



## Student success – Fabio Pessoa Rodrigues, Brazil



**Fabio spent 8 weeks at OISE London. It was his first visit to London and the UK so it was a formative experience for him on many levels.**

Fabio's focus was to strengthen his communication skills in English on both a social and professional level. As someone who enjoys travelling, meeting and conversing with people from different backgrounds and nationalities is important to him. As a civil engineer involved with construction projects that are often joint ventures, international cross-cultural communication in business is key. Fabio aimed to increase his vocabulary and use of expressions/phrases in a formal and informal context (written and spoken).

He participated well in class, leading discussions and exchanging ideas. He worked very hard at improving his communication through focused exercises on his pronunciation, intonation and general verbal skills, as well as the finer points of language such as being able to share an opinion diplomatically. Continued practise of negotiation and presentation skills with weekly group tasks have helped develop his use of business English vocabulary in a variety of professional contexts.

As a result of his studies he:

- increased his knowledge of cultures and cultural differences and these now inform his use of language
- developed his self-confidence in order to make presentations in front of an audience
- revised and practised grammar structures and form and enhanced his accuracy in spoken and written contexts
- plans, designs and gives strong presentations, understanding the difference between formal and informal language when appropriate
- participates in business meetings confidently and effectively, asking for and giving information on past, current and potential construction projects.

**Name:** Fabio Pessoa Rodrigues

**From:** Sao Paulo, Brazil

**Occupation:** Civil Engineer

**Course:** Quatorial Solo Programme  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2016–27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Level of English on entry:** B1

**Level of English on exit:** B2

### Goals for the course:

- Improve his English for both his personal life and professional development as a self-employed engineer
- Achieve a richer vocabulary to participate in conversation with confidence and comfort

### Current Use of English:

He only occasionally uses English in conversation with international clients. Reading documentation for work and some reading for pleasure helps to increase his vocabulary.

### Main areas of English to improve:

- Pronunciation and intonation to be better understood
- Developing listening skills for professional dialogue
- Reading and understanding complex written English
- Grammar practise for increased accuracy

“The classes are interesting. I love the classes where you have to discuss, argue, share a point of view. I always feel the need to improve and to move forward and that is what I do in lessons- trying to do new things and trying to understand. It is possible to spend time with people from other cultures, hear different accents and I am constantly trying to follow voices and ideas. The teachers make the effort to understand you and the students work hard to understand each other! I have had my mind opened to other cultures, ideas and needs. I am a curious person so this is the best place for me to be.” Fabio Pessoa

“Fabio has been a motivated and pro-active learner. He has achieved his main goals. He feels more confident speaking English shown in his ability to converse with different people about a variety of subjects both professional and personal. He has taken advantage of being in the UK by visiting other places at weekends. He has also developed his listening and understanding skills and has become an excellent communicator in English.” Katherine Roberts, Academic Manager

### COMPANY VISIT

Fabio works in the construction business and through business contacts at OISE London, we were able to set up two business meetings for him with a construction company working on a major transport project. This proved to be extremely useful for Fabio as he was able to test his language skills in an authentic environment. The meetings involved asking questions about the project, doing business in the UK, discussing the pitfalls and challenges of relocating to another country to live and work and finished with a spectacular view of the construction site from a viewing platform. The experience was invaluable to Fabio as he realized how much he had improved in both communicating his thoughts and ideas and in his overall confidence.