Program/University | Pre-Sessional (Academic Literacy) course, C (15 August to 9 September), Oxford Brookes University
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Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following by marking the columns below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>These remarks are about the course</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Assessment of your level of English</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variety of learning methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pace, timing of classes</td>
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<td>Teaching staff</td>
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<td>Administrative staff</td>
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<td>Classrooms: physical impression</td>
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<td>Accommodations</td>
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<td>Other: please list</td>
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Leisure activities: x

These remarks are about you:

Did your level of English improve?
Why/Why not?

I think my academic English surely improved; on the contrary, the course was not so good to improve spoken English, because the largest part of the students were from Japan or China, so we spoke a kind of "international English", not academic at all (and sometimes a bit incorrect). For the same reason, I suppose that my accent didn't get better.

Did you enjoy the programme?
Why/Why not?

I enjoyed it very much, because there were different classes in the morning and in the afternoon (so, for example, grammar class was not too boring, because there were a conversation class immediately after), we did interesting activities and we worked in groups. The writing class in the afternoon was useful and they gave us the possibility to choose and elaborate on our proper topic, hence everyone was actively involved in learning. We did also a presentation with slides for the final exam and it was nice. We listened to three lectures on actuality, which were about English Education system, databases and the possibilities to use western criteria to interpret Chinese art; they were stimulating and the Professors who did them (from Oxford Brookes and from Cambridge) were brilliant.

Prepared June 2006 by Melanie Rockenhaus
Scuola Normale Superiore
Were you challenged by the programme?  
Why/Why not?

Yes, especially by the preparation of the final paper. Some lessons about pronunciation were really boring (because they were dedicated to some sounds Asian students found difficult to articulate), but not terrible after all.

Would you do another course like this one?  
Why/Why not?

I'd really like to do it, because it enabled me to come in touch with a different method of teaching and, especially, a different way of (speaking and) thinking: extremely clear. I'd say. I'd like to improve my academic English very much, because it seems to me that English is a language more direct than Italian, and it gives you an opportunity to compare your personal experience and your opinions with much many people.

Other comments: please add any information you think might be useful to future SNS students:

In my opinion, this course can be extremely useful for two reasons concerning our university life:

1) it gives you the opportunity to improve your academic writing, so you'll be able to make an application at an English university and have good results (N.B. at the end of the course you can get the language certificate necessary to study in GB at least at Oxford Brookes, but they told me it's accepted also by other universities - as a foreign student);

2) it gives you the opportunity to compare Italian and English way of teaching and learning, so you can appreciate their differences.

Moreover, it may be absolutely interesting to note that:

1) it's really good for Italian students to develop a clear, schematic and direct way of writing and speaking, which leads you to think quickly and clearly too; (personally, at the end of the course I thought it would be great to think as a German and to write as an English)

2) working with international students is an important experience to develop a "cross-cultural competence" and to understand effectively similarities and differences between cultures.

I really enjoyed the course and the experience abroad and I'd like to do another course like this. I'm really sorry there's no way to have conversations in English after the third language course at SNS. I think it would be very important to speak and write in English continuously, because it's quite simple to forget a lot of expressions and to lose fluency in spoken English. Note that the course is rather serious: it's not a good choice if you've not enough time to dedicate to it (also because at the end there are three exams, one oral presentation and two written examinations).