rodney Street,
Swansea,
SA13UA.

Mrs Kate Jenkins,
Inclusion officer,
Brynmill School,
Trafalgar Place,
Swansea,
SA20BU.

Dear Mrs K. Jenkins

I am writing to express my genuine interest in the position within the Additional Learning Team at Brynmill Primary School, as advertised. With a solid foundation in education and a heartfelt

commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for all learners, I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to your team and support the diverse needs of students within your primary school. Throughout my academic and professional journey, I have cultivated a profound understanding of the complexities of additional learning needs. My experiences as a teaching assistant in various educational settings have equipped me with the skills to effectively identify and address individual student requirements. I believe every child possesses unique strengths and challenges, and I am responsible as an educator to create an environment that nurtures their potential. My passion for inclusive education was ignited during my undergraduate studies in Inclusive Education, where I focused on the principles of differentiated instruction and inclusive pedagogies. I was fortunate to participate in various placements, working alongside experienced educators who shared their insights on supporting diverse learners. These experiences solidified my desire to work in this field and provided me with practical skills that

I have since applied in my professional roles. In my previous position as a teaching assistant, I had the privilege of working with students who presented a wide range of additional learning needs, including those with learning disabilities, behavioural challenges, and English as an additional language. I developed tailored interventions that addressed specific learning objectives and encouraged social and emotional development. For instance, I implemented small group activities that promoted peer collaboration, enabling students to learn from one another while building essential social skills. Witnessing the positive impact of these strategies on student engagement and confidence was incredibly rewarding. Collaboration is critical to successfully supporting students with additional learning needs. I have actively engaged with classroom teachers, special education coordinators, and external professionals to create comprehensive student support plans. Through regular communication and teamwork, we could design and implement effective interventions catering to individual strengths and challenges. I am excited

about the prospect of joining the Additional Learning Team at Brynmill School, where I can continue to work collaboratively with a dedicated group of professionals who share my commitment to fostering an inclusive learning environment. One of my primary goals is to advocate for every child's right to access quality education tailored to their unique needs. I am particularly impressed by your school's commitment to inclusivity and the innovative strategies employed by your Additional Learning Needs Team. Your school's focus on creating personalised learning experiences resonates with my philosophy of education, and I am eager to contribute my skills and knowledge to enhance these initiatives further. In addition to my experience in the classroom, I am dedicated to continuous professional development. I have attended workshops and training sessions focused on various aspects of special education, including behaviour management techniques, sensory integration strategies, and effective communication with families. I understand that the education landscape is ever evolving, and I am committed to staying informed about the latest

research and best practices in inclusive education. I believe ongoing learning is essential to providing the best support possible to students and their families. Looking ahead, I envision a future where all students, regardless of their challenges, have access to high-quality education and the support they need to flourish. I am particularly interested in exploring how technology can enhance learning opportunities for students with additional needs. Integrating assistive technologies into the classroom can empower students and provide them with tools to succeed.

I am eager to collaborate with your team to explore innovative solutions that benefit our learners. In conclusion, I am excited about the prospect of joining the Additional Learning Team at your school. I am confident that my passion for inclusive education, my practical experience, and my dedication to collaboration will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to your school community. Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my skills and aspirations align with

your team's goals. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to Brynmill School and helping create an inclusive environment where every child can thrive.

Warm regards,
Lyndsey Copp

