

Language Ambassadors

Profile



BECA LEWIS JONES

Occupation: Human Rights and Wellbeing Educator

Current role: Director and Facilitator

Degree/University: University of Essex

Languages spoken (native and learned): Native Welsh & English.
Learned Spanish and Portuguese.

I found learning Spanish and Portuguese in the classroom very challenging. I didn't think I would ever get it. Luckily I found that I was much more suited to learning through doing. I engaged in Spanish and Portuguese conversations wherever possible, I listened to music, and finally, I went to study in Latin America. It wasn't until I was able to immerse myself in Spanish, and Portuguese, speaking cultures that I was able to gain the confidence I needed to become fluent.

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I began studying languages at GCSE level, when I took Spanish for the first time. I was far from the model student. I received a G in my mock which, as you know, is impossible in the final exam. Although disheartened, I knew I would have to try harder; I was obviously not a 'natural'. I got a Spanish tutor and received an A in the final exam.

The next step was the International Baccalaureate. Once again, I found this very challenging and would often compare myself to others who seemed to grasp the various grammar rules and dreaded 'exceptions' with ease.

However, I felt I had come too far to give up, and decided to go to Spain for three months during my gap year. I attended a language school and learnt something valuable about myself; I was a sensory learner and needed to experience things first hand, and not from a book or classroom, before grasping them completely.

This gave me the confidence to choose both Spanish and Portuguese at University level where I studied Latin American Studies with Human Rights. As a result, I have studied both in Venezuelan and Brazilian Universities and have worked for a charity in Mexico. I have delivered workshops on human rights and theatre in both languages and am always on the lookout for new opportunities.

Languages, for me, are like 'golden tickets' into different cultures. Don't give up!