



SPE Language Exchange

SPE ECUADOR SECTION

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the second edition of this new program which consists in volunteering for an exciting partnership which is specially focused on intercultural communication and English practicing. In this program, you will have the opportunity to meet people from around the globe share information that broaden your knowledge of countries different from yours. Latin American students, on the other hand, will be able to practice their English skills with a native English speaker, and both will have the experience of networking with international colleagues.

What is the LANEX program?

- SPE LANEX (Language Exchange) is a conversation partnership that matches students or young professionals from different countries where English is the official or second language
- Each group will meet at least once a week throughout an eight-weeks period to discuss cultural differences between their countries of origin.

What are the requirements of the partnership?

If you volunteer for the partnership or group, you will agree to:

- Meet your partner at least once a week, at the time of your convenience, using any of the virtual meeting software available.
- Sign a service-learning agreement committing to the partnership guidelines (See the last page of this handout)
- Notify your partner or group in advance if you need to cancel a partner meeting
- Fill out a follow-up survey every two weeks to confirm you are having a good experience and to share your progress.
- Fill out an anonymous survey after the partnership or groups members.
- Latin American students **must** have a good level of English, at least to be able to hold a conversation.

Quito Office

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How will this partnership help English-speaker students?

- Many students or young professionals have never travelled to other countries and most of them speak only English or Spanish. Consequently, it is very difficult for them to understand differences between their home countries and other countries.
- By talking with someone from a different country, students and young professionals will learn more about intercultural differences and will also practice communicating with foreign people.

How will this partnership help Latin American students?

- As an international student, you may like to improve your written and spoken communication skills in English.
- By talking with your partner and getting to know him/her over the weeks, you will enhance your understanding of the language and improve your conversational speaking skills.
- You will also learn more about what the American undergraduate student lifestyle is like as well as other countries' and foreign cities' culture.

Where and when will I meet my partner or group every week?

- Any virtual platform is fine as long as it allows you to efficiently communicate to each other, either oral or written.
- You and your partner or group will determine the time and place of your meeting. Once you get a partner assigned, you can contact each other to set up a time.
- To make things simple, we recommend meeting each other at the same time and using the same platform every week.

What will we do during our meetings?

- A list of suggested topics and questions will be provided, but you are free to talk about any topic of mutual interest. Example topics include high school, sports, family, etc.

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- Topics are not mandatory, but we are expecting you to be able to answer a short quiz about the basic information of your partner at the end of the program.
- Feel free to adjust the format of your meetings at your convenience, remember that the main goals are to practice communications skills, and get to know more about foreign cultures... **and to have fun!**

What if my partner or any group member's says or does something to make me uncomfortable during the meeting?

- If your partner ever wants you to do or talk about something that makes you uncomfortable, you should kindly let your partner know. Respect is a must in this program.
- If your partner ever says or does something that makes you uncomfortable, you should let us know immediately.

Thank your participation in LANEX!

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Language Exchange Partnership Agreement

Both students will

- Arrange virtual meetings with partner at least once a week throughout a eight-week period for an hour's length.
- Try to establish a meeting time and platform that is consistent from week to week.
- Be flexible in finding a time that suits each partner's schedule.
- Be respectful of your partner's time by arriving to each meeting on time.
- Be diligent in notifying your partner if he/she will be late to the meeting or has a conflict and needs to reschedule.
- Maintain a positive attitude and willingness to learn from each other.
- Treat your partner with kindness, understanding, and respect in the completion of all assigned tasks and discussions.
- Notify us immediately with questions/concerns or if your partner fails to meet the expectations detailed in this agreement.
- Commit to being a good listener and an engaging conversationalist.

English-speaker students will

- Demonstrate patience and empathy in working to understand your partner
- Be active in learning more about your partner's country and cultural perspective
- Help your partner to improve their English skills, as much as you can.

Latin American students will

- Practice and apply recommended strategies for improving your spoken English.
- Learn more about the American undergraduate community/culture and what undergraduate students expect from their instructors
- Arrive at each meeting with the tools necessary to optimize your learning process (pen and paper, articles, webpage, etc.). If you feel you need some software support to help you communicate with your partner, you can use it.
- Prepare the topic of the conversation before the meeting to make it fluid.

Latin American Student

English-speaker Student

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