



Meet Maria Mayor, Spain

Name: Maria Mayor

From: Spain

Occupation: Graduate

Course:

Quatorial +5 tutorial programme

9th September–22nd December, 2012

Accommodation:

Private

Level of English on entry: A2-B1

Level of English at exit: B2. FCE Pass.

Goal for the course: *To improve her general and business English to successfully pass the Cambridge FCE exam.*

Current use of English: *Once a week*

Main area of English to improve:

- *Listening skills (listening to different accents)*
- *Writing (for academic and general purposes)*
- *Speaking (pronunciation, grammar & intonation)*

Maria is a graduate of finance and accounting who came to OISE with the aim of improving both her general and business English skills, in order to enhance her future career prospects. Maria took her degree from the University of Madrid in June 2012 and focused on improving her English before she embarked on the next step of her career path. She decided that taking the Cambridge FCE exam would be the next stage of her English study, concluding that the First Certificate will improve her prospects as she looks both at home and abroad.

In Maria's early weeks at OISE her lessons mainly worked at widening her vocabulary, honing her reading and listening skills, and recapping the essential grammatical structures that constitute the FCE syllabus. After this we worked at honing Maria's exam technique, especially in the Use of English section of the paper.

Maria's progress

Half way through her course, Maria could speak confidently in English and her listening skills improved considerably. The next stage of her course was to focus on her accuracy in grammar and improve her writing skills.

Maria has worked hard throughout her time here to improve all aspects of her English, and leaves with a level of English that is both a great springboard to further study, and will be incredibly useful in her future career in finance. She has made the most of her time here, and has been an enthusiastic and committed student.

*Rory Groves-McKeown,
Private tutor at OISE London*



"I have enjoyed my time at OISE London. The programme was great and it gave me plenty of hours to improve. At the beginning of the class, the teacher would give us preparation time which was great and as a result, I was never put on the spot and I was never stressed. The school is great and most importantly the teachers are fantastic. They treat students very well and always make sure that we are at ease. I think with a bit of effort, you can learn a lot at OISE".

Maria Mayor,

Examples of Maria's programme throughout her stay

Quatorial Lessons	Tutorial lessons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and Reading Comprehension of Authentic Material - including specific language (Colloquial and idiomatic language from television programmes, newspaper language from articles in papers such as <i>The Guardian</i> and <i>The Independent</i>). • Negotiating - practising negotiating skills in various contexts, with ranging levels of formality, using advanced negotiating language. • Advising and Suggesting - using structures of varying levels of formality to advise and give suggestions to other class members in different contexts. • Telephone English - focusing on the various challenges of production and comprehension that communicating in English over the telephone pose. • Social English - equipping the learner with language for social interaction, inputting a wide range of idiomatic language and phrasal verb. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoken Accuracy - working to removing fossilised errors, using techniques such as audio recording to allow Maria to evaluate which areas needed to improve. • Listening - listening to a variety of texts of both native and non-native speakers and listening for gist. • Grammar - narrative tense, conditional, relative clauses, advance passive structures. • FCE Exam Preparation - sentence transformation and word transformation. • Spoken Fluency - working with discourse markers, discussing topics such as work, family and current affairs. • Extending lexical range of vocabulary, different ways of meeting and greeting people (How are you/ How do you do?)

Tutorial lessons

When Maria arrived at OISE London, her weaknesses were both her listening and comprehension skills and especially her speaking skills.

In her tutorial lessons, Maria focused on listening to different accents as well as improving her spoken English and grammar through various techniques such as recording herself to evaluate herself.

Three weeks away from the end of her training, we could see a significant improvement and we were confident that she would succeed in her Cambridge FCE exam. She passed the exam in December!

Quatorial Programme +5 Timetable

News Review	15 minutes
Quatorial lesson	30 minute pre-lesson preparation 1.5 hour lesson
Quatorial lesson	30 minute pre-lesson preparation 1 hour lesson
Quatorial Project	30 minutes
Tutorial lesson	1 hour
Spoken Performance Workshop	1 hour

Level of English at course completion: B2

Maria's biggest achievements at OISE: Maria's biggest achievements were her listening & comprehension skills and, although she still makes grammatical errors when speaking, she has strongly improved her range of vocabulary.

