



OISE – Case Study: Progression to C1/IELTS Academic 7.0

1. The Student

Nationality: Hungarian

Course Duration: 3 weeks

Current Level of English: B2

Target: IELTS Academic 7.0 / progression towards C1

Academic Context

The student joined OISE with a strong B2 foundation and a clear objective: to improve his academic English and prepare intensively for IELTS Academic, with particular emphasis on Speaking.

Prior to the course, he had achieved 75% in the Hungarian Emelt English examination, including 82% in Writing. Highly motivated, his longer-term objective was to reach C1 or as close to this level as possible.

Diagnostic and Course Design

Initial assessment identified:

- A solid B2 foundation
- Strong existing writing ability
- Good potential to progress towards C1
- A need for greater consistency across IELTS tasks
- Particular scope to develop IELTS Speaking
- A need for greater familiarity with examination strategy and assessment criteria

A three-week intensive programme was developed covering all four IELTS Academic components, with additional emphasis on spoken performance.

2. Issues Observed

IELTS Speaking

The students could already communicate effectively, but higher IELTS bands required greater flexibility and sophistication.

Work focused on:

- Extending and developing answers
- Supporting ideas with examples

- Increasing lexical and grammatical range
- Responding spontaneously to abstract questions
- Structuring the two-minute Part 2 response
- Developing more analytical Part 3 answers

Writing, Reading and Listening

Writing work concentrated on adapting his existing strengths to IELTS-specific requirements, including task response, organisation, academic register, planning and time management.

For Reading and Listening, the emphasis was on examination technique:

- Identifying key information efficiently
- Recognising synonyms and paraphrase
- Managing distractors
- Predicting likely answers
- Applying strategies to different question types
- Managing time effectively

3. OISE Methodology

Personalised IELTS Preparation

The programme combined examination strategy with broader language development towards C1. A repeated cycle of practice, feedback, analysis and repetition allowed the student to identify weaknesses and immediately apply corrections to subsequent tasks.

Teaching Focus

All three sections of IELTS Speaking were practised extensively. Part 1 focused on natural, appropriately developed answers. Part 2 developed planning, organisation, signposting and sustained speech. Part 3 concentrated on analytical discussion, justification, comparison, speculation and more sophisticated expression.

Writing preparation covered both Academic Tasks 1 and 2, with particular attention to planning, organisation, lexical precision, grammatical range and editing.

Timed Reading and Listening practice developed skimming, scanning, paraphrase recognition, prediction and effective management of difficult questions.

Regular repetition and IELTS-style simulations helped transform these strategies into reliable examination habits.

4. Progress and Outcome

Achievements and Progress

Across the intensive three-week programme, the student demonstrated:

- Greater familiarity with all four IELTS components
- Improved examination strategy and time management
- More structured and developed Speaking responses
- Greater confidence with abstract and analytical questions
- Stronger approaches to Reading and Listening tasks
- Increased understanding of IELTS Academic Writing requirements
- Greater awareness of recurring language errors and how to address them

By the end of the programme, his performance indicated that he was well positioned to achieve IELTS 6.5 or above while continuing towards his target of 7.0.

Immediate Applications

The learner leaves the programme able to approach IELTS with clearer strategies, greater confidence under timed conditions and a stronger understanding of what is required across each component.

Long-Term Development

The course strengthened both his examination technique and the broader academic English required to progress from B2 towards C1. His strong motivation and existing foundation, combined with continued focused practice, provide a realistic pathway towards IELTS 7.5.