

Language Ambassadors

Profile



ROXANE GANEWSKI

Occupation: Student in Tourism at the University of Seville, Spain; Language Ambassador, employed by Routes into Languages during the academic year 2009-2010

Degree: BA (Hons) in Italian, Spanish and Cultural Studies, University of Sussex in Brighton

Languages spoken (native and learned): French (native); Italian, Spanish and English learned at Uni, notions of Dutch

“The myth that studying languages is difficult, boring and useless for native English speakers is false, silly and narrow-minded! Why? Because although it is hard to believe, not everyone speaks English and in this globalised world where competition in the professional sphere is important and growing, the advantage of knowing a foreign language is enormous. Training might be provided for specific tasks like computer skills but not for foreign languages. Also, you do NOT need to be a genius to study languages, the first step is the harder but once you’ve overtaken this shyness and fear, you realise it is much more than a list of vocab as you’ll start discovering new cultures, you’ll become more confident even more daring and at the end of it, almost nothing will scare you; you’ll just say hi to a new you!”

“Studying languages changed me completely; I now have a different (hopefully better) personality and a new lifestyle. I moved to England (from Belgium, Brussels) to study languages at university and that was one of the best decisions I have made so far in my life. It gave me the opportunity to learn about a new culture, to discover a new lifestyle, to enjoy the very well-known good weather and to taste the even better food! Although I was shy and introvert when speaking in another language at first, I am now feeling more at ease speaking anything but French, my mother tongue. I also lived a whole year in Italy with the Erasmus programme which allowed me to make international friends and it now means I have couches all over Europe I can crash on when visiting them. I am currently studying Tourism in Spain and am looking at courses in translation and/or teaching so that I can continue my little travelling life.”

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