

Note from *people and places*: this volunteer's placement was designed specifically for them – they went through our full matching process, as we've been doing with you. The placement report indicates their particular skills and experience – yours may be similar or completely different – your own placement will make best use of **your** experience and skills. Every volunteer is different – in what they give and what they gain. Reports from previous volunteers serve to give you as good a picture as possible about the project. If you have any questions about any of the detail in this report please do not hesitate to contact me at dianne@travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk

Report for People and Places

Otancia Noel (Kai) e-volunteer Education for All Nov 2021 - April 2022

What was your motivation for e-volunteering?

I wanted to do some volunteer teaching in a different country to widen my teaching base and skills set as I had never tutored persons outside of my country except for a small number. Online was not my first preference but due to the pandemic situation I decided to try e-volunteering.

Was e-volunteering as you imagined it would be – if not how did it differ?

I was a bit worried about the language difference online and not being able to get my points across to the students without face-to-face projects. But it turned out better than I expected, the project was fulfilling for me and for my students.

Placement dates and project

The placement dates and the project were fine for me. I taught creative writing and poetry which is within my field.

Pre-placement preparation - were you happy with the information we shared with you during your preparation for this placement? What information did you consider most useful?

Yes, I was extremely comfortable and happy with the information shared. The team at People and Places was extremely helpful every step of the way. All the information was important and useful. I particularly was grateful for the brief about the students in order that I could prepare student-centered exercises based on what I knew about them prior to teaching.

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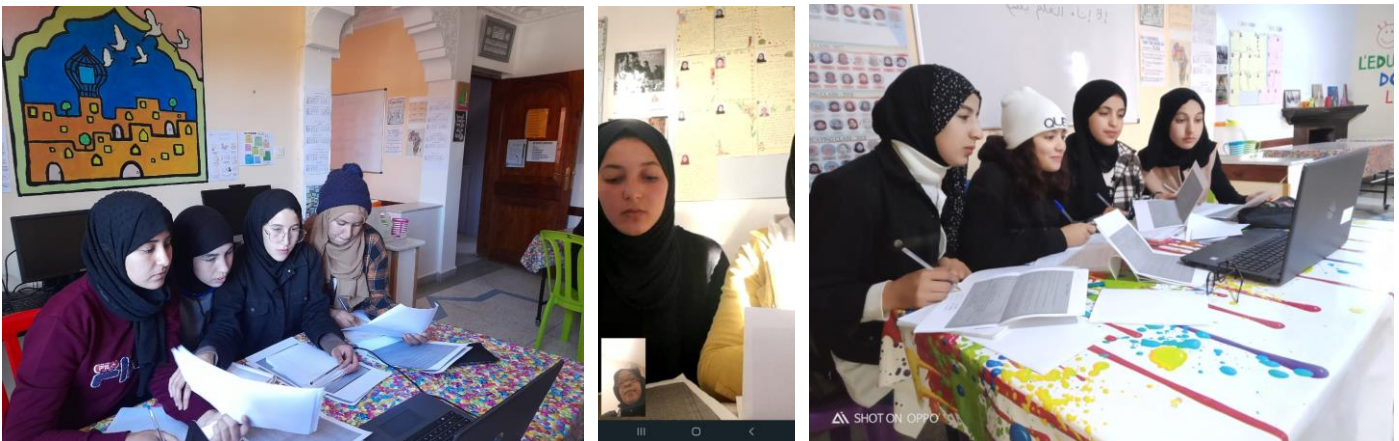
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Your experience and work

(Note from people and places: Kai taught the girls four times a week for three months. She has provided us with a full list of topics she taught and resources she used which we will make available to future volunteers. Some examples are listed here to give a flavour of what she did)

- Acrostic Poem, a poem where the first letter in each line spells out a word, a name or phrase and carries a message. Usually written vertically.
- I Am Poem, a poem of eleven lines that starts with the words I am and reflects who you are
- Journal writing self-reflection
- Motivational or life goals statement
- Bio or Life Writing
- Team building
- Role play and understanding needs in society
- Creative essay writing
- Reading a book and giving information about the book and writer

I had a wonderful experience tutoring the girls at Dar al Asni. They were very eager and willing to learn; the difficulties of technology and language barrier at times were a bit challenging but we worked our way around those.



What advice would you give to future e-volunteers, including any technical difficulties you encountered?

My advice to others would be to use your initiative, be creative, ensure that your teaching is student-centered as much as possible and use flexibility with regards to internet problems. Maybe, change the class day if you have time to replace a class that you could not do due to technical difficulties

Successes, disappointments and challenges of your placement

My placement was successful, also I liked the idea of the girls seeing someone who shares a traditional Muslim woman background with them; but also, in the light of being in the western world and stepping away from what some might have as the idea of the Muslim woman and education. Although, I still felt that I would have been able to make a stronger impact on them with face-to-face classes, e- learning is

great but I am a hands-on person, so generally I prefer the presence of my classroom physically to convey some points.

What was the highlight of your volunteer experience?

The way that the girls appreciate simple things that many of my other students at home take for granted and their natural eagerness was the highlight of the experience for me.

Would you recommend e-volunteering to other people or not?

Yes, I would recommend it. It is a satisfying feeling to give back to others in different countries and it reminded me that some things we see as normal and take for granted are very much not the norm in other places and people need education in all social aspects to help them.

Anything else you would like to share with future volunteers about your placement.

Enjoy and have fun inspiring others.

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