

## **ALBA FRANCO**

Boston University

Wheelock College of Education & Human Development

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## **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. in Education (Language and Literacy), Boston University, 2024–Present;
  - M.A. in Educational Policy, Foundations, and Practice, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2023;
  - M.A. in Pedagogical Studies, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, 2021;
  - B.A. in History (Major) and Philosophy (Minor), University of Palermo, 2016.
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## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Language, identity, and power dynamics in multilingual classrooms;
  - Educational equity and inclusive practices for bilingual and multilingual students;
  - Language education policies and their impact on linguistically and culturally diverse students;
  - Heritage language development in educational contexts.
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## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Graduate Research Assistant, BU Wheelock Institute for Early Childhood Well-Being, Fall 2024–Spring 2025

- Project: *Nuestros Niños Professional Development Program*
  - Classroom observation and data collection;
  - Conducted assessments of language proficiency to evaluate bilingual students' language acquisition.
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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

English Teacher, Agência de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social, Fortaleza, Brazil, Winter 2024

- Developed curricula and lesson plans to promote bilingual students' language skills.
- Fostered a culturally inclusive learning environment that celebrated linguistic diversity.

Preschool Teacher's Assistant, CU Boulder Children's Center, Fall 2022

- Assisted in creating inclusive and developmentally appropriate educational experiences for preschool-aged children.
- Developed and facilitated social-emotional learning activities for young learners.

Learning Facilitator, Herbst Academic Center, CU Boulder, Fall 2022

- Provided academic support to student-athletes, assisting in achieving weekly academic objectives.

Italian Language Teacher, WAATI, Canning Vale College, Perth, Australia, Spring 2021

After-School Teacher, Concrea, Palermo, Italy, 2020–2021

- Provided personalized academic support to students in after-school programs for k-12 students within the Palermo district.

Language Instructor, KSA-School of Fashion Design, Kraków, Poland, 2020

- Conducted Online Italian language classes for groups, pairs, and individual students online.

Preschool Teacher's Assistant, La Zolla, Milan, Italy, 2018–2019

- Supported early language development through interactive storytelling and play-based activities.

Lecturer, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, Summer 2015

- Taught the course *Italian as a Foreign Language*, fostering cultural appreciation and Italian language skills to undergraduate students.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Program Leader, Fulbright Pre-Academic Program, IEC CU Boulder, Summer 2023  
Support academic success and cultural adaptation for international Fulbright scholars.
  - Assistant Program Manager, Academic Success and Achievement Program, CU Boulder, 2022–2023
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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

National Volunteer Service, Sicily, 2021

- Mentored high school students from low-income backgrounds, bridging educational gaps.
- Taught Italian to migrant students while raising awareness about colonial and assimilationist educational frameworks.

Language Mentor, University of Palermo, Summer 2014

- Guided international students in Italian language courses, fostering cross-cultural communication and language proficiency.

Teacher, Dorotka International Preschool, Olsztyn, Poland, 2013

- Taught basic English to preschool-aged children.
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## HONORS AND AWARDS

- Wheelock Doctoral Fellowship, Boston University, 2024–2030
- IRT Scholar, Institute for Recruitment of Teachers, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA, 2023
- Fulbright Scholarship for Italian Citizens, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2022

Awarded for exceptional academic merit and leadership potential in fostering cross-cultural education.

- Erasmus Scholarship, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, 2020
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## CONFERENCES

- Rome Model United Nations, Rome, Italy, 2015
    - Presented on UN regulations, official document writing, and EXPO 2015 topics: *Feeding the Planet*, *Energy for Life*.
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## ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS

- OELA Certification, Office of English Language Acquisition, 2024
- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program:

- Virtual Human Subjects Protection Training: Social & Behavioral Focus, 2024
  - Research with Children Social/Behavioral Research Course, 2024
  - Conflicts of Interest Certification, 2024;
- Graduate Diploma in Montessori Education (Early Childhood), Fondazione Montessori, Trento, 2021;
- Filis Certificate (Licence to Teach Italian as a Foreign Language), Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, 2022;
- Postgraduate Course on ADHD in Educational Settings, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, 2021;
- Summer School Program (Sociology of Race and Labor), UCLA, 2019.