



Rebecca Matthews

BA(Hons) History with French, 2015

PGCE student, University of Wolverhampton/
French and Spanish teacher, Q3 Academy

A taste for teaching

For Rebecca Matthews, becoming a teacher was as a direct result of gaining work experience and experiencing the profession first-hand.

'During my final year at the University of Hertfordshire, I was offered the opportunity to work in a St Albans school with an organisation to encourage pupils to learn languages. This experience helped me decide that I would like to become a languages teacher.'

Now studying for her post-graduate qualification in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) teaching, she already has a job lined up for a full-time role at her second placement school. Here Rebecca will predominantly teach French and Spanish to pupils aged 11-18, alongside a few history classes because of her experience at Hertfordshire.

New experiences

One of the best memories that Rebecca has from her degree was her year abroad in France. *'It was incredible! I learnt a lot about the language, culture and even about English. It gave me the opportunity to become really independent and learn about myself. Moreover, I had the opportunity to study other subjects. I studied Latin, Spanish, History but I also took choral classes, grammar classes and became very involved in the ERASMUS community.'*

However, even before her year abroad, study at Hertfordshire had opened up a range of new experiences. *'I came to Hertfordshire in 2011 straight after my A Levels because I had the opportunity to study 'Humanities'. This meant that I could choose up to 4 subjects in my first year and even try something that I hadn't learnt before. Friends chose philosophy, for example, which is something I had never thought of studying before. The University allowed me to continue my studies in French and History but also do modules in Literature which was very important to me.'*

Looking to the future

Even though she's still training, Rebecca's enthusiasm for her new role shines through and she's already planning ways to get involved in the school community. *'I am helping to organise school trips and heading the Scheme of Work and planning for all Year 8 MFL lessons. I am hoping that these opportunities will help me to move up and become a head of department in a few years.'*

She recommends embracing everything that education and learning has to offer – whether you want to go into teaching or not. *'I taught French to beginners at Hertfordshire and I loved being able to share my knowledge on something that I loved. Take all of the opportunities that you can, especially the year abroad! Whether it is to learn a language or just to experience a new lifestyle for a year, do it! It will be the best year of your education.'*



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