



Studying Abroad: Improving your IELTS response

Read the example and think about how to improve it.

I think it is a great idea to study abroad. Although there are those who believe that they should not study abroad. Those people think that studying abroad costs a lot of money. But studying abroad offers a better experience than money. I have two reasons why studying abroad is a great idea.

First of all, studying abroad gives you direct exposure to another country's culture. Nowadays, globalization is progressing in the world, and it is necessary to understand not only Japanese culture but also other culture. Understanding the other person's culture leads to better communication. By studying abroad, you can communicate with people who have completely different customs, religions, and common sense from Japan. This kind of experience cannot be had in Japan. Therefore, I think that you should study abroad to deepen your understanding of different cultures.

Second reason why university students should study abroad is efficient in developing language skills. In case of English, Japanese students focus on reading, which is required for university entrance exams, and rarely learn how to communicate through speaking and listening. Study abroad and you will be exposed to a native foreign language. Also, while studying abroad, you have to do everything around you by yourself, so you have to communicate in a foreign language even you don't want to. At first, you may feel anxious about many things you cannot do, but once you overcome them, you will gain confidence in yourself.

For these reasons mentioned above, I think that studying abroad is good for university students.

<https://studyabroad.ncsu.edu/benefits-of-studying-abroad/>

How can you improve the writing?

The answer provided was good but not persuasive as it focuses on one side of the argument. Below, we use the previous information to write a stronger response on why studying abroad is not a good idea.

Creating counter-argument

Hedging phrases: may / might / could

I think studying abroad may seem advantageous but I feel that one needs to look carefully at the programme. There are those who believe that this experience can lead to improvement in cultural awareness and language ability but I am not so convinced. I have two concerns about why studying in another country might not be such a great idea.

First of all, students may believe that studying abroad gives you direct exposure to another country's culture. However, this is not the case if you are unable to make friends. Understanding the other person's culture **could** lead to better communication but it requires you to actually communicate with people from that country. You **may** feel anxious about things you cannot do which **could** cause you to lose confidence in your English abilities. Often is the case that the host family **might** not feel the need to interact with the international student. There have also been occasions where the host family **may** provide poor quality accommodation and **may** take advantage of the student. As a result, such experience **could** have an adverse effect and Japanese students **may** learn more about the negative aspects of the culture they are learning about.

The second reason why university students do not need to study abroad is that it is possible to develop your language skills efficiently without having to travel. While it seems obvious that you can improve your English skills, it is not the only way to do this. It is true that Japanese students focus on reading as this is required for university entrance exams which has resulted in few opportunities to communicate through speaking and listening. However, going abroad is not the only way to resolve this by going to another country to improve your speaking. Technology, for example, can provide the opportunity for university students in Japan to reach native English speakers. You **could**, therefore, be exposed to a native foreign language without the concern of spending a lot of money. Instead, you can comfortably learn from the safety of your own home.

As a result, for these reasons mentioned above, I think that studying abroad is not necessarily the best way for university students to improve their English.