

Bryson Keltner, B.A. English Professional Writing, 2017

By Madelyn Chambers

International Recruitment and Admissions Counselor, Western Kentucky University

“The ability to write well and communicate well is necessary for any position. English is an umbrella because its skills are transferrable to many careers.”



Bryson Keltner graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in Professional Writing and a minor in Journalism Writing. While at WKU, Keltner reported for the [College Heights Herald](#) and served as an ambassador for the [Mahurin Honors College](#), Potter College of Arts & Letters, and [Study Abroad](#). He is currently an International Recruitment and Admissions Counselor for WKU, with an office located in the Honors College and International Center.

Keltner chose to attend WKU for the Mahurin Honors College and the variety of opportunities to study abroad. Keltner got the chance to study through WKU’s [Semester at Sea](#) program in 2014, where he visited 18 countries over four months. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Keltner. “I gained an awareness of the world, and I discovered that there’s always more to learn and see. I also gained an awareness of myself and broke out of my comfort zone.”

Keltner came to WKU as an Agriculture major in the pre-veterinary track but quickly realized that it wasn’t the right program for him. He chose to major in English because “I felt that it was transferrable to any job that I would take on. I didn’t know if I would be in a job that was 100% in an English field, but I thought that it was applicable to any job that I would go into.” The professional writing skills Keltner gained from *Business Writing* and *Technical Writing* courses and the copyediting skills gained in *Editing & Publishing* still play a major role in his job responsibilities today.

After graduating from WKU, Keltner interned as the Media Coordinator for [Harlaxton College](#), a study abroad program in Grantham, England. Keltner returned to WKU in 2018 when WKU’s international departments began reorganizing. “Study Abroad

needed someone as an interim office associate to help with those changes, who already knew the office, so they asked me to come and join them for a while,” said Keltner. As a former Student Representative of Study Abroad, he was the perfect person for the job. Keltner transitioned into his position with International Admissions in June 2019.

As the International Recruitment and Admissions Counselor, Keltner helps international students apply to WKU. He also visits other countries to recruit potential WKU students. “I absolutely did not envision myself in this job, but I discovered that this is kind of perfect for me,” said Keltner. “I love to travel more than anything, I love interacting with people, and I love WKU, so it combined a lot of passions for me.” Keltner is currently planning several recruitment trips to other countries for the department, and he looks forward to visiting Pakistan for international recruitment soon.

Outside of work, Keltner loves to travel to new places, write poetry and blog posts, and spend time with his nieces and nephews. He also loves to reread *To Kill a Mockingbird* because “It’s still 100% relatable, not just for the coming-of-age story but also because of everything happening with political climates and race issues today. It’s not very often that a book can be that old and still that relevant.”

Keltner encourages current English students to remain confident in the value of their degree. “Communication is hard, and writing accurately and professionally is very hard. I think that English is applicable to any career you’re going into, so it’s actually one of the most valuable degrees you can get.”

