Student Spotlight: Abdulaziz Abaoud

Hello, my name is Abdulaziz Abaoud. I am 24 years old. I’m from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I came to the United States to improve my English language skills and then to continue my higher education in the Nursing field.

Back home I live with my parents and my younger brother and sister. I graduated from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in General Nursing.

After graduation, I had the opportunity to study in Prince Sultan Military Medical College in Dammam. During my studies in this college, I took a CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) course, and I earned my license. However, after 3 months, I decided to leave for a better opportunity.

I started to work at the university I graduated from. I enjoyed working in my field of specialty with experienced professors. After approximately one year at this job, I had the opportunity to be one of the scholarship candidates. I decided to come to Miami because I thought it would be an amazing city to live in, and I was right. I’m currently studying at the English Language Institute at FIU.

I’ve met interesting friends from different countries and backgrounds. I enjoy listening to such talented teachers. From my point of view, I believe that FIU’s English Institute was the best choice for the beginning of my life’s journey.

Upcoming Events:

The event for this week will be at the Miami-Dade Fair and Expo, which is located right here on campus. Tickets are $25 per person. It will be on Thursday, March 14th at 6pm. Make sure to come out and have a grand time with your friends. There are many thrilling rides and decadent food to try. This is an event you don’t want to miss!
Hi there! My name is Christian Reyes, and I’m 23 years old. I’m from Caracas, Venezuela. In my country, I was an engineering student at the Venezuelan Central University (UCV), and I was part of the student government. The responsibility of student government at my university is to protect and help students in any way possible. However, many other students and I were concerned about the political situation in our country. Venezuela has faced a communist government for the last 15 years.

After surviving a failed attempt of being kidnaped in August, I decided to leave my country. I needed to live in a better place, where I could live my life freely and not be afraid of going out at night. This was not the first incident I had in my country, but it sure was the most shocking moment of my life. At first, it was hard because I didn’t want to leave my country. I love it, but my life and future were endangered by the Chavista revolution.

Right now, I’m studying English here at the ELI with the intention of continuing my engineering studies in the United States. To do that, I need to get a score on the TOEFL and apply to the university so they can evaluate my credentials.

As for me, I can say that I don’t have a hobby, but I enjoy doing lots of different things like eating different kinds of food, going to the beach, partying, traveling, listening to music, playing video games, cooking, going to the movies, and watching sports. I think I have an adventurous personality. I’m curious, and I like to try new things.

This experience at the ELI has been pretty awesome for me. All the different cultures and people that I have met have made me very happy.

#SOSVenezuela

My name is Cesar Albahaca, and I am from Venezuela. What is happening in Venezuela? Today, I would like to talk about my country. I want to talk about spiritual things. There is no time to wonder what we did to deserve what is happening right now, but we must move forward. It is horrific to see what is happening in my country, the best country in the world, in my opinion. All Venezuelans know that we have everything to be happy, but you know what? We are running out of that positive spirit. Today, I want to write words of encouragement to my fellow compatriots remembering the last part of the Venezuelan national anthem: “If one day a typhoon wrecks and blows out my candles, my body will be buried near the sea, in Venezuela.”
Hello ELIers!! My name is Francisco Jose Toledo Fernandez, but it’s much easier if you simply call me Fran. I ask myself every day why my mother chose such a long name.

I am from Ibiza (Spain), and I am an economist. I studied my major in Barcelona and got a master’s in marketing in Jonkoping (Sweden). I have been working in different companies in Spain as an accountant since I have graduated. I was lucky to have the opportunity to work in different jobs related to my major because nowadays in Spain due to the economic crises, more than 40% of the young people are unemployed. Therefore, if you want to work after graduating, don’t come to Spain until the crisis ends in 2015!

Regarding my hobbies, I enjoy practicing sports like football and tennis. After a long day’s work, I usually chill out with my girlfriend or my friends drinking a fresh beer or a mojito as the sun sets in Ibiza. I recommend that you visit the place where I live because there you can see how a little island in the Mediterranean Sea can have so many activities.

There are two main reasons why I came to Miami. Firstly, I wanted to repeat the experience that I had in Sweden doing my internship, where almost everyone spoke English. I really enjoy learning English and learning about different cultures.

Every single person I have met at the ELI has given me another point of view about life. This has helped me to know different perspectives that I had never known before. This experience has truly been amazing and enriching!

Secondly, my girlfriend had the opportunity to do her internship at FIU, so this is the reason that I chose the ELI. Apparently, I was lucky because it seems that the ELI is one of the best English courses in Miami according to other students that were looking for other English courses.

To conclude, I want to say that my last three months in Miami have been exciting; however, my stay will be coming to an end soon. If I find a job here, I will be able to stay longer. Next month, I will run out of money, so I must go back to Spain. If somebody is interested in offering me a job, I am not going to reject it. Cheers!!

Some Tips for English Fluency

There are certain ingredients for fluency, such as communication, grammar, and cultural awareness, but at the end of the day, being fluent is unique to each individual learner.

• Take responsibility for your learning. Learn to enjoy the process of learning. If you are losing sight of your objectives and goals, don’t quit but rather take responsibility.

• Have the right attitude and enjoy the journey. Constantly evaluate your attitude towards learning English. Learning a language is not like learning math or science. Learning English is interesting and engaging.

• Dedicate yourself to learning every day and create routines. Be consistent, dedicated, and diligent with your efforts. Excellence is a daily habit, not a twice a week class. You should insert English in your life every single day.
The ELI newsletter is a bi-weekly publication of the English Language Institute that updates students on upcoming events and important dates. It invites students to participate in its publication process. It also includes news, trivia, quotes and reading suggestions. You may e-mail any suggestion to Laura Lamour at: llamo001@fiu.edu.

The ELI newsletter is produced by ELI instructor Laura Lamour.

Photo Gallery: Miami Metro Zoo