

Want to improve your English by communicating with students in the USA?

This semester Sarah Guth is setting up a six-week telecollaboration project between students here in Padova with her colleague and her students at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

What is telecollaboration?

A telecollaboration project brings together students in geographically different areas using online communication and collaboration tools. Or more simple an opportunity to chat in English with students like you in another country.

Why telecollaboration?

Through communication with peers in another country you will have the opportunity to use your English in a real context and you will also get to learn about another culture and share yours with other people. In today's world, knowing how to effectively communicate in English, online and with people from diverse cultural backgrounds has become everyday practice in many companies and telecollaboration can help you develop those skills. At the same time, this would be great practice for the TAL B2 Speaking test!

What does the project involve?

Each week you will chat with your American peers either in real time using technologies such as Skype or WhatsApp or asynchronously using online discussion forums we will set up for you. We will give students on both sides tasks to complete and materials to use for their discussions. In addition to doing some of these activities on your own time, you will also meet with me, Sarah Guth, once a week to work on the project.

Calendar

March 1 – April 21

Tuesdays 12.30-14.00 (preparation for and debriefing from the Skype sessions)

Thursdays 16.00-17.30 (Skype sessions with the US students)

Time commitment

3 hours per week in class

Number of students

Maximum 15-16

Requirements

You have to commit to the whole project, i.e. 2-3 hours a week for 6 weeks. Because a telecollaboration project involves interaction with other students, they depend on you for the communication on a regular, constant, consistent basis. If you cannot guarantee this degree of commitment, please do not ask to participate. I have had students start and drop out in the past and it literally destroys the project for your peers in the US.

If you are interested in joining the project, please contact Sarah Guth at sarah.guth@unipd.it and use "Telecollaboration with Xavier" as the subject of the email. I will accept students on a first come, first served basis up until February 19th.

I am sending this through the Moodle Course created in the first semester, but please do feel free to share this with other students who you think may be interested.