

2021 Spring Online English-learning programs University of Northern Iowa/USA Leilei XIANG / Master's student

Reason for participation

I typically use English to read research papers. Despite that, I was previously under the impression that I could not speak English well, and this prevented me from expressing my opinions very clearly to other people. I felt that in order to improve my speaking skills, I had to gain more experience talking with English-speaking people. Because of this, I decided to take part in this program.

Classes

Lessons were really wonderful. Before participating this program, my only formal experience studying English was in classes with native Chinese teachers. I had begun to believe that I had to take classes taught by native English-speaking teachers in order to improve my English skills, and these classes fit that criteria perfectly.

Conversation Hour

Conversation Hour was an activity in which participants, while divided into small groups, practice speaking English with each other. During this conversational time, I was given the opportunity to talk with various people, including students and teachers alike. I ended up discussing various topics with them, such as movies, hobbies, part-time jobs, and future dreams. These opportunities allowed me to make many friends.



Teacher

I really appreciated the teachers because they were always very welcoming to me. Before the lessons, the teachers took the time to converse with me, and we talked about a wide variety of topics, such as Iowa or the weather. It was very fun to talk with the teachers.

Conversation partner

When I spoke with my conversation partners, I felt I could talk freely, even more so than in group discussions. The teacher did not provide us with a specific subject to talk about, so I felt I could enjoy these free conversations with my partners without worrying about staying on a particular track.

To those who are considering online programs

I would like to encourage all who want to improve their English skills to join an online English-learning program, even if they are afraid of making mistakes. The teachers are very kind, and you can make a lot of friends with people who are studying English hard in these lessons. In this program, there are a lot of opportunities to practice speaking English. You will improve your speaking skills and begin to easily converse others in English.

