

Online Pre-sessional Student Case Studies

Mengshu, from Jinan, China

Mengshu graduated from university in China and studied Environmental Design at a college in Tokyo. After working as an officer, she decided to change career path and applied to study a Master's in Marketing for the Creative Industries at the University of Leicester. Her desire is to one day create a media company or become a university professor. She is currently studying the Module C online pre-sessional programme with the ELTU to improve her English skills.



When Mengshu started the online course, she felt unconfident in her English abilities but now she can express opinions freely and with ease. She finds Grammar Doctor sessions useful as they help solve problems in an engaging way and regards social activities such as Reading Club 'relaxing' and valuable to improve her speaking and listening skills. She finds online study beneficial as it allows free time to plan self-study and flexibility in daily activities. The personal tutorial sessions give her time to talk to her tutor and exchange ideas and opinions.

When starting the course, Mengshu recommends that students manage their time efficiently and create a study plan. She emphasises that having the confidence to communicate is important, especially when students need further clarification. She states, 'don't be shy' as the teachers are 'very warm' and send regular emails to help students make the most of their time on the course. She feels students may find the course challenging at the beginning but emphasises that they should use every opportunity to practice their English skills.

Gloria, from Shan Xi, China

Gloria graduated with a degree in Broadcasting and Hosting at college in China. She is currently studying the 20-week Module C pre-sessional course online at the ELTU and plans to study a Master's in Mass Communications at the University of Leicester. Her career aspiration is to become a teacher in communications or media. She decided to study at the ELTU due to its 'experienced teachers' and regards it as a 'learning institution with a good reputation'.



Gloria finds studying online beneficial, as students can use the teaching materials, such as videos of lessons and exercises without limitation. She enjoys participating in social engagement activities, such as Reading Circle and English Club, as they provide her with a 'rich' experience and knowledge not available in textbooks. The discussion boards allow her and classmates to explore and express their opinions over a multitude of topics.

Her advice for new online students would be 'don't worry' and to 'enjoy the experience' by utilising the online tools and activities. She believes that the staff at the ELTU are 'responsible' and resolve any issues students may have via email quickly. She also feels the ELTU is a 'warm, big family' where you can connect to students from different countries.

Yasemin, from Turkey

Yasemin is currently balancing time studying Module B online and looking after her children. She previously studied Business Administration and plans to study IT further at the University of Leicester. She decided to study at the ELTU because it is a 'professional language education' institution and a great opportunity to learn.

Yasemin enjoys studying online by using modern software and feels this is helpful to improve IT as well as English skills. She finds online lessons useful and the fact they are recorded allows her to watch them again if she misses information or wants to repeat a topic. She also attends online social activities such as Newspod, which she describes as 'professional' and 'interesting' as the teacher allows for practice and feedback on complex speaking skills in an engaging setting.

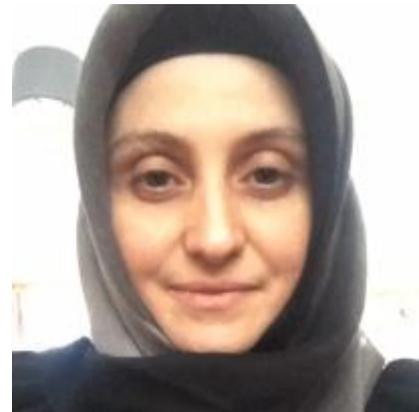
The advice she would give to future students is to be responsible for your learning, make a timetable and check your email account every day. While the course is challenging, it is important to be 'confident'. She describes the ELTU as 'feeling like home' where everyone is cheerful, and students are free to ask for what they need in their learning from teachers.

Yang from Xi'An, China

Yang graduated from the Changchun Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and is currently studying Module C online at the ELTU. Once he finishes, he will start a Master's degree in Engineering Management at the University of Leicester. He decided to study at the ELTU to experience British culture, improve his English skills, and job prospects.

Yang describes the ELTU as a 'warm hearted' and 'friendly' place where every teacher is caring and considerate of students. The ELTU offers Yang a new way to study from his experiences in China and teachers who care about the progress of their students. Yang enjoys meeting and talking to people from a variety of nationalities and feels the ELTU is not just about learning, but a great chance to meet friends and make memories.

Yang uses online tools to help improve his English, such as discussion groups on Blackboard and engagement sessions to practice speaking. Some students have a fear of speaking English, but Yang emphasises that teachers communicate with students well and encourage practice. He recommends students be prepared to read a lot of literature, have a strong Wi-Fi connection and states tutorials are a great way to discuss new ideas.



Fangnan from Guangdong, China

Fangnan graduated from the Wuhan College of Media and Communication and has worked as a reporter on TV where she would conduct public interest stories in China. Fangnan is currently studying Module D online at the ELTU. She decided to study at the ELTU to improve her English for postgraduate study and to go on to complete a Master's degree in Media and Public Relations.

Fangnan describes the ELTU as 'friendly' and her teachers as 'patient', taking the time to help students improve their English, whilst providing a good environment to practice English. She states one of the ways teachers do this is by providing advice in online lessons and via email. On Blackboard teachers provide a lot of material and there are numerous options and ways for students to improve their learning.

Fangnan finds studying online allows her to manage time freely but emphasises students need to be proactive in their learning. Her advice would be to trust the teachers whose aim is to help students achieve the best outcome in exams and become successful in their studies. She advises students to be confident and ask questions as the ELTU teachers will always try their best to help in any scenario.

