I failed the IELTS writing test twice.

The first time I got 5.5. The second time, 6.0. My offer for a master's in Glasgow needed 6.5, and the deadline was in September.

Both times I had done what everyone told me to do: I memorised templates. "In this day and age…" "On the one hand… on the other hand…" My essays looked like English, but they did not answer the question.

So I changed one thing. For six weeks I wrote one Task 2 essay a day without a template, and I paid a teacher to mark twelve of them. Her comments were almost always the same: answer the exact question, and give one real example instead of three general ones.

In September I got 7.0.

If you are preparing now: stop collecting phrases, and start collecting feedback.

What helped you most with IELTS writing?
#IELTS #StudyAbroad