

**STUDENT TESTIMONIAL BRISBANE**

# Steeven Ballein



**Why did you choose to study with Kaplan?**

I heard that Kaplan had a good reputation from my friend who had also studied in Canada. I want to study journalism and had also heard that there was a very good journalism school in Brisbane.

**Which course are you taking and how long is it?**

When I arrived in August 2011 I could hardly speak English and began Intensive English at intermediate level. I am now studying in Advanced IELTS and finish at the end of January 2012.

**What do you enjoy about your course?**

It gave me a great opportunity to improve my English and practise outside the classroom too. The course focused on General English in the morning and then specific areas in the afternoons. It was diversified and included lot's of areas e.g. listening, speaking, writing and grammar.

**How have the school staff helped you?**

The teachers are very friendly and helpful. They were always happy to help if you have any questions and are passionate about their teaching roles. Student Services staff are also very nice and I can ask anything even if it's not about Kaplan. The DOS helped me to find a job along with the OPUS coordinator and I am now working for U&A and also hope to be working as a volunteer for Amnesty International very soon.

**What is the best thing about the teachers and teaching method?**

They encourage participation and organise students to do group work as well as independent studies. The classes are well prepared and planned and as a student if you have a specific weakness, they will help to focus you on this area. Homework helps to consolidate the day-time learning.

**How can you tell if your English has improved?**

I know my English has improved, as I can now feel comfortable speaking to foreign people eg. recently I had an interview with the Director of the Journalism school and was able to converse with him for over an



<b>Nationality</b>	France
<b>Course</b>	Intensive English IELTS - Advance Level
<b>Location</b>	Brisbane

hour and a half with little difficulty. The hardest part for me was "listening" but now I can understand so much more, even the Australian accent!

**What do you like the most about your accommodation?**

I live in a shared flat with some other international visitors to Australia. I enjoy learning about the different cultures and it's been a very positive experience for me so far. It's only 15 minutes by bus to the city centre so it is very handy for public transport and affordable without French traffic jams.

**What is the best thing about studying with students from around the world?**

Learning about their cultures and it's a rich and rewarding experience. You can become much more open minded and worldly. It makes me question and reflect my own beliefs.

**How does your language course help you achieve your career and study goals?**

I came to Australia to improve my English and then to apply to journalism school in Brisbane. Thanks to Kaplan and my own hard work I have now been accepted into the journalism school and can continue my chosen career. As I have been in the French army I would like to use my skills to communicate what is happening in the world and to try and make it a better place for everyone.