

ESSENTIAL PREPARATION

PART 1— STUDY


If the examiner asks: **‘Do you work or are you a student?’**

You answer:

I’m a student.

But there is nothing in this answer to impress the IELTS examiner so develop it...

I’m currently studying at _____



Using the **Present Continuous** here will add to your Grammatical Range, which is 25% of your overall grade for IELTS Speaking

If the examiner asks: **‘What are you studying?’**

You answer:

I’m studying _____

But you can develop it further...

Present Perfect Continuous (have + been + verb + ing)

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Now you try:

Insert you own
answers in here

I _____ (study) _____ for about _____ years.

Another question might be: 'Do you like your studies?'

You answer:

Yes, I like my studies

YOU ARE REPEATING THE WORDS FROM THE QUESTION!!!

You need to use more complex language...

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Oh yes, I **absolutely** love my course.

Absolutely! I love every minute of my studies.

Oh yes I do. I have nothing to complain about. As courses **go**, it's great.

As _____ go (plural noun)
= compared to the average or typical one



To be honest, I **can't stand** my course.

Quite frankly, I **don't particularly enjoy** my course.

To be perfectly honest, I'm **not that keen on** my course.

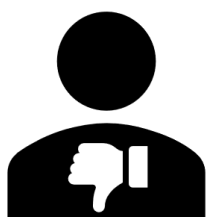
What do you like/dislike about your studies?



No two days are the **same** so I like the variety and unpredictability.

My **classmates** - they're all really **chilled** but incredibly supportive so there's a **great atmosphere**.

The lecturers are **engaging** and bring the subject to life.



The lectures are **mind-numbingly boring** to be perfectly honest.

I chose the wrong major and I'm **bored to death** most of the time.

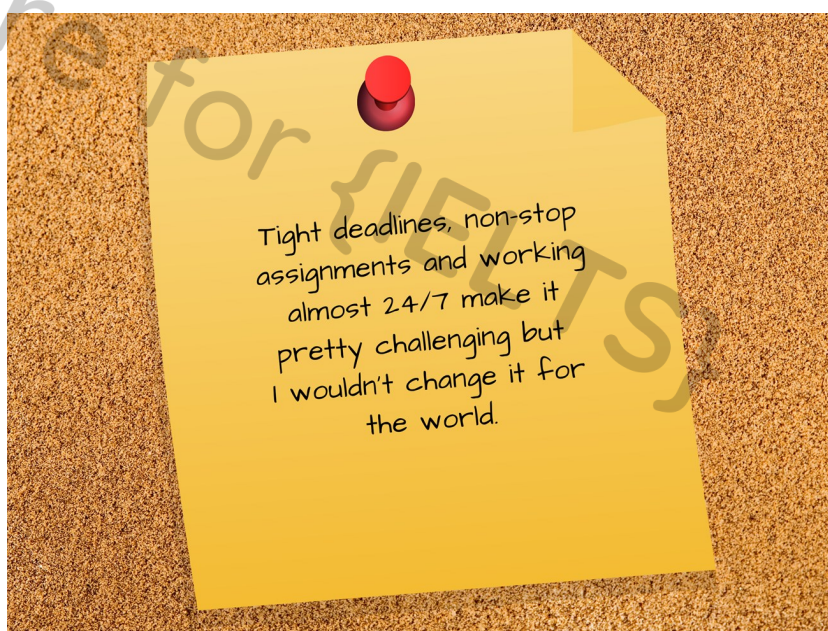
I don't have any **downtime** to hang out with my mates because of my **heavy workload**.

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| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| I've been studying it for roughly ____ years | If I had worked harder at school, I could have studied _____ | As courses go it's pretty good so I can't complain | It's a course that's hard to switch off from, but I do enjoy it |
| It's a pretty intense course and some days can be quite draining to be honest | It's not taxing and they set pretty generous deadlines | Like most courses it has its ups and downs but on the whole it's not too bad | There are not many face-to-face classes so I can work part-time as well |
| Feeling supported – my professor always gives positive feedback | It's incredibly stressful and challenging so I feel drained by the end of the day | It's a great mix of practical and theory classes so no two days are the same | My classmates are a right laugh and incredibly supportive |

Make sure that you know lots of complex words/phrases that could be used to talk about your studies.



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Glossary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| to have nothing to complain about | to have nothing to be unhappy about |
| the variety | lots of different things to do |
| unpredictability | lots of changes rather than the same thing |
| chilled | relaxed |
| engaging | interesting |
| to bring the subject to life | to make it real or exciting |
| mind-numbingly boring | very boring |
| to be bored to death/tears | to be very bored |
| downtime | time when you are not working |
| to hang out with my mates | to spend time with your friends |
| to have a heavy workload | to have lots of work to do |
| to switch off (from) | to stop thinking about something |
| pretty intense | it requires quite a lot of thought or effort |
| draining | it takes all of your energy and leaves you feeling tired |
| taxing | demanding and tiring; difficult and needing a lot of thought or effort |
| to set pretty generous deadlines | to give you quite a long time to do the work |
| to have its ups and downs | a mixture of good and bad things |
| on the whole | generally |
| face-to-face classes | in the classroom — not online |
| to feel supported | to be given help and encouragement when needed |

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Glossary

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| to give positive feedback | to say nice things about your work |
| challenging | difficult |
| to feel drained | to feel really tired and have no energy |
| a great mix of | a combination of; a mixture of |
| practical classes | classes where you do things |
| theory classes | classes where you study things |
| no two days are the same | every day is different |
| a right laugh | good fun |
| supportive | encouraging and helpful |