In 750 to 1,000 words, state your professional plans and career objectives. Please include your personal qualities and development and how they have influenced your career choice; your reasons for this particular degree in relation to your academic background, professional work experience, and career goals; and your reason for selecting your program at George Mason University.

**Personal qualities and development**

I am a goal-oriented individual with strong enthusiasm for new knowledge. When I was taking TESOL Instructional Technology at SFSU (San Francisco State University), I was fascinated by the potential of new technology for language education and delved into developing web sites for an ESL writing class. In order to make the website, I spent the whole summer break studying computer software applications and free online tutorial web sites such as Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Hot Potatoes, Yahoo! GeoCities, etc. Finally, I mastered the web site development skills and created a web site for an ESL composition class for which I was a teaching assistant. I also implemented Webquest for an ESL CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) class for which I was volunteering as a student teacher. In addition to that I am a goal-oriented and enthusiastic person and, according to an annual evaluation conducted by my previous supervisors, I am very reliable, a flexible team player, and highly motivated. At the Asian school III, where I worked for almost 4 years, I annually developed new supplemental materials using different computer applications and contributed the materials to the school to be shared with the other teachers who appreciated these materials and frequently asked me for additional supplemental materials.

**C**areer choice

My first teaching position started when an alumna, who graduated a year ahead of me, suggested that I teach at one of the most well-known children’s foreign language institutes in Korea during my senior year of college. The language program consisted of 12 proficiency levels and I conducted team teaching with native speakers from England, Australia, Canada, etc. From the first teaching experience I realized that I have a strong aptitude in teaching since I received a good evaluation from my supervisor and I immediately created a good rapport with my students and their parents. This teaching experience helped me make up my mind to become a knowledgeable and inspiring educator after college graduation, and so I decided to study abroad to master English and effective teaching pedagogy.

Reasons for pursuing a PhD in Instructional Technology

The San Francisco M.A.TESOL program provided me with theoretical foundations of and contemporary research skills in linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics (second language acquisition), and related fields. The program helped me shape my major teaching principle which is to increase students’ motivation. When I read “CALL Environment” by Jorge Egbert, I was so interested in CALL that I finished the book in a single weekend. Since then, all of my research topics have focused on CALL and I strove to integrate instructional technology into my classroom while applying second language acquisition theories. While taking a student teaching course during my senior year at SFSU, I volunteered to student teach at the Vocational ESL Immersion Program (VIP) where I implemented my graduate project on developing and implementing Webquest . For this work, I was recognized and honored by the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco. After the completion my master’s, I planned to pursue a PhD in instructional technology, but I believed that acquiring teaching experiences and applying teaching pedagogical theories in my target setting would help my PhD study in the future. So, I started teaching as an Assistance Professor of the Korean language at the Defense Language Institute where there were more than 250 Korean instructors who conducted team teaching to enhance the Korean language proficiency of the military personnel of the Department of Army.

After my first year at DLI, I was chosen as one of three instructors for a scholarship to obtain a master’s in interdisciplinary studies through a candidate evaluation by an academic review board at the Defense Language Institute with a strong recommendation letter from my supervisor, who evaluated me as a great asset to the school on my annual evaluation form. At the same time I was selected among 35 candidates as an official Korean Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) tester through interviews with two specialists from the testing division. I was also given valuable opportunities to attend national and international conferences such as ACTFL and ConnectEd. After returning from ACTFL, I implemented a class blog and presented on the implementation of class blogs to other faculty members. I was also chosen to be the only instructor who attended the ConnectEd International conference as a representative teacher of Asian School III. My graduate capstone, titled Interactive Multimedia Educational Module (IMEM), was successfully presented at the 2008 DigitalStream annual conference held by California State University Monterey Bay. After completing my degree I self- taught on web publishing, Moodle development (www.pleaseteachme.org), Flash animation, Photoshop and took some evening class at a local community college on MS access for database and NetBeans for computer programming.

This year I was selected as a Language Technology Specialist through competition among 35 candidates by the School of Continuing Education, Defense Language Institute, where 8 different residence and 5 distance language trainings take place. I applied for this position so that I can concentrate on instructional education research on and how to integrate technology effectively for language instruction. The major projects I am developing are educational technology workshops on Blackboard and Sharepoint implementation and application for advanced level language instruction and online training material development.

Reason for selecting the PhD in Instructional Technology program at George Mason University

The main reason I am applying to George Mason University is that most of my colleagues from Virginia informed me of your excellent faculty and research programs. I was especially impressed by the knowledge and passion for their work displayed by Dr. Marjorie Haley and her PhD student when they facilitated the Action Research workshop at the Defense Language Institute. When I expressed my interest in Instructional Technology, Dr. Marjorie Haley informed me of some renowned authors’ names and some research articles for me. I was very impressed by her professional presentation and it made me hope to be a doctoral student at George Mason University. I was also fascinated by your student immersion projects, which provide students real world project experience. Since my research will focus on applications of theories, the characteristics of your program meet my needs and expectations. Secondly, Dr. Bannan-Ritland’s research interests, which include the integration of the Internet, web-based technologies for instruction and training, equal my own research interests.