**PORTFOLIO INFORMATION and FAQ**

1. **What is the portfolio?**

The portfolio assignment has two parts:

1. **Collection of 10 Artifacts** and explanations (around 300 words) of each of the artifacts.
2. **Synthesizing Statement**, *of approximately 2,500-3,000 words, reflecting upon, and evaluating the learning trajectory that the candidate has undergone over the course of the program, and demonstrating how the portfolio content provides both evidence of this, and evidence that the course standards have been achieved.*

The portfolio will be submitted in digital form during your final semester.

1. **What do you mean by artifacts?**

These can be almost anything. Examples of artifacts might include the following:

* a representative selection of coursework assignments
* journal or blog entries (or a summary thereof)
* worksheets, handouts and other original materials for classroom use
* reflections on classroom experience
* case studies of learners
* presentation slides
* videos of teaching
* summaries of, or selections from discussion board participation during the program;
* classroom observation feedback from supervisors
* research undertaken during the program although not necessarily as a required part of the program.
1. **What is the portfolio course?**

It’s a 1 credit course that gives you a chance to compile your artifacts and work on your learning statement with the help of an instructor.

1. **What can new students do now (and throughout their studies) to prepare for the portfolio assignment?**
2. Save your files and other artifacts.
(Consider USBs and the cloud as well as the blog itself)
3. Continually think about potential artifacts.
4. Consider your potential personal criteria for including artifacts.
5. Reflect on key takeaways and experiences from your MATESOL courses.
6. Reflect on key takeaways and experiences from outside your courses.
7. Keep the portfolio in the back of your mind throughout your time on the MA.
8. Create a blog using the following instructions:
<https://snuka-lep.newschool.edu/canvas/matesol/blogs/blogs.html>
(Please note that the pictures don’t exactly match what you will see on your screen but the steps are the same)
9. **Can I see some samples of portfolios?**

Sure. Here are two:
(More samples will be offered during the portfolio course)

1. <http://jennifer4444.edublogs.org>
2. <http://portfolio.newschool.edu/westa521/>
3. **Can you pass along any advice from previous portfolio students?**

Here are some thoughts from previous portfolio students:

* *The key learnings were that I've made progress in the program and that I know what areas need improvements. This portfolio was a good way to see progress and could be useful in developing new goals.*
* *Selecting the artifacts and creating the portfolio blog really is a fantastic way to take stock of all the learning and experiences that happen over the MA TESOL. This is valuable because at times things move so quickly that we’re left in the blur of the whirlwind! I would say that in our field, nothing is ever “finished” and the work we do has relevance going forward, whether that is in our teaching/training or in further projects we might take on. The portfolio is a great go-to to refer to or show our work in certain areas, not to mention how very motivating it can be to survey all of one’s accomplishments!*
* *Reflection is fun! You will get out of this assignment what you put into it. If you enjoy the journey, this is really just giving you a guided tour of your own success! It really does feel wonderful to think of how far you have come and what you have accomplished.*

**What is the purpose?**