



Future Times

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Future Skill Use in M.Ed. program?

Claire has learned much about technology and research in her research assistantship work with Donna Knowles, Claire's research assistantship supervisor. Claire has learned how to use qualitative research analysis software competently and has learned how to conduct coding analysis on collected data. Claire and Donna's research analysis involves analyzing students' electronic reflections pertaining to their learning development. When asked what skills Claire might use in her Master of Education program, Claire said that she might use the software that she has learned in her work and thought the coding analysis would be very helpful in her proposed research project.

Inadvertently, Claire also mentions that she discovered much about herself and her learning by reading other students' reflections on learning, while she worked on the coding analysis in her research assistantship. As Claire describes, being an international student at Brock is difficult as she does not interact much with the other students who are enrolled in the M.Ed. program. The fact that the M.Ed. program at Brock caters mostly to part-time students adds to this difficulty as many students have day jobs and attend classes in the evenings. By reading about students who are trying to understand their learning, Claire was able to look to herself to understand how she learns and what she could gain from the research she was working on. As Claire explains:

I come to know about different ideas about the students because their internal feelings are out [in the form of reflections]. With the reflections, I come to know that other people [learners like myself] are having the same feelings that I am having. I can read that they have the same kind of questions and the same kind of fears. (interview transcript)

Further Education? Future Career Plans?

When I asked Claire if she was thinking about pursuing further higher education, she answered, "You mean to say after master's [degree]?...I don't know." Donna Knowles felt that Claire did seem keen to engage in further education. As Donna explains:

I don't think we've actually talked about doctoral studies, but certainly she asks lots of

questions. So while we're sitting next to each other doing the coding, she's also asking me questions about graduate student life, and other things that make me think that probably she's considering further studies. (interview transcript)

Regardless of her decision to continue her education at the Ph.D. level, Claire did seem certain that she would like to return to work in development in her home country. The projects that she has worked on in the past have required further research skills and research training. Claire also has an interest in Canada and Canada's education system. So by enrolling at Brock University in Canada, Claire hit two birds with one stone. As Claire says, "I wanted to learn more [research] skills, but I also wanted to know about Canada's education system."

