Leo (Zijian) Lyu

Beginning primary teacher · Available Term 1 2027

leo@ako-leo.nz
ako-leo.nz

Beginning teacher completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning (Primary) at the University of Canterbury, with placements in Year 6 and Years 3–4. I taught Critical Thinking at the University of Otago while completing a PhD in philosophy. I moved to primary teaching to teach children how to reason while they are young, and to work with one class every day.

17 of 22 standards rated Very Good Achievement in my final Associate Teacher report; no area of concern	**BSLA** trained at UC and taught daily in Years 3–4; iDeaL Stage 2–3 phonics and spelling	**6** learning areas taught during full control of a Year 6 class	**Since 2018** teaching university tutorials, secondary students, and IELTS and TOEFL classes

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Primary school, Queenstown · Year 6

2026 · Semester 2 · 8 weeks

- **Assessment.** Built a daily mathematics cycle: marked each day's work, retaught the class's shared error the next morning, and tracked each learner on a four-level scale, with extension and extra scaffolding planned in advance.
- **Writing.** Taught a five-report sequence that handed one decision to learners at a time; by the final report most learners wrote a structured report without an organiser or paragraph prompts.
- **Critical thinking.** In an integrated Ancient Greece inquiry, used chains of why-questions and a Sparta-or-Athens debate that required learners to give and defend reasons.
- **Structured literacy.** Taught an iDeaL Stage 3 spelling unit and administered the Stage 3 spelling test.
- **Team.** Planned weekly with my Associate Teacher and attended Phase 2 team meetings on planning for the next term.

Primary school, Christchurch · Years 3–4

2026 · Semester 1 · 7 weeks

- **Structured literacy.** Taught daily Better Start Literacy Approach phonics (Taumata 8 and part of 9) and reading; used running records to separate decoding from comprehension.
- **Team teaching.** Taught in a three-class hub with reading, writing and mathematics grouped across classes; taught phonics and the weekly PE rotation across five classes.
- **School life.** Led karakia, whakataukī and waiata at the daily morning hui; assisted in the school's specialist science sessions and taught two sections.

WHAT MENTORS WROTE

"You have actively sought feedback and always been proactive in using this feedback to improve or further develop areas you have not had a chance to develop."

Associate Teacher, Year 6 placement · final report

"Is astute in gauging learner needs and adapts teaching, accordingly, using questioning, marking, and formal assessment tools..."

Professional Practice Lecturer, University of Canterbury · final report

"You prioritise respectful, reciprocal relationships with all learners... you ensure all voices are heard."

Associate Teacher, Years 3–4 placement · final report

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TEACHING STRENGTHS

Structured literacy	iDeaL Stage 2 phonics · syllable and morpheme work · dictation and proofreading · QAR questioning in small-group reading
Writing	Modelling and guided practice · scaffolds released across a sequence · TIDE paragraph plans · writing tracker
Mathematics	Daily marking and reteaching · four-level tracker · diagnostic tasks and exit tickets · planned extension
Critical thinking	Sequenced why-questions · debate with reasons · persuasive writing as extension
Inclusion	Visual, vocabulary and text supports so all learners reach the same goal · worked alongside a teacher aide
Relationships	Learn names early · plan from learners' interests · calm, respectful routines
Languages	Fluent in English and Mandarin · glad to teach Chinese
Te reo Māori	Daily karakia, whakataukī and waiata at morning hui (Years 3–4) · te reo Māori in Year 6 lessons where it fitted · developing, and my first professional priority

EARLIER TEACHING

Tutor and Seminar Coordinator · University of Otago — Jul 2022 - Jul 2024

Taught weekly Critical Thinking and Radical Philosophy tutorials; coordinated the postgraduate seminar programme.

Deputy General Manager · Noscens Education — Sep 2019 - Jun 2023

Led curriculum design; taught Roman history, intellectual history, critical thinking and elementary Latin to secondary-school students in China, online and at times in local classrooms.

IELTS and TOEFL Teacher · Kent English — Feb 2018 - May 2019

Taught writing, reading and listening for IELTS and TOEFL preparation.

EDUCATION

PGDip Teaching and Learning (Primary) — Completing Nov 2026
University of Canterbury

Application for teacher registration with a provisional practising certificate planned on completion.

PhD in Philosophy · University of Otago — 2021 - 2024

Baier Chair Scholarship in Early Modern Philosophy, 2021–2023.

MSc in Philosophy · University of Edinburgh — 2017 - 2018

Bachelor of Law, Political Science and Public Administration — 2013 - 2017
Tianjin Normal University

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- **Contribution.** Supported cross country on placement; available for EOTC, day trips and camps; keen to start a philosophy, debating or chess club.
- **Training.** Better Start Literacy Approach for student teachers (UC, 2026); First Aid Level 1 (Hato Hone St John, valid to 2028); AI Fluency for pK–12 Educators (Anthropic Academy with Teach For America, 2026).
- **Evidence.** Case studies at ako-leo.nz/work; a three-page evidence sample on request.

REFEREES

Available on request.