

Meet Ivan Mistretta, Sicily

Academic Year Programme, 10 October 2010 - 1 July 2011



Why did you choose Central School of English?

I choose to study at CSE because when I came here for the first time, to meet the staff and see the school, I immediately felt like I was with my friends, it was very helpful for me

What do you think is the hardest area of English for Italian speakers?

*I think the most difficult area is the exact translation that Italian students always do. I advise them to overcome this defect by watching English films, reading books and speaking with people of other nationalities as much as possible.**

* All quotes are direct quotes from the student

Monthly meetings - continuous assessment

Laura McKenzie, the Director of Studies, meets with all long-term students monthly to assess and track their progress. Setting clear goals ensures they are constantly challenged whilst studying. Laura's meetings with Ivan have pinpointed writing as an area for improvement. Laura sets Ivan a weekly writing task and spends one-to-one time each week discussing and correcting his work.

"Ivan is a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual. He has made a lot of progress so far and I am positive he will go on to achieve the IELTS score he desires."

Laura McKenzie, Director of Studies

"I'm from Sicily in Italy, I just finished High School before coming to London to improve my English skills and I am hoping to start at university here because I think it will be the best choice for my future career and to form myself as my own person"*

Ivan's progress at Central School of English

The table below details Ivan's progress throughout his course at CSE. From his first day placement test, to his current level of English, to the Director of Studies' plan for Ivan's continuing programme.

Ivan's first day	The Central School first day grammar and spoken test placed Ivan at a pre-intermediate (L2) level Assessed weaknesses: <i>Grammar, speaking and writing</i> Goal for the course: <i>To achieve a high score in IELTS for university entrance</i>
October - November	<p style="text-align: center;">Pre-intermediate (L2) Accuracy & Skills: 09.00 - 13.00</p> <p>Grammar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First conditional - Comparatives and superlatives - Present simple/continuous - Future time clauses <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collocations; 'make' and 'do' - Jobs and lifestyle - Compound nouns - 'ed' / 'ing' adjectives
December	<p style="text-align: center;">Lower-Intermediate (L3) Accuracy & Skills: 09.00 - 13.00</p> <p>Grammar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Past simple - Present perfect - Relative clauses - Second + third conditionals <p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personality adjectives - Health idioms - Transport phrasal verbs - Extreme adjectives
January - February	<p style="text-align: center;">Upper-Intermediate (L4) Accuracy & Skills: 09.00 - 13.00</p> <p>Grammar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active/Passive - Modal verbs - Future perfect - Past-perfect continuous <p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business phrasal verbs - Synonyms and Homonyms - Word building - Media & advertising
<p>Ivan now has a solid understanding of grammar and accuracy in English but needs to work on his Fluency and conversation skills before progressing onto IELTS Preparation. The plan for the rest of his stay is:</p>	
March	<p style="text-align: center;">Upper-Intermediate (L4) Fluency & Skills: 12.00 - 16.00</p> <p>Speaking & Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Telephone conversations; <i>formal and informal</i> - Talking about your future; <i>natural rhythm in speech</i> - Discussing and reviewing films - Recognising sentence stress and practising it in speech
April	<p style="text-align: center;">Advanced (L5) Accuracy & Skills: 09.00 - 13.00</p> <p>Grammar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State & active verbs - Cleft sentences - Hypothetical past situations - Gerund & infinitive patterns <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collocations & expressions with 'mind' - Nouns from phrasal verbs - Money idioms - Formal/informal expressions
May - June	<p style="text-align: center;">IELTS Preparation Standard: 09.00 - 13.00</p> <p>Speaking - Speaking at length, personal priorities, expressing reasons, giving opinions</p> <p>Reading - Predicting content, skimming and scanning</p> <p>Listening - Note completion, listening for detail, identifying key information, understanding accents</p> <p>Writing - Analysing information, summarising key points, structuring an argument, justifying opinion</p>

Ivan's goal is to achieve a score of 7.5 in the IELTS exam in July

