

En este espacio confluyen las voces de los diferentes participantes del programa de inmersión en inglés. Docentes participantes, un tutor y una madre de una posada nativa cuentan lo que esta experiencia ha significado para sus vidas. Estos testimonios muestran que la isla ha sido un espacio de convergencia de diferentes culturas, visiones de mundo y expectativas; y que a pesar de esta diversas a todos los une un solo objetivo: aprender los unos de los otros.

Soy Carlos William Chaparro Cely oriundo de Duitama (Boyacá). La vida me dio la oportunidad de vivir y estudiar inglés en Londres (Inglaterra). Regrese a mi tierrita hace 11 años y desde entonces me he desempeñado como docente de inglés y coordinador académico de Hammersmith, una institución dedicada a impartir el bilingüismo en la región. Desde hace tres años soy el coordinador del programa de bilingüismo “Dialogando con el Mundo” del municipio de Duitama y docente del colegio La Nueva Esperanza. Tenía gran expectativa por ser partícipe de una inmersión pues los docentes que conozco que habían participado hablaban de esa experiencia maravillosa.

Duitama está localizada a tres horas y media de Bogotá. Después de ese corto viaje tome un avión a San Andrés. Al aterrizar pude ver esa belleza natural, nuestro mar, con una gama de colores sorprendentes y la naturaleza de la isla, les confieso nunca había ido a San Andrés. Allí viví en casa de la señora Edula, que me hizo sentir como en mi casa. Compartí casa con un docente de Armenia (Luis), otro de Ibagué (Diego) y mi compañero de cuarto Alex, un pija (llanero) muy buena gente. Mi teacher, Randy Roy muy ama-

ble y buen amigo quien nos invitó a compartir nuestras experiencias de enseñanza lo cual fue muy productivo.

Una de las anécdotas para recordar ocurrió en los primeros días de visita al mar cuando una aguamala me picó en una pierna y me hizo ver los diablos. Gracias a los organizadores de la inmersión fui al hospital donde me dieron droga para contrarrestar el dolor y la picazón.

Espero que esta gran experiencia se replique para muchos docentes a nivel nacional; y por intermedio de convenios internacionales los docentes podamos salir del país y tener la experiencia de trabajar en una institución de habla inglesa durante un tiempo y poder replicar ese conocimiento en nuestros compañeros de trabajo y nuestros estudiantes. Finalmente, mil y mil gracias por esta oportunidad la cual he podido difundir en mi colegio y con docentes de otras instituciones educativas de mi región.

Carlos William Chaparro Cely
Docente participante de Duitama
cduitamachia@yahoo.co.uk

Cuando se abrió la convocatoria en la Secretaría de Educación del Dpto. del Atlántico, envié el proyecto que lideramos los docentes de Inglés de la ENS Nuestra Señora de Fátima, sin esperar ser seleccionada para participar en este programa. Luego estando de viaje me llaman de la secretaria para que les enviara unos documentos porque había sido escogida junto a otras tres docentes del dpto. Fue una emoción muy grande, primero porque siempre había querido estar en un ambiente bilingüe para mejorar mi nivel de lengua y segundo porque no conocía ese paraíso que es la Isla de San Andrés.

Durante este mes que pasé en la Isla aprendí muchas cosas; no solo académicas, sino también culturales. Una de las actividades que más disfruté fueron las culturales donde aprendí de las costumbres de los Isleños. De esta manera, al practicar el inglés en ambientes reales de uso mejoró notablemente mi nivel de lengua. Tengo que decir que fue un curso que me aportó mucho beneficio a mi quehacer como docente de inglés. Realmente puedo decir que en estos espacios es en donde se da el aprendizaje significativo que luego los docentes que participamos replicamos en nuestro quehacer pedagógico. Haciendo alcanzables las metas del MEN. Buscando así, fortalecer la competitividad para el aprendizaje de una segunda lengua para tener más conocimientos y oportunidades para ser competentes y competitivos y mejorar la calidad de vida de todos los ciudadanos. Por ello, el MEN a través del Programa Nacional de Bilingüismo, impulsa políticas educativas para favorecer, no sólo el desarrollo de la lengua materna, sino para fomentar también el aprendizaje de lenguas extranjeras como es el caso del idioma inglés.

Fabiola Maria Bayona Caro
Docente Participante del Atlántico
fbayonac@yahoo.es

My name is Ignacio Sánchez I am working at Pablo Neruda in Fontibon, near the Airport. What is my idea about this kind of programs? I had one idea about this immersion, but when I came back to this immersion I changed my idea about this kind of programs. First one, I had an opportunity in order to increase my vocabulary, my rules, and my ways in order to teach English. The Second activity that I obtained from this immersion is to have one opportunity to practice with many people that speak English, native people, and my colleagues that speak English. Obviously we have other ideas about this kind of program. What about my expectation about this immersion. I had one idea, I supposed it would be like other programs but I changed my idea. When you have one opportunity in order to improve your English with persons, with colleagues that speak English it is important to take this ideas, take this methodologies in action. What about my activities in my classes, after this program I consider I had many mistakes about pronunciation, vocabulary, but when you have one opportunity to change this, one program like this immersion, you note a different. After this immersion I have another point of view with my students in order to make my classes. In my classes in this moment, my students are motivated because I am speaking all the time with my students. This is one of my expectations to increase my vocabulary in order to speak all the time in my classes with my students. What is my invitation to my colleagues? If you have one opportunity in order to go to one immersion I say it is a good idea, it is a good way in order to change our traditional methodology.

Ignacio Sánchez
Participant Teacher from Bogotá
ottishalom007@yahoo.com

My name is Arturo Stephens. I am from this island and I have been a tutor in this immersion since

the second time it happened. One of the most important things that I have learnt from this immersion is that we teachers should not believe that we know everything, because there is no one that knows everything and we can always learn from each other. What I mean to say with this is that if I am a tutor it does not mean that I cannot learn from my students. I know I am the guy, I am the one who has to give example, but I think they can also do things that maybe I have never heard of. Now, speaking about the main objective of this program is to improve the level of the student in the basic four skills of the second or foreign language. And in these four basic skills we as tutors always try to emphasize on the listening and speaking skills because those are the two that the majority of students have found that they have weaknesses. Their weaknesses, they say, are always listening and speaking. For that reason, we try to emphasize those skills. Not to mention writing, because personally as a teacher I think this is the most difficult skill. But the participant teachers always say that what they need is listening and speaking. I think we have been doing a wonderful job. The majority of the time no one has complaint. I think what we are doing here on the island is something marvelous.

Arturo Stephens
Tutor
arturostephens@gmail.com

My name is Fermin Castro, I come from Mosquera Cundinamarca, near Bogota. I would like to share with you my experience during this immersion in San Andres Island. First of all I want to tell you that it was great because I had the opportunity not only to improve my English level, especially in speaking and listening, but also to meet the san Andrés culture and this is very important. I can say that this island is amazing not only for its beaches and different landscapes but also for its culture. They are able to speak three

languages, Creole, Spanish and English. I can tell you that this is a bilingual place. For me as a teacher that is very important because as you know we want to become bilingual, not only our town but also all around our country. I met a lot of people, very very kind people, not only from Colombia, but also from other countries such Honduras, Mexico, Salvador y Costa Rica. When you know other cultures we can open our minds, our expectations about life and about education. For this reason I am very happy and I invite you to come to San Andres not only to visit the beaches as a tourist. Come to learn its culture and Creole and English and to practice it here. I think that my English level is improving and I am very happy. Also I am a little sad because I want to come back.

Fermin Castro
Participant Teacher from Mosquera
fcastro1973@yahoo.com.ex

The English immersion program on the island of San Andres, Colombia was a very enriching experience where not only the academic part of the program was productive as for our benefit the environment in which we live in remains on the island takes us to a Full opportunity practice. The families where we stayed, they speak entirely in English and even we got the surprise of even the neighbors were informed that we were part of the program and addressed us in English. After having a completely English communication for a month, I must say that fluency in the language and the practice experienced at this time has increased our knowledge and proficiency in this foreign language.

Lesly Rodríguez
Participant Teacher from Honduras
itaca_Isro@hotmail.com

I am Petrona Bowie, I am from one of the lodgings. First of all I want to thank Ministerio de

Educación Nacional and Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Caribe to grant us with this opportunity once more, to have these people, these students, these teachers in my house. Housing them having good time with them, passing time with them, and exchanging culture with them that is the most important thing for us: having

exchanged culture and customs with them. I hope that we continue in this great program to learn from it. It is a great program for us.

Petrona Bowie
Hostess

