

# Natalia Kurikova

CELTA, MAPL

eLearning  
Specialist

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## PERSONAL SUMMARY

- Skilled eLearning professional with advanced qualifications, adult and tertiary teaching experience, and a thorough knowledge of eLearning pedagogies and tools. Passionate about the role of technology in education and successful in identifying and testing learning technology solutions to meet staff needs.
- Well versed in current and emerging eLearning technologies and Learning Management Systems (LMS) including Moodle, Te Kete, Zoom, Panopto, other Web, Video and Imaging technologies, as well as in MS Office and a wide variety of other in-house and open-source Education software.
- Familiarity with Articulate 360 Suite and other course authoring tools, such as H5P, HTML and Xerte.
- Solid experience in utilising LMS to design, document and adapt training and eLearning programmes and resources as well as in educating both students and faculty.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with proven expertise in maintaining records, producing reports and establishing positive relationships with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Analytical thinker with strong conceptual/problem solving skills. Has the foresight to keep abreast of any learning technology trends/developments needing to be incorporated into learning programmes and fully understands the organisational risks associated with managing such technologies.
- Customer focused individual with a good understanding of the education and learning needs of staff and students in a tertiary environment and committed to providing quality service.
- Collegial team player with outstanding time management skills and a strong work ethic.

## CAREER HISTORY

Sep 2019 – present

ARA INSTITUTE OF CANTERBURY, LTD

<http://www.ara.ac.nz/>

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANT ADVISOR

### Responsibilities:

- Responding to queries and requests for assistance with learning technologies, identifying problems, suggesting solutions, and facilitating training as required
- Contributing to the testing of learning technologies
- Supporting the development of online and self-help guides related to the use of Ara learning technologies

### Major Achievements:

- Set up a system to manage the support requests using MS Planner, which helped the team to deal with the influx of requests in the first weeks of the lockdown more efficiently
- Performed an audit of self-help guides, ensuring that all guides are up-to-date and correctly linked (reviewed nearly 200, of these nearly 100 are currently published and accessible to staff)
- Acquired the skills in the use of Articulate Rise 360 and created interactive resources with it

EnglishLab.Net is an online language school for higher level learners of English which renders renders e-teaching services by means of Skype and the functionality of the ELN LMS (the EnglishLab.Net Learning Management System, which is a proprietary web-based learning object depository and attendance tracking solution merged with a suite of virtual classrooms).

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**ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TUTOR****Responsibilities:**

- Design and adapt teaching materials to a virtual learning environment and develop objects for ELN learning management system.
- Utilising HTML and web technologies, prepare and mount learning objects in ELN LMS.
- Deliver synchronous online lessons using Skype and ELN.
- Support learners in the use of web technologies and relevant eLearning tools.

**Major Achievements:**

- Successful preparation of students for high-stake international exams resulted in them receiving the marks they had hoped for.
- Demonstrated a strong awareness of the difficulties of learners and successfully helped them overcome these issues by utilising effective communication techniques to teach the language and adopting an empathetic, motivating and encouraging approach.
- Consistently achieved targeted objectives and goals throughout tenure.

**2016 – 2017****VARIOUS PRIVATE ONLINE AND ONSITE CLIENTS****PRIVATE TUTOR****Highlights and Achievements:**

- Helped a wide variety of online and onsite clients achieve positive learning outcomes by developing and providing them with teaching material appropriate to their learning needs.

**2016****CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC WRITING 'IMPULSE' (CAWI), RUSSIA**<https://cawi.utmn.ru>

CAWI was created in April 2016 as part of the Russian Academic Excellence Project whose goal is to strengthen the research capacity of Russian universities. CAWI delivers academic English language programs to the Tyumen University faculty and researchers and supports them in developing scientific writing skills in order for their work to be published in international journals.

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**ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR & ACADEMIC WRITING TUTOR****Highlights and Achievements:**

- Successfully delivered part of a blended learning course – 'English for Publishing Scientific Articles'.
- Prepared, adapted and uploaded assignments to Moodle Learning Management System.
- Facilitated University staff development by designing and effectively delivering workshops on scientific writing.

**2009 – 2016****TYUMEN STATE UNIVERSITY, RUSSIA**[www.utmn.ru](http://www.utmn.ru)

Tyumen State University is a higher education institution catering to over 30,000 students across 12 campuses with 1,200 staff.

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**ASSISTANT LECTURER & ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR****Highlights and Achievements:**

- Effectively taught the English language to University students majoring in Linguistics.
- Due to high standards of performance, invited to—
  - Deliver a part of a professional development program to secondary school teachers. The programme was aimed at preparing them to become teacher trainers.
  - Join the newly founded Academic Writing Centre at the University. This included undergoing training to become an Academic Writing Tutor.
  - Co-teach professional development workshops with colleagues from Aston University as part of a Tempus project "Improving the teaching of European languages through the introduction of on-line technologies in teacher training".
- Developed instructional materials based on authentic sources and aligned them to the curriculum. It should be noted this required frequent use of Microsoft Office software and a sound knowledge of pedagogical principles.

## PRIOR

- ESOL EDUCATOR – EF English First (2008-10) and the Talisman Educational Group (2014-15)

## QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Master of Applied Linguistics (MAPL), with Distinction** – Massey University, NZ (2019)  
**Research Report Topic:**
  - 'Openings and closings in online synchronous language learning sessions'.**Other key papers completed:**
  - Contextualising Curriculum and Materials Design
  - Contemporary Approaches to Language Teaching Methodology
  - Second Language Learning Theories and Processes
  - Current Issues in Applied Linguistics**Major Achievements:**
  - Awarded the Dr Pat Lopdell Prize in 2018 for achieving the highest marks.
  - Gave a talk on the results of postgraduate research at the Postgraduate Sharing Day at MANATESOL, the Palmerston North Branch of the TESOL Association of New Zealand.
- **Module One, DELTA Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages** – Cambridge English Language Assessment (2016)  
**Major Achievements:**
  - Awarded a Distinction.
- **University of Cambridge ESOL Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA)** – Ural Federal University Centre for Language Excellence (2014)
- **Degree in Language Teaching and Linguistics (NZQA Level 7 equivalent)** – Tyumen State University, Russia (2009)  
**Major Achievements:**
  - Winner of the university's Undergraduate Fee Exemption Award.
- **Various in-house and external professional development and training courses:**
  - Innovation in Higher Education: Theory and Practice
  - Innovative Technologies in Teaching English as a Foreign Language
  - LMS Moodle: Creating and Facilitating eLearning Courses
  - Sharpening Students' Productive Skills
  - Teaching Lexically
  - Technologies in Education: Creating Web Resources
  - University Digital Information Environment
  - Video and Image
  - Visuals and Infographics in Online Learning
  - Writing Tutor Coaching Course

## PERSONAL

- **Status:** New Zealand Work Visa.
- **Languages:** Fluent (written and oral) in English and Russian.
- **Fitness:** In excellent health.
- **Interests:** Cognitive psychology, linguistics, travelling and cooking.