

Dimitrios Koumoulis, Ph.D.

Statement of Teaching and Philosophy

My teaching experience began during my graduate studies at the Department of Chemical Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens, Greece. It involved group and one-to-one teaching of weekly lectures and lab tutoring on Physical Chemistry, Thermodynamics and Inorganic Chemistry for two years. This process provided me with the confidence that I can successfully serve as teaching staff in any type of course, both theoretical and experimental, with a small or large number of students.

Additionally, as a Ph.D. student at the National Center of Scientific Research "Demokritos", Greece, I served as a teaching assistant (TA) for three years. I was a TA for the Physical Chemistry, Thermodynamics and Electrochemistry. These three courses combined various duties and teaching skills. I had to prepare the lab handouts and to give lectures on different topic each week as well as to organize weekly tests and give grading. This invaluable experience provided me with essential teaching skills because of a daily interaction with students. Additionally, during this period of time, I participated in the writing of a new textbook on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. I had thus the chance, within its scope, to practice my writing skills in advanced level of both physics and chemistry.

During my postdoctoral appointment at UCLA and as an Assistant Professor at ShanghaiTech University, I have served as a mentor for four graduate students and several undergraduate students. I have instructed them in a wide range of tasks from experimental topics on Inorganic chemistry, Physical Chemistry and instrumental analysis *e.g.* Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to advanced topics in condensed matter physics. I managed to inspire the students to truly try to solve their experimental questions on their own and taught them how to perform analytical and numerical calculations for the analysis of their data. The overall experience that I obtained from my academic career has been now translated into a know-how for my teaching performance both in classroom and the laboratory.

Statement of Contributions to Diversity

Diversity, equity and inclusion are words that can describe a dynamic and highly motivating working or educative environment, where innovation and excellence can arise. I strongly believe that this is the necessary foundation in order for intellectual interactions to occur and for knowledge to be transformed into progress and success, especially in the culturally diverse and on the same time highly competitive society that we live in.

Regarding my contributions to diversity, my own background and educational choices reveal my personal desire to be challenging myself in different environments, both culturally and educationally. In addition, education equity is a term that holds an indubitable importance, as it emphasizes the main core of the education itself; and this is to be inclusive and universal. During my academic career, I have had the opportunity as a student and later as researcher, to be part of a number of different societies, universities and research institutes in several countries (Italy, Greece, Poland, Germany, China, USA and Canada). This has offered me the invaluable experience to be exposed to and closely observe a plethora of educational systems and lifestyles, as well as their interaction with populations of distinct identities. Both as a teacher and a researcher, I was faced with situations where the audience of the classes or the collaborative teams of my research activities comprised colleagues of separate majors, with greatly varying scientific knowledge and multicultural background. To overcome this challenge, I tried to adjust my teaching and joint style accordingly and adopt multiple strategies to ensure adequate learning for all students and fruitful collaborations with my coworkers. Definitely, my exposure to different kind of socio-economic and cultural manifestations strongly affected my personality and enhanced my personal skills for readjusting and developing of new working strategies and methodology based on the philosophy, expectations and standard practices as perceived by our different cultural background.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Dimitrios Koumoulis