eTANDEM GLOBAL - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is eTandem Global?
This is a new project managed by the University of Edinburgh in collaboration with partner universities.

Through eTandem Global you will be matched with another student in Scotland, UK. You will communicate online together 50/50 in your two languages to develop your language skills and learn about each other's culture. You can also join group meetings if you wish. The project will run initially from Oct-Dec 2020 (potentially continuing from Jan 2021).

What are the benefits of taking part?
You will improve your English language skills in a fun, informal environment, learn to speak the way the locals do and increase your fluency and confidence. You'll also find out what it's like living in Scotland and meet friends who are as interested in your country, culture and language as you are in theirs. You will be encouraged to complete a Reflective Log to record your interactions and learning, and to receive a Certificate of Participation.

Who will I be matched with?
Your partner will be a University of Edinburgh student who is in their third year of studying your language, and who wants to improve their skills and cultural knowledge. Students of European languages will have skills of at least upper intermediate (CEFR Level B2) in that language. Students of other languages may have a slightly lower level (intermediate). They will all be native speakers of English, or people who have lived in Scotland for at least two years and speak English fluently.

What is involved?
1:1 Interactions
You and your partner decide together which communication platform suits you best, and how often to meet. One hour per week is recommended, but if you want to meet more often or for longer that's great! We recommend you pick topics related to your current studies to maximise the learning experience. The eTandem Global team at the University of Edinburgh will provide regular tips for themes and activities, so you'll never be stuck for ideas!

Social Media & Language Cafes
We will invite you to join a closed Facebook group where you can get a feeling for the wider eTandem Global community. We will use this platform to post announcements, tips and events, but will also send important messages by email. Language Cafes hosted on Zoom will give you a chance to meet and chat with more students.

What are the requirements for taking part?
Students from any degree programme may apply, but we may prioritise Languages students if we have a lot of demand**.** Ideally you will have English at Upper Intermediate level (Level B2 on CEFR) or above, but applicants with lower skills may also apply. You don't need any teaching experience to take part. The important thing is just to be open and interested, to communicate and to have fun!

I'm not a native of the country my university is based in. Does this matter?
You can offer your own native language and/or the language of your host country, providing you are fluent and it is one of these languages: **Arabic, Chinese, Danish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish.**

How will you match eTandem Global partners?   What if I'm not matched?
You need to complete the Registration Survey with contact details, language(s), degree programme, interests and some preferences. We will then match you with another student based mainly on language, and where possible on other factors. We unfortunately can't guarantee to find a partner for every student as this depends on applicant numbers. If we can't match you, we will put you on a waiting list and may offer alternative options, (eg Language Cafes/Facebook) if possible.

Will my interactions with my partner be monitored or assessed?
eTandem Global is an informal and student-centred project, and so your participation will not be assessed by the University of Edinburgh. We do however encourage you to complete a Reflective Log as mentioned above. We may monitor social media group pages for any activity which contravenes the House Rules.

What guidance and support is there for taking part?
The University of Edinburgh's eTandem Global team will invite you to a Welcome Meeting on Zoom where you can find out more about how the project works, and ask any questions. We will also be available throughout the project to offer support. If you join the Facebook group, you will be part of a supportive community of fellow students with whom you can interact and share experiences.

What happens if things don't work with my partner?
You will be asked to read and sign a Code of Conduct, and we expect everyone to be kind, courteous and respectful of other views, and to act in accordance with their own University's Student Charter and Conduct Policy. The University of Edinburgh cannot be held responsible for communications between students. We will ask you to let us know if there are any problems, and if the 1:1 partnership doesn't work, we will put you on a waiting list for a replacement match and you can still take part in group activities. You may opt out of the project at any time, but please bear in mind the impact on your partner.

What about Data Protection and Online Safety?
The University of Edinburgh will comply with all EU GDPR requirements in terms of use, storage and retention of personal information. Our Privacy Notice can be found here. We

will provide links to guidance about online safety, and will ask you to read and sign a Code of Conduct, and Facebook House Rules, and inform us immediately of any concerns.

What next?
We will let you know within two weeks of completing the online application form whether we have found a match for you. We will then send your University of Edinburgh partner your name and email address, and ask them to contact you within one week. Once in contact, you can start your eTandem at any time which suits you both.

Any more questions?
If there's anything else you need to know before signing up or later, please contact the team at the University of Edinburgh at etandemglobal@ed.ac.uk - we'll be happy to help!