



OISE Oxford

Student Case Study  
IELTS success story

# Student Case Study at OISE Oxford

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Po-Chen , 19 - Taiwan  
Hospitality and Tourism Diploma  
at International Management Institute  
Lucerne, Switzerland  
Course: Quatorial + 5h Tutorial IELTS



**Why did you need to learn English?** “I came to England in October 2017 with no English at all. I needed to get 5.5 on the IELTS to apply for IMI in Switzerland.

**What were you looking for in a course?** “My English was so bad I needed really experienced teachers and a school where I could just focus on studying and practising for the IELTS exam.”

**Why did you choose OISE?** “Because OISE is for serious students and would prepare me for the test and make sure I was as prepared as possible. The teachers are also very experienced and challenge you as much as possible. I liked the convenience of the city centre and being in class with other motivated professionals.”

**Describe your experience in three words?** “Challenge, focus, life-changing”

# Tutor Profile

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Tina Ewens – BA Hons English and Drama

Diploma TEFL – 30+ years experience

**Why did OISE choose this course for this student?** “Po-Chen (Elsa) came to us with a very limited language set but with the clear goal of getting 5.5 on the IELTS. This motivation was key to providing Elsa with the input required to achieve what she needed. We felt that the Tutorial Programme was absolutely necessary for the first few months, in order to build up her language awareness before tackling the test. The Tutorial allows complete personal attention from the academic team, allowing for a bespoke course to be built around her needs.”

*Lucy Bucknall, Educational Leader*

**Why did we choose Tina for this student?** “With over thirty years of experience teaching groups and 1:1s, Tina knows how to get the best out of her students, giving them the confidence to believe in their own abilities. Tina is extremely skilled at finding the adequate level of challenge to push the student to benefit as much as possible within the short time frame, whilst being careful not to overwhelm with too much input. Striking that balance between challenge and realistic expectation is key.

*Edward Alden, Principal*

*“Before our first tutorial I read the Pre-course Needs Analysis which Elsa had completed. This tells me about her reasons and motivation for studying English, how she hopes to use English after leaving OISE and what her expectations of the course are. With this information in mind, I aim to provide Elsa with the tools and skills to achieve her goals. I hope and expect the students I coach will be motivated and keen to continue learning long after they’ve left OISE”*

*“In Elsa’s case, I knew that she was a young student from Taiwan with ambitions to study hospitality management in Switzerland. Her goals were straightforward. She needed 5.5 on the IELTS within 4 months and had never seen the test before. It was clear from our first tutorial that Elsa’s level was limited to basic interaction and her pronunciation needed a lot of immediate attention. We started with subject-verb clauses and added layers of grammar as we went, supplementing with additional vocabulary and getting Elsa to express herself both verbally and in written form. We spent the first month building up her confidence before we tackled the first part of the exam.*

*I start tutorial courses usually by getting students to talk in detail about their lives and interests. This personalisation is key. In Elsa’s case this was challenging as her vocabulary was limited, although I do find this approach is generally appreciated and motivates students to share their enthusiasms. Intensity and challenge is the most important, as in my experience I find that the more you push, the more the student is surprised by their own abilities. Without the challenge, improvement will always be limited. We wanted Elsa to have no regrets.*

*After four months of hard work, I was personally delighted when Elsa managed to get 5.5 on her first attempt! It was a wonderful experience looking back on our classes with Elsa, and seeing the language development she had made in those four months. I have to admit, I was slightly apprehensive about her achieving 5.5 in such a short space of time, and especially at the first attempt. It just goes to show that with hard work and the right attitude, and a good support system, anything is possible.*

*Tina Ewens, OISE Oxford Tutor*

*For information and enrolments*

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