

Maya D  
Wilfrid Laurier University 2023  
University of the West of Scotland (UWS) 2024  
Steve & Patty D  
Retired Police Officer & Homemaker  
Waterloo Region/Wellesley Twp ON

Our daughter Maya attended university during Covid. Her “university experience” equated to something very similar to staying home and taking correspondence courses. It was disappointing for us to see her miss out on the personal growth that comes from being on your own and being faced with making new friends and meeting challenges. That experience then resulted in her not making the first cut into any Ontario teacher’s colleges and being put on a standby list. With her options limited to “just going back to university for another year”, she came home and discussed the CANTEACH program with us.

My initial thoughts on this program was that it was essentially an expensive trip abroad with a dubious certificate that may or may not be recognized here in Canada, but my wife and I agreed to attend the information session in Waterloo with her to feel things out.

We attended a small info session and spoke to representatives from both Ayr program in Scotland and the program in Cardiff, Wales. Mike Johnson, Director of CANTEACH was also in attendance and was very receptive to me putting him on the spot with some questioning that likely approached interrogation. He immediately and professionally answered every one of my concerns, the biggest one being; “If this program is so great, why isn’t everyone doing it?” My wife and I were impressed with the representatives from Scotland and Maya warmed up to the idea of the CANTEACH program.

Maya submitted an application and attended another session in Toronto and was interviewed. She was accepted and chose Ayr due to the smaller sized city and campus. She was a little introverted and it did not help she stayed home for university, so this was a leap of faith for her. There was an extensive Q and A session that day as well and any questions were answered in a public forum by Mike. I never felt that I was being misled or over-sold on the program.

The benefits of this program for our daughter were many. She was able to gain independence and self-confidence by travelling to another country to attend school, experience the cultures of another land, accelerate her schooling with a compressed academic and school placement program, and get a Canadian teaching certificate equivalency with relative ease. My wife and I went to visit her over Christmas and saw parts of the UK she was eager to show us. She had



opportunities to travel (at a reduced cost) to France and Spain during breaks, further expanding her experience.

Safety and security was one of my top concerns and there were never any issues. Mike was an outstanding support person and was never out of reach. I never felt that Maya was abandoned and on her own once the payments were made. CANTEACH dealt with any issues that came up and managed a communication network amongst the participants during their schooling.

Keep in mind that this program also ended up costing not much more than if Maya had stayed in Ontario and attended a two-year teachers college while living away from home. This was one of the main selling points for me on this program.

Upon graduation, the certificate recognition/equivalency process went fairly smoothly, save and except for a few months delay for the Ontario College that was unrelated to CANTEACH. During this delay, Mike advocated for his students and stayed in constant communication. Maya is now working as a supply teacher for two public school boards and is currently applying for several LTO openings.

I have told others about the CANTEACH program and it and Mike have my full support. Frankly, I see no downside to it. I realize the biggest hurdle for some applicants is having proof of all the required funds sitting in a bank BEFORE the UK issues the student a visa. If you can make this work, I enthusiastically endorse this worthwhile program. It benefitted our daughter greatly.

Steve and Patty D.