Your personal statement is an important part of the review process for our faculty members as they consider your application. They want to know about your relevant background, work experience, career goals, and why you are interested in the program. In other words, discuss the qualifications that make you a strong candidate for the program and explain why the curriculum, faculty expertise, or other aspects of the program are of interest to you. The statement should be 500-800 words.

PERSONAL STATEMENT 500-800 Words

This past year I have enjoyed working as an Associate Director of Admissions and Admissions Counselor through the Kelley School of Business. I have worked with students across a variety of backgrounds to help them find their place at Kelley. My desire for growth in this area led me to initially look at a Higher Education degree as a logical next step. While that is a great option, it just didn’t pique my interest in the way I would have hoped. As I was browsing potential degree paths offered at Indiana University, I found information about the International and Comparative Education program and was drawn to the global focus of the curriculum. I’m very interested in the option for specialization within the program as that can provide an opportunity to tailor to my specific interests and career goals. After researching this program, I am excited about the prospects ahead of me and look forward to expanding my perspective with the International and Comparative Education program.

My interests have always involved an international perspective, which began with an early fascination with Japan and the Japanese language. When it was time for me to study a foreign language in high school, I was thrilled to hear my school offered Japanese and it quickly became a favorite class. At Indiana University, I continued my language and culture study by pursuing a major in East Asian Languages and Cultures. During my studies, I also explored some Linguistics courses. This approach to language study introduced me to a more science-based path for learning about world cultures. I greatly enjoyed this area of study and by the time I added Linguistics as a second major I was nearly halfway through the degree requirements.

After university, I taught English in Japan for a year through Interac, and experienced the Japanese culture first-hand and on my own. I saw how their school systems vary from my own schooling in the US. Through that program, I taught approximately 500 students weekly between two different high schools. One of my best memories was when I was asked to help a student, Sumire, prepare for her speech contest. She had some vocabulary that was giving her trouble as a native Japanese speaker, such as “girl” and “world”. I was able to put my Linguistics skills to use and break down these words to simpler sounds—even drawing a diagram to illustrate how the “r” and “l” in these words are formed differently in the mouth. It was exciting to work with Sumire on these skills and see her growth. I attended her speech competition at a local university and, while she didn’t win, I was immensely proud of her improvement.

As I have grown in my professional life, I have improved on my own communication and leadership skills. In my role at the Kelley School, I need to relay detailed information in a way that can be clearly understood by prospective students and their families. These students come from a broad range of backgrounds and cultures, so I must always be ready to meet them where they are. Additionally, I supervise student works and advise student organizations. As a leader, I find it important to ensure I am communicating what needs to be done, but I must also place trust in others to complete the task. I also make sure they know I am there for any assistance they may need along the way. I know these skills I’ve developed would be an asset in pursuing a degree through the International and Comparative Education program.