

Dear members of the selection committee

I currently work as a high school teacher in Denmark where I teach both physics and chemistry.

As teaching is my passion, I always try to improve my teaching from lesson to lesson and from year to year. For me it is very important not to be stuck in old habits, but to keep up with new pedagogical research, incorporating new teaching methods so that the students are met with the highest standards every day.

My teaching revolves around experiments, which are the cornerstone of both physics and chemistry. I believe that if the students can see the consequences of the theory they have read in the book with their own eyes, they will understand it more quickly and to a deeper extent.

The students need to do hands-on experiments, sometimes with a lot of guidance and other times more inquiry based. I believe that a variety of teaching methods will help reach more students as they all learn best in different ways.

I am great at motivating students – even the ones who do not want to be motivated. What I enjoy the most about teaching is the moment when the students finally understand something that they thought they would never understand.

I am the science coordinator and talent counselor at my current school where my job is to develop after-school offers for students that have a special talent for, or interest in, science. This year I completed the formal training to become a talent counselor, and, therefore, have tools to spot talents of all kinds – not only the usual grade-A-students.

I am engaged in the Danish Physics Olympiad and I was a part of the organizational team during the International Physics Olympiad in Copenhagen in 2013. Organizing and motivating students for the Olympiad is hard work, but also great fun and something I would like to do at AICS.

I enjoy the brilliant students, but my heart has a special place for the students who need an extra helping hand. I know that physics and chemistry is not the first choice for all students, but I genuinely believe that all students can get through (and enjoy it along the way) if guided properly.

Interdisciplinary collaborations are a large (and required) part of the Danish high school system and, therefore, I am good at coming up with interesting and enjoyable problems that the students can solve, combining their knowledge and abilities in sometimes seemingly unrelated subjects.

During my university studies, I worked as a substitute teacher at my old high school, which is an IB World School. Until now, I have only taught in the Danish high school system, but I have knowledge of the IB system from my high school time, from my year as faculty at the school and from talking to my mother who has been an IB-teacher for more than 10 years.

My only experience with teaching students younger than 15 years old is from my time as an explainer at Experimentarium, the science center in Copenhagen. There I enjoyed teaching classes of the MYP-age group about everything from renewable energy to the chemistry behind chocolate and the function of our heart and lungs.

I am moving to Amsterdam with my husband and our two children (aged 2 and 4) in August 2020 where my husband starts his new position at The University of Amsterdam.

With me as part of your faculty, you will always be met with a smile and with the highest professionalism.

Kind regards,

Turi Kirstine Schäffer