

# A transition to Language Coach

Interview with Michele Halloy, Foreign Languages Teacher, Argentina



## **Can you describe your professional career before taking the language coaching certification (LCC)?**

*Before taking the LCC, I had had a 10 year experience with teaching foreign languages. I worked 3 years as a “conventional” English teacher, teaching to teenagers and adults at institutes and companies. Then I gradually started to change my way of teaching and by 2010 I was working independently from home, teaching English exclusively to adults and in classes of no more than 3 students at a time. I worked as a non-certified language coach, using my own instincts to learn about each student because I had realized that the learning process was faster when we talked about things that were personally interesting to each one of them.*

## **How did you find the course?**

*Taking the LCC has been a life-changing experience for me. Not only did I learn, but also I was personally trained to become a Language Coach, which is something I was not expecting. During the certification course I was able to experience both the roles of the coach as well as the coachee’s, and that gave me the perspective to see what being a coach really means, and what I needed to change from my old habits to become the language coach I wanted to be.*

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## **Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?**

*I was mostly surprised by how much interaction, role-playing and personal training we had! Rachel would give us the theory of a certain area of coaching, neuroscience or grammar, and then we would each have to actively participate. Not only did we all get to exercise all of the areas thoroughly, but also, if one of us was having a difficult time understanding the dynamic of the exercise, Rachel would take her time to focus on that person until we got it right. For the first time in my life I was able to go through a real coaching experience, which is why I now feel confident enough to apply this method with my own clients.*

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*“Now I know precisely what questions to ask in order for me to find out what they need, and I don’t waste time guessing anymore”*

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### **What was the immediate impact on your way of teaching after taking the course?**

*The most immediate impact I had after the course was how much I reduced the amount of time spent preparing classes/sessions. I used to spend too much time thinking about what could be interesting for a certain client, or what could get their attention, instead of just asking them! I had the mistaken notion that just by asking them about their interests and hobbies on the first session, I would have enough information to “guess” what they needed for the rest of the year. Now I know precisely what questions to ask in order for me to find out what they need, and I don’t waste time guessing anymore.*

### **Were there any impacts on your personal life during or after the course?**

*Learning about coaching and about neuroscience has had a strong impact on my personal life. I am now more aware of what goes on in my brain when I’m having a certain feeling, and that makes it much easier to find a solution or at least to lower the drama and be able to rationalize the situation, which is always very helpful. The coaching method has helped me deal with my relationship with others, I am able to communicate better and come to faster and better agreements.*

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*“I’m feeling more confident, I know exactly what to do and what to say when a potential client contacts me”*

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### **How was your professional development after the course?**

*I’m feeling more confident, I know exactly what to do and what to say when a potential client contacts me. The first session (initial interview) has saved me a lot of time and energy by being able to get acquainted with the candidate before making any arrangements. I feel more confident to charge more and value my hours of work.*

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*“LCC has dramatically changed the way I deliver language. I can now teach grammar in a much friendlier way, grammar is no longer the “boring” or “frightening part” of my sessions”*

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### **How has the course changed the way you deliver a language course?**

*LCC has dramatically changed the way I deliver language. I can now teach grammar in a much friendlier way, a way in which clients feel curious and confident, taking control of the topics that we are working on, and being able to choose activities that most suit them. Grammar is no longer the “boring” or “frightening part” of my sessions 😊*

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*“My learners now feel more confident about themselves, some of them have told me their self-esteem has increased since coming to my sessions”*

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**How would you describe the impact you are now having as a language coach on your learners?**

*My learners now feel more confident about themselves, some of them have told me their self-esteem has increased since coming to my sessions. Coaching is about positive reinforcement, finding the learner’s abilities and tools, which for most are hidden or unaware. Many of them have also told me that with other teachers, in past experiences, they were feeling uncomfortable, inhibited or intimidated, whereas with me they have felt at ease, comfortable, confident, more interesting and fun, which has led them to speak more and improve their foreign language in a way they had never believed possible.*

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*“Taking the LCC has led me to proudly say “I’m a certified and accredited Neurolanguage Coach®”, what an amazing feeling!”*

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**Is there any additional information that you would like to add?**

*I’d like to emphasize how grateful I am for having had such an amazing experience. Taking the LCC has led me to proudly say “I’m a certified and accredited Neurolanguage Coach®”, what an amazing feeling! Although I feel that I still have a lot to learn and to take in, because Rachel shares a lot of information that our brains can take in, but when we’re out in the field it’s only experience that can make us truly wonderful coaches. I wish I can continue passing on some of the fantastic energy that was given to me during my certification experience. If you’re in doubt about taking the LCC, don’t hesitate! Just do it. Trust me, you’ll be forever thankful to yourself for doing it 😊*

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