

“My name is Kenji, and I am UM LL.M. graduate student from Japan. I have worked at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation in Tokyo for ten years, and I came to Ann Arbor to study at the University of Michigan Law School. I have been taking an Intensive English (ESL) Tutorial with Ms. Ema Stefanova for three months now.

I find Ms. Stefanova’s lessons a good preparation for the graduate LL.M. program, since I have ample opportunity to practice English speaking, listening, reading, and writing. We discuss a lot of issues for example, and I write my opinion. This type of work has been helpful for me, and gives me confidence. Thanks to her lessons, I was able to participate in the summer ELS program at the UM with ease and now I can do my work at the UM law school.

In addition, Ms. Stefanova’s lessons were not only about improving language skills, but also learning how to live in the U.S. Opening a banking account at the right bank for me, shopping in smart ways, and driving safely, etc. were just a few useful things I got advice and help with. Ms. Stefanova always asked about my needs in general, and provided solutions. She used a lot of useful materials and sometimes let me borrow books. In fact, I recommended her to a classmate of my, a fellow attorney from Japan, and he is also taking her lessons.

I recommend Ms. Stefanova to all international students and business people.”

University of Michigan Law School LL.M. Graduate

“Hi! I am Hiroshi, a Japanese attorney at law from Tokyo, Japan. I graduated from the International Tax LL.M. program of the University of Michigan. One of my goals to come to the U.S. was to improve my English, particularly my speaking. That is because I sometimes advise our firm’s U.S. clients about Japanese tax law in English.

Originally, I joined the summer program at the university. The program was good and I was able to learn a lot, but my speaking skills improved only a little because there was little opportunity to speak English in the program. One of my classmates recommended Ms. Stefanova, and I found her lessons very helpful, as well, for the following reasons: excellent teaching skills and experience, intelligent conversations and kindness.

Teaching skills: NPR and other live programs and latest articles were used in my lessons. Once we would listen to the program, I was asked to summarize the main points, give my opinion and explain my thought on the topic. I find such practice very helpful for lawyers because lawyers must summarize the results of meetings with clients and report to other lawyers and explain our thoughts about issues to courts and opponents. In addition, I was able to borrow good materials for home study, such as DVDs and books, which also proved to be of great value.

Intelligence: I truly enjoyed talking with Ms. Stefanova. We talked about various topics from the latest news in the U.S. to Japanese culture. This helped me gain not only everyday conversation skills, but also important intellectual discussion skills.

Kindness: Ms. Stefanova and I went for a few good nature walks, enjoying beautiful scenery and talking. She would also invite me to a healthy meal, and organized a potluck party for us, the students.

After I started working with Ms. Stefanova, I feel my English skills improved rapidly. I recommend Ms. Stefanova's lessons to Japanese and other international students."

University of Michigan Law School LLM Graduate

"First of all, I would like to thank Ms. Stefanova. It was such a pleasure working with her. I am a University of Michigan Law School Graduate student from Japan. When I was admitted in the program, I did not feel confident about my English. Fortunately, Ms. Stefanova's private tutorial was recommended by the UM Law School Admission Office. I took her 80 hour long tutorial through the summer.

Ms. Stefanova has experience teaching languages at the university level including at the University of Michigan, and she is great at teaching English to professionals. Also, she has a lot of experience in working with Japanese students, and she is familiar with "Japanese English". She often corrected my mistakes. Since she has been to Japan and she is curious about Japanese culture, she and I enjoyed talking about that as well.

The tutorials focus on students' needs and goals. To succeed at Law School, I learned a lot of useful vocabulary, and practiced native English speaking and listening. I set my own schedule, and flexibility on Ms. Stefanova's part was much appreciated. Unlike other places in Ann Arbor, she is available not only during the day, but also in the evenings and on weekends. This works well for those who may be busy or work during the day.

As a new arrival to the Ann Arbor area, initially I was not well informed about many things; neither did I have a car. Ms. Stefanova would kindly give me a ride after class, showed me around Ann Arbor and I even went shopping with me a few times. One of my fond memories is her taking me to the Ann Arbor public library for the first time to borrow books for my kids.

I strongly recommend Ms. Stefanova's lessons and tutorials to people who would like to improve their English skills in general or use English in their professional lives."

University of Michigan Law School LLM Student

英語でのコミュニケーション力の向上のためにエマさんの個レッスンを利用しました。レッスンでは、ロースクールでは普段扱わないような内容のトピックも扱い、言葉のボキャブラリーを広げることができました。個人レッスンのおかげで、以前よりもリラックスして自然体に英語を話せるようになったと思います。エマさんからは、単なる英語の授業にとどまらず、米国での生活に不慣れだった私に色々なアドバイスやサポートを頂きました。エマさんのおかげで、米国での生活がとても楽しいものになりました。

University of Michigan Law School LLM 卒業生