

2021 Spring Online English-learning programs University of Northern Iowa/USA Fuka Manaka/Sophomore in Faculty of Education

Reason for participation

I joined an online English-learning program held in Leicester, UK. At that time, I was given the opportunity to learn British English. As next step, I then wanted to then learn American English. This is the main reason why I decided to join this program.

Reading lessons

Before every class, students read from their textbooks and answered several questions. During the next lesson, we then had the opportunity to check our new vocabulary and homework answers with teachers.

Speaking & Listening lessons

The main focus of these classes was to prepare students to listen to lectures offered in English-speaking countries. While preparing for these lectures, I learned various things, such as how to tell when lecturing professors are discussing the most important topics or which phases signify vital information.

Classroom discussions

We were given the opportunity to hold discussions once or twice a week. These discussions were held in a group of three or four students, and we talked for fifty minutes at a time.

Teachers

Teachers clearly evaluated my speaking proficiency using a visual score sheet. Thanks to these indicators, I was able to plainly see where my skill level lay and what I needed to improve.



Homework

One particular piece of homework stands out in my memory as helping me make significant progress in my English-speaking skills. This homework was called Taking Notes. The teachers uploaded lectures videos online two or three times a week, and the students practiced taking notes while watching those movies. At first, I could not understand what lecturers in the video were discussing, so I had to watch each movie seven or eight times. However, I gradually came to understand what the speakers were saying more clearly each time. This homework helped me to realize how my English skills were developing.

Conversation partner

I had two conversation partners during the program. They were same age as me and were studying the same major as me—education. We enjoyed talking together about various topics, ranging from education in US and Japan to how to spend holidays. Even after the program finished, we still keep in touch.

Impressions on this program

It was important to me that I learn expressions and phrases used in classroom situations, especially because I want to be an English teacher in the future.

To those who are considering online programs

You should not be bothered by making mistakes in these online lessons. Also, by joining an online program, you can improve your English skills even while the coronavirus crisis continues. If you are considering taking part in an online English-learning program, I highly recommend you join one.