

Some bizarre facts in my life



Mark Benniman

2 days ago · 3 min read

I studied at five universities in the United Kingdom between 1992 and 2003, I studied five years full time and four years distance learning. According to national education statistics I was qualified in the top 7% of the adult population of the UK in 2009 (That was the last year I could find this quality of data on education)

I passed a degree foundation course in technology 1992

I passed a higher national diploma in business information technology 1996

I passed a bachelor of science degree in business information technology 1997

I passed a postgraduate diploma in business administration 2001

I passed a post graduate certificate in education specialising in post compulsory education and training with a specialism in English for speakers of other languages 2003

I have taught for more than seven years, I taught Chinese people for four years (two years in Hong Kong and two years in London), I taught Japanese people for two years in Hong Kong, I taught Thai people for 18 months in Bangkok, I taught Korean people for a year in Hong Kong, I taught for three months in Saudi and I taught many different nationalities in London for three years and I left four levels up the lecturer scale at normally one year per level.

I previously had about ten years of routine work, three years in a supermarket, four years in my father's smoked meats business and two years as a night porter while I was studying.

I volunteered at a museum in London for nearly three years as an archiver and tour guide. 2009/2012

I have been married for 24 years and I have two children, I met my wife while studying my HND.

Also

I was offered a second PGCE in secondary education in 2009

I was offered a master's degree in inter-cultural communication in 2011

...

Hand on heart... The only job I have been offered in the United Kingdom since 2006 was a part-time teaching position at a college in West London in 2008 with an annual salary of about £12,000, (to put that in some sort of perspective the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) said also in 2008 that a single person needed to earn £13,400 for a lifestyle including a modest council home, a bicycle and pay as you go mobile phone and that was in the whole country, not London). I knew the person doing the recruiting for that job, I had taught with him at another college in West London about two years earlier and he noticed my application and got in touch with me, and that remains the only job I've been offered and it's now just coming up to 2021. I have to say I stopped looking for work in 2017. I should add that I could possibly find English teaching work in other countries due to my PGCE in ESOL but that's from many years ago so my options have been pretty limited for a long time.

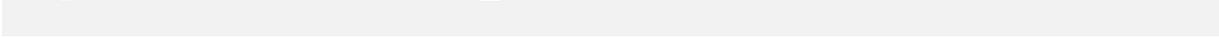
The reference from my last teaching position which was written in 2006 said: Mark was liked by his students and I always found him to be totally reliable and deeply committed to whatever he put his mind to. He entered fully into the work and activities of the business division and he demonstrated a depth of character and a genuine love of teaching.

I reached out to my tutor from the university where I did my teacher training in 2008 for any advice he could give, I found that he had since retired but was doing some part-time work there, this is what he wrote back: I remember how conscientious you always were and I wish you the best and hope you find a job

soon so that you can put your considerable expertise to good use once more.

I made this YouTube video in 2014:

https://youtu.be/yikhr8b_j1c





University of Greenwich

MARK BENNIMAN

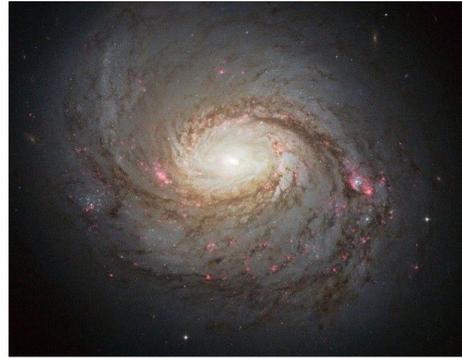
has been awarded the
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION
having followed an approved programme in
POST-COMPULSORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

17th September 2003



It is worth noting that students who already hold Masters or even doctorate awards sometimes struggle with the very different nature of the PGCE at Masters level and therefore prior qualifications should not be seen as an indicator of success.

For many students, this will be the first time they have been required to think in the highly personal, reflective manner needed for becoming a reflective practitioner and the study skills required for this may be very different to those used in their first degree.



PGCE M Level
Dr Keira Sewell



The beautiful
thing about
learning is
that no one
can take it
away from you.
- B.B. King

The privilege of a university
education is a great one; the more
widely it is extended the better for
any country.
— Winston Churchill —

"The roots of education are bitter,
but the fruit is sweet"
- Aristotle

It is not so very important for a person to learn
facts. For that he does not really need a college.
He can learn them from books. The value of an
education is a liberal arts college is not learning
of many facts but the training of the mind to
think something that cannot be learned from
textbooks.
(Albert Einstein)

WRITTEN BY

Mark Benniman