

My name is Philip Madden. I am from Rotherham, an industrial town in the North of England not far from Sheffield.

Rotherham is a town built on the industries of coal mining and steel production. Traditionally most of the town's population was employed in these industries, until the mid 80's when many of the coal mines and steel works in the area were closed down. Rotherham still has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the whole of Britain.

Before coming to Poland I lived and worked in Turkey for seven years. I lived in the university city of Eskisehir in central Turkey, where I taught writing and speaking skills at Anadolu University. I also worked as a proofreader, translator and journalist for Turkey's only English language newspaper the 'Turkish Daily News'. Turkey is an interesting country with a rich historical heritage. Many civilisations including the Sumerians, the Hittites, the Greeks, Romans and Byzantines left their mark on the land. Istanbul was the capital of two great empires, the Byzantine and the Ottoman and as a result Istanbul is full of historical buildings, such as the Hagia Sofia mosque.

Finally, I hope I will enjoy my time in Poland and that I will get to see as much of the country as possible.