



LE FUTUR DE L'INFORMATIQUE,  
LE MEILLEUR DE L'INNOVATION



# My internship report

Langage stay English

Thomas OTT

Student in second years of the program “Grande École à Epitech Mulhouse”

Année scolaire 2022 - 2023

During my language stay in England, I spent three months improving my English level and discovering a new culture. I will tell you about my preparation for this trip, my daily life at school, and my homestay with a host family. I will also introduce you to my activities outside of class and the progress I made in English thanks to this complete immersion. I will discuss the positive and negative aspects of my stay and the lessons I learned from this experience. My language stay was a unique opportunity to be exposed to new communication situations and discover a new culture, and I am convinced that it has brought me a lot on a personal and professional level. I invite you to follow me on this journey through my memories and reflections.

The reason why I did this language internship abroad is quite simple. I started learning English the second years of middle school. My level was really bad because I started learning it late, and so it was impossible for me to understand and follow lessons. I stopped following lessons and my motivation was lost. I attended every English workshop and every cold case to improve my English but by the end of my first year at Epitech, I had not scored high enough on the TEpitech test. The best solution was to go to England or take some intensive lessons.

Because I did not have enough points to pass my year, I chose to do my internship in an English-speaking country instead of doing it in a company. It was possible because I had good grade in programming, and it was more important to improve my English level to pass my second year.

To improve my English level and succeed in my second year at Epitech, I have decided to take an intensive language course.

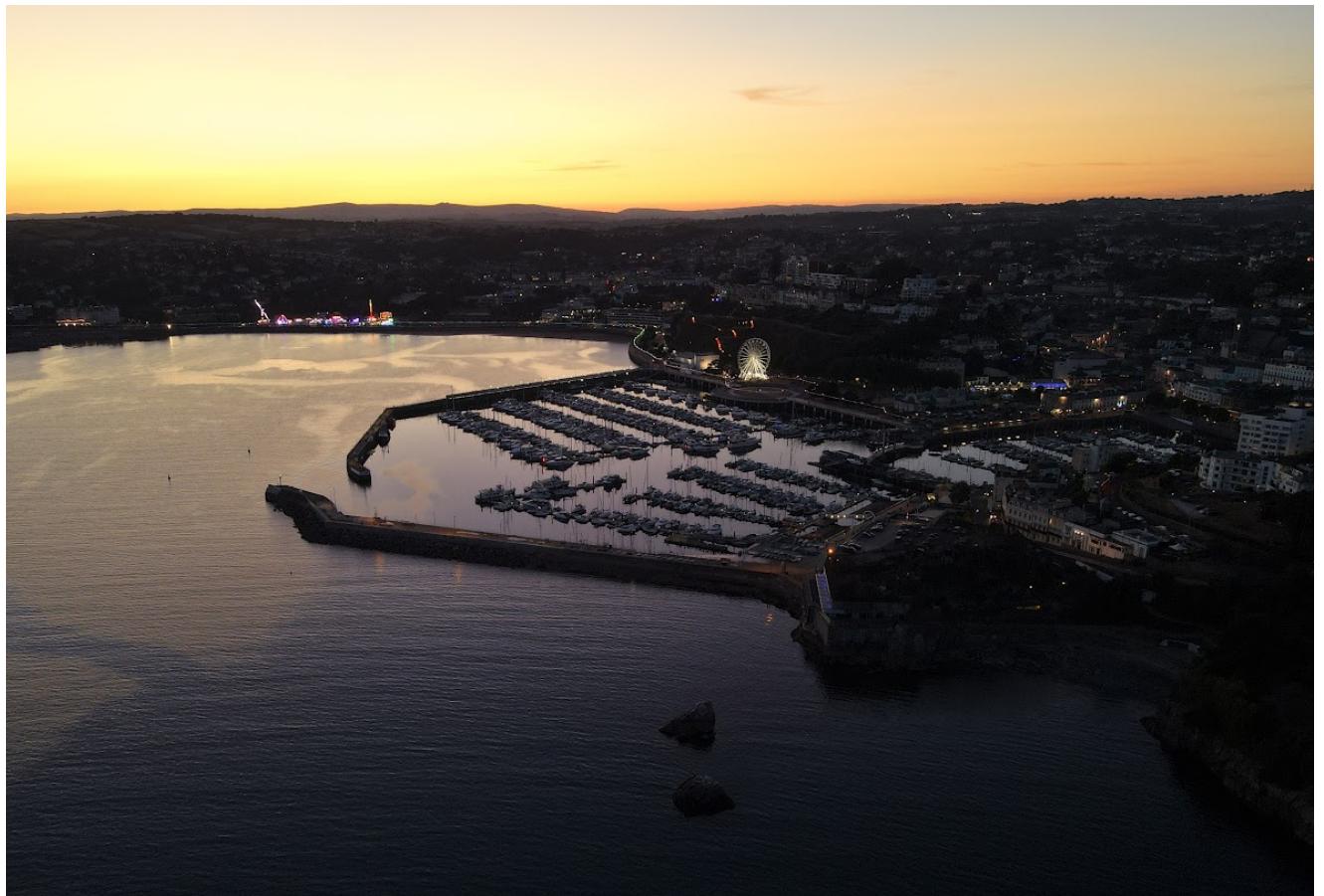
My first search was for English lessons in France. I found different schools like Wall Street English in Mulhouse, where I was studying at Epitech. In fact, it was interesting because it was English lessons where students talked and learned basic grammar. There was, however, the problem that I would stay in France and only have a few hours a day of English. This option would not significantly improve my English level. That was why I chose to go abroad. First, I thought about going to England and staying with a family where I would have taken care of a child and lived with this family but it was a minimum of one year and I was looking for 3 months.

When I compared this with lessons in France, it was approximately the same price, but without interacting with native English speakers and without speaking in English all day. Finally, I found two schools offering the same program: Education-First and Kaplan. Both proposed to live in a country where the language to be learned is the native language. Education-First offered a short stay - approximately 2 weeks, and Kaplan offered both short and long stays, up to a year. The formula included living with an English family or at a student residence with lessons in the morning and afternoon. Some activities were proposed by the school in the afternoons, evenings and on weekends.

In the end, I chose Kaplan first because they had a smaller campus which seemed more user-friendly. Secondly, Education-First had a number of bad reviews online and would have been more expensive.

After comparing different options for English courses in France, I have decided to continue my studies abroad and have chosen Kaplan to study English in Torquay, a charming coastal town in England. Torquay is a coastal town in county of Devon, in England. Torquay is well-connected, with good road and rail links to other parts of the country. The

town has its own railway station, which is served by trains from Exeter, Plymouth, and London. There are also regular bus services to other towns and cities in the region.



It is one of the most important stations from the south west coast of Devon in England. It is really famous for its fine sandy beaches and clear waters as well as its mild climate. It is really popular to do water sports at Torquay such as windsurfing or scuba diving.



The city is known for the temperate climate too, which attracts visitors all of the years. The town also has a number of parks and gardens, including the Torre Abbey, which is home to a medieval abbey, and the Princess Gardens, which is a popular spot for picnics and relaxation. You can visit the botanical garden of Torre Abbey, which has an impressive collection of exotics plants and rare species.

Also, the city possesses a lot of Art galeries and museum like the Torquay Museum where you can discover the history of the region. You can also visit the Agatha Christie's Museum where you can learn about this famous writer.

Torquay has also a really nice prehistoric caves, the Kent's Cavern Prehistoric Caves.

In addition, Torquay has a animated life the night with a lot of bar, restaurants and jazz club. There are a lot of things for every taste !

The city is interesting for his shops and antique store too, who attired a lot of shoppers and collectors. We can see that Torquay is a touristic city because there is a lot of shops and attractions. Like a big wheel at the park near the harborside. It is a good place to take a nap or attend an outdoor concert.

Overall, Torquay is a charming and attractive town that offers something for everyone, whether you are interested in history, culture, or just relaxing on the beach.

In the summer, you can go to the fun fair too where you can meet a lot of students from Kaplan and Education-First.

Education-First is the bigger of the two schools with over 150 students, where Kaplan has a maximum of 60 students. For a city like Torquay, it is a lot of students.



In fact, Kaplan is an international language school where you can learn English, but Spanish, French, German, Chinese and Italian too. Founded in 1938, Kaplan is dedicated to providing the best quality teaching programs to help students to improve their comprehension and expression in the target language. Kaplan separates students by level starting from beginner to more advanced with different classes and books to learn well and at their own pace. The school offers two different classes. In the morning, we had general English class where we would study all aspects of learning a language like comprehension, writing and speaking. Each morning there was a subject that we talked about in class that would help us practice a particular grammar point. For example, if the objective was the future, we would discuss possible future inventions and technology. In the afternoons, we would break off into small

groups to attend more detailed grammar lessons. The best thing was that the school offered the possibility to be hosted by an English family to have more opportunities to speak and learn English.

Kaplan organised some activities in the afternoon for students to spend time together having fun all while speaking in English. One of the main principals of the school was to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to speak together.

The afternoon classes were more about reading texts, or going deeper into the morning class' grammar lesson. It was specific to that day's class and according to students' request. Of course, all teachers are English but they do not all have the same accent. It was a little bit complicated but good to practice your listening comprehension.

To sum up, Kaplan offered a program where students were accompanied by English staff at the school and the host family outside of school. Lessons were taught by native English speakers who had various accents. Finally, the most important principal at the school was to have students speak as much as possible in English.

Before describing my experience at Kaplan School and my adventures in England, I would like to give you an overview of the town of Torquay and all the possibilities it offers. In the rest of my writing, I will tell you how I took advantage of these opportunities and how I improved my English level through this language immersion.

A new country means traditions and a different way of life in general compared to France. I learned a lot about this society and their way of life in general.. Many traditions and more particularly about the Queen because I was there when she died.

The first thing that I think about is the food. It was really different compared to France. In France, we have a lot of traditional food, and famous around the world. In England, the food is more simple, without a lot of variety. For example, my host mother cooked me steamed vegetables with salmon without salt or pepper. For them, it is a common dinner, but in France it would have been more complete with a sauce and some seasoning. It is uncommon in England to eat a gourmet meal other than for a special occasion. For example, when my host mother's daughter was leaving for Australia, they had a traditional meal with lamb chops, new potatoes and green beans. A classic dinner in France would include the main course, cheese and dessert whereas a common English family would consider this elaborate. Of course, the food was the thing that I missed the most ! I like the food in France, and I saw that it was quite different in England. As different as dinner was, lunch was even more so. In France, we take our time for lunch. Most of the time, we take one hour to eat a good meal and take a good break before work. In England, they do not eat a large meal, and they don't take much time. It is completely different, and again I did not like that. They eat a little sandwich, or something similar in size. They eat quickly; sometimes it was a maximum of thirty minutes to prepare it and eat. Fortunately, I was at school during the week or out on the weekend so I ate something more substantial than just a sandwich. And of course, the dinner break was an hour like in France, to accommodate all nationalities.

Linked to the meal, supermarkets are not like in France. It is like in Germany, such as 'Aldi', where it is put on shelves with no particular order. Another difference in supermarkets between England and France is product diversity. In fact, in France we have a lot of possibility and brands. For example, we can have fifty possibilities of biscuit, where in England there is just twenty. A better example is the wine and cheese. In France, it is more common to find a shelf just for this, but in England they do not have a lot of choice. And this could be said for many other types of food. In addition, they do not prioritize a lot of local products like in France where they are highlighted in stores. They have more vegetarian

products, and it is constantly progressing, whereas currently in France, vegetarian food is less common.

In Torquay, a lot of shops are independent boutiques like sport stores or souvenir shops. It was the same in most of the cities that I visited, apart from London of course.

Another thing about Torquay specifically was the nightlife. Torquay has a lot of things to do at night. There are a lot of bars and nightclubs. Torquay is touristic so of course you have a lot of people in the bars and nightclubs during the summer. There was a lot of choice; you could go to a nightclub and dance or sit in a pub, have a drink and play cards. In fact, it is very special at night because after midnight most people were drunk and we could see a lot of people on the street waiting for a taxi or going out of the nightclub or dance bar.

In England, or just in Torquay I don't know, a lot of bars and places close really early. So, some bars were closed before midnight, and dance clubs at 3 o'clock AM. Fortunately, the nightclubs were open until 5 o'clock AM ! But it is not just bars and clubs, because restaurants did not serve people after 9 o'clock PM, and shops closed very early. It was disappointing because when we wanted to go out, it was complicated to find somewhere to go. When it was bowling, it closed at 10 o'clock PM. To go to Torquay, and to come back home, it was not always the same transport depending the time and the hour. Principally, it was a bus or on foot. Sometimes, as it was just a 40 minute walk home, I would often walk along the coast. Because the bus was not in service after midnight, I took a taxi depending on my motivation and the time. The only transport available were buses and taxis and I found this to be true in most small towns in England.

One thing that was really different than in France was the money. In England, all of the bars and nightclubs only accepted bank cards. Also, it was complicated to understand British cash as the coins and notes are much different than the Euro. When I went to pay for something, it was often difficult to find the correct number of coins. The Pound was worth more than the Euro so the exchange was expensive. Fortunately, I mostly paid with my bank card. I think that in England, it is more common to pay by bank card. I found this to be much more practical than using cash. Also, English coins are strangely heavy.

By living in Torquay, I discovered many cultural differences between England and France, including food, shopping, and nightlife. In the rest of my writing, I will talk about my experience at Kaplan School and my adventures in England, where I improved my English level through full language immersion, starting with a common day.

A simple day at school is often the same.. I woke up at 8 o'clock, It is not really hard to wake up so ! After waking up that I took my breakfast, I do not like to eat the morning so I took a yoghourt basically. My host mother was here so we chatted with her to catch up on news and say hello but that was all for the morning.

After preparing, I took the bus and walk to school. It was approximately ten minutes by bus and twenty on foot to go to school. We started the morning at 9 o'clock with the first lesson. For the part of the day, we started with a little game about yesterday's lesson. It was to review the vocabulary, and I think it was more interesting to practice with games. After that we learned some grammar and they gave us some subjects to talk about to practice the language and the vocabulary learned for this day. The lesson was really interesting because we talked about a lot of things and each day we had a new subject to talk about. Each student was from another country so it was educational to learn more about their countries and traditions. After 45-minutes classes, we had a break. At the break, we could talk with other students, have a coffee or hot chocolate and a croissant for me ! It was the best part because at Kaplan

Torquay, we could go outside to the patio. It was so nice because we could spend time together to talk and meet students from other classes. It was the best place to meet and practice our English. This break was really important I think because we are in England to talk the most possible in English. This break is nicely to learn and chat between students so. We can also make friends to spend times together and do activities.

Then after thirty minutes, we had 2 forty-five minute lessons again. It was like the morning, always about a subject and a part of the grammar and vocabulary.

When the morning ended, we would go eat. The school restaurant was open but too expensive for me. So I would usually eat a sandwich. But again, it was a good opportunity to talk with other students and prepare for the afternoon activities !

Because I was in the intensive group, I had lessons the first part of the afternoon. It was just an hour and a half, and it was more work and learning about vocabulary or reading. It depended on what the group wanted or needed to study. Some time, it was questions about a text, or sometimes it was a video with questions. But it always focused on the vocabulary and the grammar. Just less talking and more reading and listening.

This part of the afternoon was not for everybody, so some students went home, or waited for us at school or somewhere in the city an we had not lesson the friday afternoon. After the lesson, we went out with other students to spend the rest of the afternoon together.

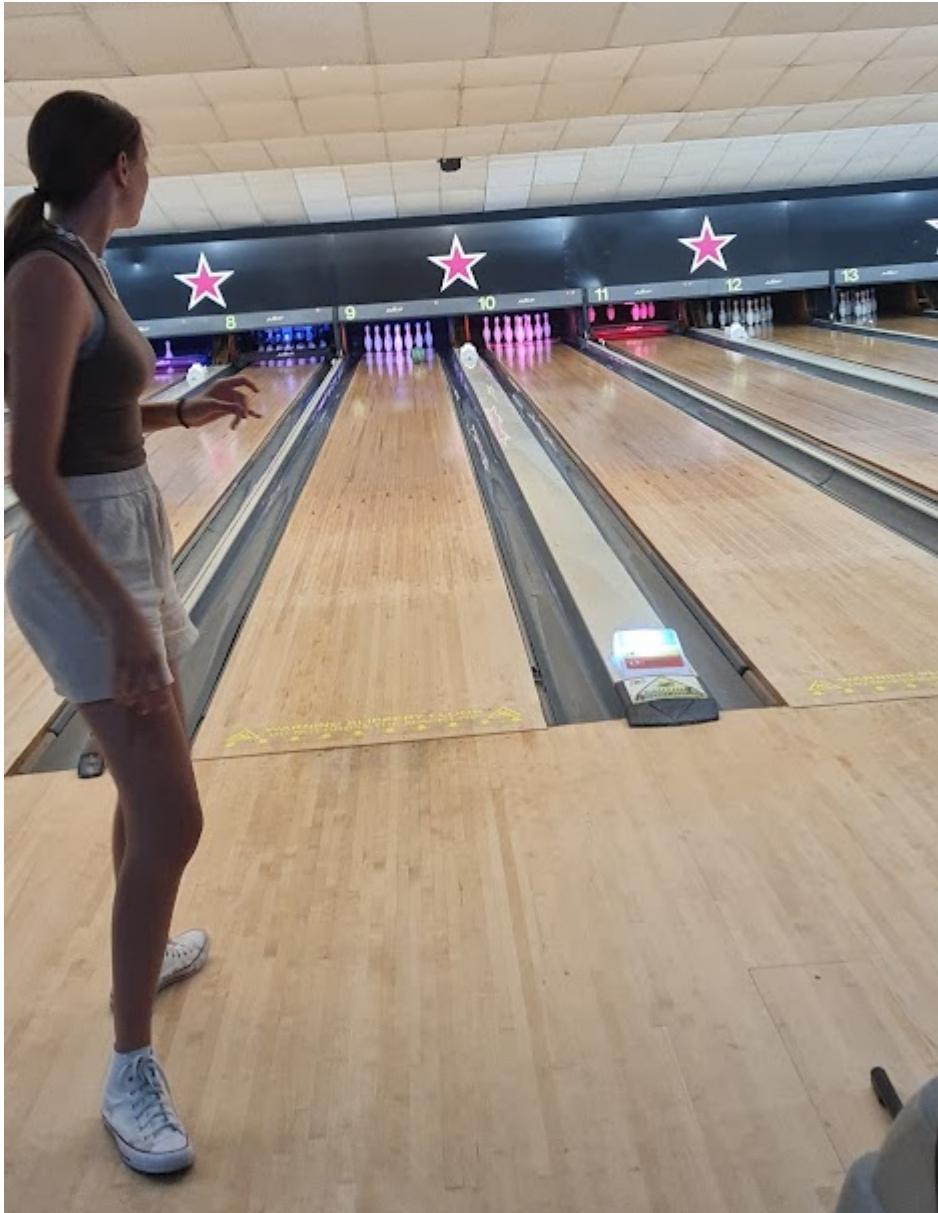
The activity depended on the day. The first month was very hot for this part of England, so we went to the beach in the afternoon with other students. The harbourside and the beach were about 15 minutes from the school. The water was not really hot, so some days we went to the park at the harborside to play cards and chat together. Our favourite game was Uno. Sometimes, I worked at the park on some personnel projets too. I learned that it was strange for some cultures to work at a park.

During the second and third months, we went to the park, a tea shop or a bar to have something to drink, to eat and to talk together.



Some days it would rain so I would just catch the bus home. If I spent the afternoon out, I would go home at 5:50 PM because we would have dinner at 6 o'clock PM. For me, it was really strange to eat at this hour because it is early and in France we eat generally around 8 o'clock PM. We can see a difference between France and England here so. Dinner is the time where I talked the most with my host family. We always talked about the journey first, like how the lesson went or where I went in the afternoon. Then about actuality because she

eat with the TV. So we had the information and we were talking about that. After eating, the most of the time I returned at Torquay to go out the night with some friend. The most of the time, we were going to the bar where we can talk, drink and dance. The nightclub was more for the friday night and the weekend of course. Depending night, it was also possible then I went at a calm restaurant to take something like an hot chocolate and talk with friends. I remember that sometimes we were going to a Kebab open at 4 o'clock AM after after going out the nightclub or the bar ! But it was not like that all night of course, and if we wanted to do something not too late, we was going to the bowling sometimes or just go at the park to play card or talk.



By living in Torquay, I discovered many cultural differences between England and France. In the rest of my writing, I will talk about my experience at Kaplan School and my adventures in England where I improved my English level through full language immersion. I can talk about a lot of things for the social life ! At school, we had some break and the lunch time where we could talk who I have said before. So we can know every students and professors easily. I think it is a good think because you can talk with a lot of student so you

can talk more and go out with them after. You can improve your English by having fun, and I think it is really important for have more motivation and learn the most possible without lesson.

So you can do some activities with student. Firstly, the school purpose some activities the afternoon and the night. The first and more famous activity was the Monday night. It was like the night for meet the new student, and meet all students simpley. It was a meeting at a simple bar with a view on the harborside so really nice. Basicaly, when is the first day at the school, students go at this bar for the first monday at the minimum, to meet more student outside school. It is a little bit more casual than at school I think, because we can do more thing, and it is always better around a beer or other drinks. At this bar, you have a pool table, something really commun in England. So were going to play pool every monday. it was like a commun meeting to play every Monday night with some student ! I have learn how to play with some Arabic friend and learn some different rules depending the country so it was really cool.

Some nights was dedicate bowling too, but we had preferred to go there without school. Some activities was the afternoon after class. I was not at a lot of activities but for example, I was at a little aquatic center. It was not really nice because it was dirty on the changing room.. It is not like in France and all people is melange, people with shoes and without. We have visited Brixham, a coastal port and a civil parish in Devon, a Friday afternoon. It was too short because we had one hours by ferry to go and come back, and it was just the afternoon after 1 o'clock PM.



Of course, more activities was proposed by the school, like visite the cave of Kern, or some city like Brixham, Teighmouth or Exmouth. It was just too expensive or not interesting for me basically so I have do nothing more with the school.

The school propurse some activities for all day the weekend. Depend the weekend of course, but for example I have do a day at the Dartmoor national park, a big national park near to Torquay. Dartmoor national park is a protected area located in the county of Devon in the southwest of England. It is known for its beautiful landscapes, including rolling hills, forests, and moorlands. The park integrate a wide variety of flora and fauna, including several species of birds and mammals. It is also a popular destination for outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, and rock climbing. It is famous in England to have some park protected like that, with a lot of restriction.



We have so visited and walk with an English guide some emblematic place on this park like the clapper bridge, St Pancras Church and a big roch. It was interesting to do that for having some explain in English and so improve my English, learn more vocabulary and improve my listen comprehension.

Of course, we have do some activities without the school with some student. For example, we went at the park who I have said before, but also at the bar a lot of night or again at the bowling to play pool and bowling of course. We had organised some trip for the weekend too. One saturday, we went at 2 cities. The first was Bristol, to visit the old center and some typical place like a famous university, Bristol c'est une university connais donc bon.



And the second cities was Bath, where I have been to meet a good friend with an another friend. She was at Kaplan Torquay for 2 month and she has change to go at Kaplan Bath to change. Because it is not the same city, same culture and people. It is different and she wanted something different after two months. But it was like my mother on this trip so with an another friend, we have been at Bath to see her and passed the rest of the afternoon together. We have just walk on the city to visited a little bit and after that we have stopped at a pretty park, with a big university rounds.

It was the best moment on my trip I think because it was really important for me to see her again, and this day was amazing for this moment and other cities that I have visited.



An another more big weekend was with one other student. We wanted to go at London before to come back in our country, so we have planed a weekend together. I had already the train ticket to come back because it was planed with a friend but her father said no. So we have use this ticket for come back the sunday night. For go at London, we have take the bus the Friday midnight, to arrived at London at 6 o'clock AM !

The friday night, it was the departure of my really good friend. We were at a bar to drink and dance. We have enjoy with some other friends to take benefits of the last night together. The friday night was often reservate to go at a bar for student's departure. So, this friday nigh was for the departure of my good friend and it was complicate to say good bye. The fact is that the bus was at midnight. I do not like the moment like that but the bus was for London ! So I have run on the city to take the bus and here you go for 5 hours by bus !

At the first arrived, we have took a coffe to stay wake up, because it was 5 o'clock AM and it really hard to stay wake up when you do not have enough sleep. This think did not spoil the day because we visited a lot of things all the day. The Saturday, we had taken a guide to visit all of famous places. The morning before met the guide, we went at some mythic place of London.



One really important thing was the costs and my budget. The trip was really expensive, by counting Kaplan, the life in England and the food.

The cost of living in England is higher than in many other countries. The cost of food in England varies depending on where you shop and what you buy of course. Supermarkets offer a wide range of products at competitive prices, and it is generally possible to find good deals if you shop around. However, eating out in restaurants and cafes can be expensive, especially in tourist areas or large cities. However, for French people, the conversion from Euro to Pound was not advantageous and so everything was more expensive.

The food was the biggest part of the budget with alcohol drinks at bars and dance clubs. The transport was a important part of the budget because I took the bus everyday. I think that the budget for one week was approximately about 120€ just for activities, food and alcohol. It was not cheap and in the end I paid as much for the school as I did for activities, food and drinks. The price of the school depended on the location, for example, in London it is more expensive than a little city like Torquay. Course type, the number of lessons per day and the amount of time spent there had a direct impact on the price. By signing up of for a three-month stay, I was able to take advantage of various discounts offered by the school. School fees included lessons at school with professors and accommodation with an England host family. It was approximately 2000€ for one month. Despite the overal costs, I am very glad I chose to study abroad, particularly in Torquay.

So many things was differents than expected. I was thinking that it will be hard to have social interactions, principally at the beginning. Of course, at the beginning it was complicate to speak English with someone and understand clearly. But people was really nicely. It remember someone had asked me where I wanted to go at the airport. It was reassuring, and I understood that I can talk with an English people without have a good level, just with others words or simple words. And along my trip, I have learn to use simple words to speak when I did not what was the good word. That was really helpful and I did not thinking that it would be so easy. Every days, I had interactions with English people, like the bus driver to buy a ticket, or again with my host family. Of course, in class or after class I have talk a lot. I think it was with that then I improved the most. Concerning the school more especially, there was a really good atmosphere, and every teachers was clear on lesson. In fact, student was really nicely too, because we have talk together and spend time after class. It was a really good ambiance to learn without thinking just about lessons. My host family was really nice too, but I thinking to spend less time in transport to go at school and it was a little bit boring. Especially as bus was every time late and sometimes, I have wait about 45 minutes.

Concerning food, I thinking that it was better than in reality. Finally, it was really simple, and not varied. So I was disappointed about this and I wanted to come back in France just for that !

But finally, my level as increase more than I have expected and I am returning in France with B2. At the beginning I was A2 so it a really good advanced for just 3 months !

The only bad point except for the food was the time on the same city. In my opinion, 3 months is a little bit long and you start to be bored quickly because you have do everything near to the city.

After this trip of 3 months, I continued to learn English with the website Altissia. Altissia is a a company that that provides language training. It is reputate for those translation services and work with some of the top companies and organizations in the

world. About solo lessons, they propose various lesson depending the level. For beginner learner, the lessons may focus on basic grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. If you are an advanced learner, the lessons may focus on more complex grammar structures, idiomatic expressions, or business language.

I have worked about 10 hours per day to improve and review some grammar points. After one month to take a little break and because I was at Epitech to assist first years students, I have took lesson with the English teacher at Epitech to improve grammar and vocabulary points. We have taken 3 hours per weeks. The first and second weeks, we have talk about all forms of the past because it was the most complicate for me, the third week was about all forms of the present to review the base. The rest was to write et correct my internship report and prepare my oral presentation.

After spending three months improving my English in Torquay and continuing to study with Altissia and my English teacher at Epitech, I have now gained enough confidence and skills to give advice to first-year students who want to follow the same way.

If a first year student wanted to do the same, I think I could give them some advice. The first thing is to budget the correct amount of money. At the beginning I planned on spending 50€ per week but finally I spent double. It is better to budget more than what you think just in case.

The most important with this is to have a bank card without fees if possible. A lot of things like bars are only payable by bank card and if you have fees, it will be very expensive in the end.

When you arrive for the first time in a country alone, you feel hesitant to speak with other people. Do not be afraid to speak with others and make friends. All the students came to Torquay to learn like you and will be happy to meet others like them.

My big mistake was to talk in French with other French students. When I had stop speaking in French, I could feel the difference and I improved much quicker compared to when I regularly spoke in French.



Here, you can see the Kaplan Torquay team and a friend of mine on the right. And below, a photo of all the students at the end of the second month.



My language stay in England was a very enriching experience that allowed me to discover a new culture, meet interesting people, and grow personally and professionally. I was pleasantly surprised by how easily I was able to interact with locals and students from other countries, and I enjoyed the studious and friendly atmosphere of my language school. Despite some disappointments, I learned to appreciate living with a host family and to enjoy the many activities offered by the school. Today, I am proud to have reached level B2 in English and I am determined to continue learning this language. I highly recommend a language stay to anyone who wants to fully immerse themselves in a foreign language and open themselves up to new life experiences. It is a unique opportunity to push oneself and grow.