How (Not) to Learn a Foreign Language

By Nicholas Lundmark

The Internet has connected people like never before, allowing countless communities to form, united by a common interest. The ‘polyglot community’ is one such niche example; it is populated by bloggers who share, teach and discuss their language learning experiences, and their fans who hope to follow in their footsteps on the path to multilingualism. Bloggers like Luca Lampariello, Olly Richards and Steve Kaufmann boast fluency in more languages than they care to count.

In their videos, a phrase crops up repeatedly: “comprehensible input”. This term is attributed to linguist and educational researcher Stephen Krashen, revered by the community. “We acquire language in only one way—when we understand messages,” says Krashen. The key is understanding what is being said, rather than how it is said. Krashen questions the distinction of second language acquisition, and says traditional language teaching is radically misguided. There is only ‘language acquisition’, he claims—we acquire language as adults the same as when we are children, and language teaching should reflect that.

Krashen built on this and other hypotheses to form the ‘monitor model’, and in 1983 collaborated with education theorist Tracy Terrell on the book ‘The Natural Approach’ in which they outlined a teaching method based on this theory. As the name suggests, the idea is to approach language acquisition in a naturalistic way, focusing on communication in a stress-free environment rather than rote grammar study. “We usually
Tips and Tricks for Internships!

By Joyce Chan

With summer in full swing now, what better time than now to think about what to do with your time! Some of you are probably doing internships at the moment, but if you are not, not to worry! Since I have just started my internship, I thought I’d share with you guys some thoughts on my personal experience, including how I applied for it and how I have been able to link LCC to the internships I have done.

Previously, I worked for a marketing company, and an advertising company, both in Hong Kong. This year, to diversify my CV, I have decided to work in the recruitment industry instead. Currently, I am working as a research intern for a leadership consulting firm named Spencer Stuart in Hong Kong.

So, if you are learning a language, remember this simple mantra when you choose your resources: Comprehensible input from compelling content.

What kind of internships can I do?

In relation to Applied Linguistics, students have looked at internships varying from public relations, events management, journalism, marketing, advertising, teaching, language therapy... you name it and it’s probably been done. Remember that any kind of experience gives you transferable skills, not just the office jobs. They are still relevant and applicable to any future endeavour you are planning to undertake!

What makes me employable?

Doing an Applied Linguistics course gives you plenty of benefits that employers value, such as communication skills, the ability to synthesise information, conduct independent research, presentation skills etc. These are exactly the type of things you should highlight in your application! It’s also a good idea to look over your application letter and check whether you’ve incorporated skills that the job description is looking for.

What’s the application process like?

For most people, the application process can be very deterring. Seeing the list of steps on the ‘How to apply’ page on the company website is enough to make you think - wait, do I really want to do this to myself? Depending on the company you are applying for, most would require you to send in your CV and application letter, then do an interview after that. Some companies may tell you to do online psychometric tests, go to their assessment centres, or even take translation tests! Because the scope of the application is so wide, I advise that you consult their website or try to talk to company representatives to get a better understanding of the company.

How can I increase my chances of scoring an internship?

Besides frantically combing the internet for internships, a more personalised approach could give you more options. If you look at various academic societies around campus, you will easily be able to attend talks and network with professionals in the industry. Personally, I find big companies very competitive to get into, so if you have had no luck with that, perhaps consider, as I have done, calling up companies on the phone asking for internship opportunities.

Good luck to those of you still applying for internships/placements/graduate jobs and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to know more about my experiences!

 Peer Reviewed and Approved Journal Articles

“A more in-depth investigation into what comprehensible input really means - A must read for language learners!” - Kew Li


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Meet the Exec 2018/19 Team

Hi guys! I’m Ed, president for GloCAL. I’m currently a second year studying English Language and Linguistics. I have high hopes for the society this year - we will continue to build upon the great work last year’s exec did to get the society off the ground, and bring in fresh new ideas to take us to the next level. For new, prospective, and existing Warwick students, we want to open the society up and be one of the most diverse and inclusive student-led body on campus. We have lots to look forward to and we can’t wait to get more people on board and grow our pride in GloCAL.

Hi everyone! I'm your new social sec Emily, your responsible mum friend that will look after you once I've inevitably got you very drunk. I'll be running circles as well as non-drinking events and promoting these on our social media alongside department talks. If you ever need me I'll most likely be in the common room, easily identifiable by the purple hair. Happy circling!

Hello, hello! I'm Sabrina, your new Education Officer. I'll be the one to find you “a perfect match” in the mentoring scheme. Also, when rough times come (term 3), I’ll have some revision classes booked where you can go study/cry and then nail the final exams. I’m friendly, so if you just come to me with a nice book, a glass of wine or just an “Hi!”, you’ll have all my attention.

Hey everyone, I’m Alex Elliott your new gloCAL Vice President. While my hair may not be as recognisable as last VP Alfie’s luscious locks you’ll get to know me as the Australian girl serving you at Rootes Grocery Store. I’ll be working alongside Ed and the rest of the team to help you get the most out of your university experience amongst a wonderful group of people. Looking forward to meeting you all!

Heya! I’m Christina, last year’s president and now your new treasurer of GloCAL. You’ll probably recognize me as the one that frequently popped into your lectures rambling about GloCAL. I will be in charge of money and helping out around the department whenever anyone needs me. I normally loiter around the common room or the admin office but if you wanna chat send me a fb message or an email! Looking forward to seeing you at events!

Maryam Hamodi
-GloCAL Secretary

Turn over to join us at our term one events!
WHAT’S ON - Term One Events

◊ 27th Sept- Freshers Meet & Greet, The Dirty Duck - Freshers! Come meet the Exec team and ask any burning questions you may have about the department course or uni-life in general.
◊ 4th Oct- Welcome back chat, SU- Come down to the pub for a chance to with others students in the department.
◊ 10th Oct- Pop week 2, SU- It’s Pop!
◊ Trip to Leamington Spa (TBC) - A nice bus ride out to Leam (where the real Warwick student life is really at).

Liked our Facebook page yet?
Scan the QR code to stay updated with the Society!

CROSSWORD

WHAT’S ON - Term One Events

ACROSS
4 A nickname for a person who has lived all over the world. (15)
5 SU Union’s Wendesday night out (3)
7 A consonant stop (7)
9 A person who speaks two languages fluently (9)
11 A recent movie involving a linguist and aliens (7)
12 Most spoken language (7)

DOWN
1 Not pronounced (4)
2 The movie GloCAL watched in Term 3 2018 (11)
3 Science of Language (11)
6 Smallest unit of sound (7)
8 Unit of pronounciation (8)
10 A singer’s concern (5)