Mattheus Wessels

Primary & secondary English and humanities teacher with 13+ years across South Korea, Georgia and South Africa. Open to **international opportunities**.

CONTACT

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mhwessels.com

Harrismith, South Africa

South African · Native English speaker

LANGUAGES

English	Native
Afrikaans	Bilingual
German	Intermediate

EDUCATION

Masters in International Human Resources Management
Rome Business School & International University of Valencia
2020–2021

Honours BA in History
Stellenbosch University
2010–2011

BA in International Studies
Stellenbosch University
2007–2009

TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

TESOL Certification (150-hours)
Arizona State University
Completed October 2026

— Uncommon Sense Teaching (Deep Learning)

— Teaching Techniques: Project-Based Learning — Daegu Metropolitan Office of Education

— Generative AI Essentials — IBM

— Foundations of Project Management — Google

— Career Navigating and Coaching — Goodwill Industries International

01 / PROFILE

South African native English speaker with more than 13 years of teaching and education experience across South Korea, Georgia and South Africa. I have taught primary, middle-school, high-school and adult learners in English communication, literacy, literature, humanities, history and Social Studies, strengthened by experience developing curriculum, mentoring teachers and coordinating academic programmes.

Teaching approach I build respectful, well-organised classrooms where learners know what to do and feel comfortable practising. I explain and model clearly, then use guided discussion and practical activities suited to students' age and English level.

02 / TEACHING & EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Son's Edu, South Korea

NOV 2013 – OCT 2024 · Progressed from classroom teaching into programme and staff leadership while continuing to teach, including English instruction informed by IB and American curriculum expectations.

Manager of Global Staff & Organisational Development / Interim Vice-Principal

Son's Edu & BeTop · Daegu & Seoul · Jan 2022 – Oct 2024

- Served as interim Vice-Principal at BeTop Kids, with the Head Foreign Teacher and Korean homeroom teachers reporting to me.
- Led elementary communication and critical-thinking classes and developed curriculum during the Seoul transition after the Pots and Pans Kindergarten franchise was acquired in January 2024; hired a Head Teacher to manage its English teachers and curriculum.
- Led small-group classes for children aged 5–8 at OrangeCat Education Center, using learning through play and practical English activities; worked with parents on feedback and progress reporting.
- Supported academic quality and curriculum implementation across nine campuses.

Team Manager & Education Programme Coordinator

Son's Edu · Daegu · Nov 2016 – Jan 2022

- Managed elementary and middle-school programmes across four branches while teaching Advanced Elementary and Middle School Integrated Communication (reading, speaking and listening).
- Prepared students for the English-language demands of IB and American curriculum studies, and taught English for SAT to students preparing to study in the United States.
- Introduced "Beyond the Book" critical-thinking and debating classes; co-led the Sangin Junior elementary department (Nov 2016 – Nov 2018).
- Established the Global HR Department, recruited and trained teachers, and supported three Head Teachers' promotion to Foreign Teacher Manager roles in 2018.
- Helped move more than 1,000 students and 40 educators online within 72 hours during COVID-19; supported teachers adapting humanities and literacy materials.

Head Teacher

Son's Edu · Daegu · Nov 2013 – Nov 2016

- Taught Social Studies, Cultural Studies, Geography, Advanced Literature, English communication, reading comprehension and writing to upper-elementary, middle-school and high-school learners.
- Designed interdisciplinary, project-based lessons; adapted materials to learners' ages and English proficiency; observed classes and mentored teachers.
- Curriculum and instructional development during this period were associated with a 30% increase in student satisfaction and a 25% improvement in teacher performance scores.

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CORE SKILLS

ESL/EFL · English communication · Reading & literacy · Writing · Literature · Social Studies · Cultural Studies · Geography · Business English · Critical thinking & debating · Lesson planning · Curriculum development · Differentiated instruction · Project-based learning · Classroom management · Formative assessment · Teacher mentoring · Parent communication

PROFESSIONAL STRENGTHS

- Patient and approachable
- Clear communicator
- Adaptable
- Cross-culturally aware
- Attentive listener
- Organised and collaborative
- Builds rapport; resolves conflict calmly

CURRICULUM EXPOSURE

English instruction informed by IB and American curriculum expectations (South Korea); British curriculum (Georgia).

LEARNERS TAUGHT

Primary	Grades 1–6
Middle school	Integrated comm.
High school	Lit. & humanities
Adults	Business English

EFL Teacher

E. Bo Young's Talking Club · Chilgok, South Korea · Sep 2012 – Sep 2013

- Taught English communication, reading, literature, writing, cultural studies and media literacy to learners aged 6–16. Developed seasonal intensive programmes and taught Business English to adults.

Volunteer English Teacher

Teach and Learn with Georgia · Tsalenjikha, Georgia · Oct 2011 – Jul 2012

- Taught English literacy, speaking and cultural studies to mixed-level Grades 1–6, following the British curriculum, in the year English was introduced into the school curriculum.
- Taught after-school English Communication and Cultural Studies to high-school students, and adult classes for local teachers and healthcare professionals; organised cultural events and English-language performances.

Research Assistant Lecturer, Department of History

Stellenbosch University · Stellenbosch, South Africa · Jan 2010 – Jul 2011

- Delivered History lectures and tutorials, including History for Education students in Curriculum Studies.
- Developed curriculum and assessment materials for programmes serving more than 300 undergraduates; supported student research and writing.

03 / INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Internship Coordinator & Peer Leadership Manager

New Story Leadership for the Middle East · Washington, D.C. & Baltimore area · May – Sep 2012

- Coordinated internships, participant support and peer leadership activities for Israeli and Palestinian participants.
- Managed stakeholder communications and helped organise events involving civic institutions and embassies.

International Program Manager (Confucius Institute)

Stellenbosch University · Stellenbosch, South Africa · Feb – Jul 2010

- Coordinated academic and cultural exchange programmes with partner institutions in China and Europe, including student placements, institutional liaison and delegation events.

SAWIP Intern

World Affairs Council · Washington, D.C. & Baltimore area · Jun – Jul 2010

- Selected for the South African Washington International Program; conducted research on international relations and economic development.
- Prepared research briefs and helped coordinate embassy events.

04 / ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Career Coach

Talent Atlas · Remote · Jul 2025 – Present

- Coach job-seekers and professionals in career planning, applications, workplace communication and writing; create tailored learning materials.

Project Director, EngFlip E-Learning Division

Son's Edu · Remote · Oct 2024 – Apr 2025

- Led academic development of a four-book e-learning programme covering reading comprehension, literature, cultural studies and progressive language development.

Writer & Researcher

GoodViral · Remote · Nov 2024 – Jul 2025

- Researched and wrote long-form features on social entrepreneurship, sustainability and ethical leadership, turning interviews into accessible, evidence-based stories.