

Name: Gregory Lemoine

*1. Briefly introduce yourself and describe why you are seeking a position in international education. What makes you a candidate who will be successful in an international setting?*

Greetings from Switzerland. It is truly exciting for me to write this once again. This is my third ISS candidacy. Perhaps you saw me in San Francisco 2013 or in Bangkok 2006?

The 2016-17 school year will be my sixteenth year teaching overseas. All of my teaching has been international but my training and certification started in Wisconsin. I absolutely love my career. Since I am single without dependents, I have the freedom to travel and teach around the globe. It has taken me a while to find my niche in the international arena. I started out as a homeroom teacher in elementary and slowly moved out of the mainstream classroom into technology as a specialist at different levels.

I have been back in the classroom since 2013 piloting a one-to-one iPad program in the fourth grade. Switzerland is fantastic, but it is time for me to get back into technology as a specialist. The iPad program is still going strong and my fellow teachers will continue after I leave.

The key part of my experiences is my focus on the schools, not their geography. The quality of the school and the relationship with my administrator are the two most important aspects of the recruiting process for me.

*2. How do students best learn? What is your role in facilitating that learning?*

The only way to answer this question is to change the question. "How does this student best learn?" Individualization. Reaching out to the individual student is the key. Students best learn when you know them and where they are at before you can ask the student to go further.

Students of today are all digital natives. My students learn concepts better if I present those concepts using updated methods, like posting an animated video rather than bullet points on a PowerPoint. Students would rather have options to demonstrate what they have learned. Instead of a paper test, they may act out a summary and capture it all on video. I can facilitate this for students, teachers, and parents.

*3. What can you contribute as a member of a professional learning community in an international setting?*

I have a lot to offer in the international setting. Since my entire teaching career has been overseas, I have many experiences to share. My career has taken me to some hardship countries, where I learned to be culturally sensitive to the host country, yet remain patriotic as a U.S. citizen. My identity has evolved as an international educator, a U.S. expatriate, and a traveler. I am not a tourist or a teacher on sabbatical.

International schools overseas require a lot of commitment. I devote myself to the schools that I work at. Coaching sports, leading professional development, presenting at conferences, and sustaining a presence on campus are all part of my commitment to school.

As expats, we are much more of a "family" at a host school because we rely on each other for support in the local culture. Learning the local culture and reaching out to the local staff is not something that import teachers always do, or even think about. For me, those are part of the excitement of living and teaching overseas. I am always happy when the school finally finishes the paperwork for work visas. It allows me to stay in country for a holiday. It's not that I don't travel to other countries during breaks. I just enjoy the option to stay in the host country and see how they celebrate the important holidays. If at least one or two of us (import teachers) reach out to the host culture, the enthusiasm spreads to other staff

members. I truly believe the retention of excellent import teachers is enhanced by positive local relationships and cultural opportunities.

Teaching my fellow teachers is another contribution. I have been to a lot of regional and international conferences. I love to give Professional Development presentations. There are so many opportunities because using technology in education (I call it TEACHNOLOGY) is always changing at the speed of light. I have presented at every education conference I have attended. The preparation, of course, is with staff and administration at my school.

I am a teacher. Everything I learn has to be passed on to someone else or that knowledge is wasted. I truly believe in this mantra. I have been a “team player” on every staff that I have served on. That is the key to being successful as a staff. We look out for each other both at school and in the host cultures.

A few years ago, I found a quote that has guided me through my international teaching and travels: “Own only what you can always carry with you: know languages, know countries, know people. Let your memory be your travel bag.” ~ Alexander Solzhenitsyn