



**Teletandem Student Evaluation Spring 2016 - Responses**  
**World Studies Media Center**

---

**Q1. Teletandem has positively enhanced my language learning experience.**

**Strongly Agree: 40**

**Agree: 38**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 4**

**Disagree: 2**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q2. Teletandem has helped me to improve my communicative skills in the target language.**

**Strongly Agree: 33**

**Agree: 44**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 4**

**Disagree: 3**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q3. Teletandem has strengthened my confidence in speaking the target language.**

**Strongly Agree: 20**

**Agree: 42**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 17**

**Disagree: 5**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q4. Teletandem has increased my interest in the target language.**

**Strongly Agree: 30**

**Agree: 38**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 14**

**Disagree: 2**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q5. Teletandem has enabled me to learn things about the target culture that were not addressed in class lectures.**

**Strongly Agree: 30**

**Agree: 31**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 16**

**Disagree: 6**

**Strongly Disagree: 1**

**Q6. My language partners were interesting and engaging.**

**Strongly Agree: 34**

**Agree: 37**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 10**

**Disagree: 3**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q7. My language partners were cooperative and helpful.**

**Strongly Agree: 41**

**Agree: 37**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 5**

**Disagree: 1**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q8. Teletandem was an effective way to practice the target language with a native speaker.**

**Strongly Agree: 48**

**Agree: 33**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 2**

**Disagree: 1**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q9. The Media Center staff was knowledgeable and helpful in carrying out the teletandem sessions.**

**Strongly Agree: 40**

**Agree: 36**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 7**

**Disagree: 1**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q10. The Media Center staff always made sure that I had a partner to work with.**

**Strongly Agree: 41**

**Agree: 35**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 7**

**Disagree: 0**

**Strongly Disagree: 1**

**Q11. The teletandem sessions were fluid and reliable.**

**Strongly Agree: 20**

**Agree: 47**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 13**

**Disagree: 4**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q12. The quality of the connection for video and audio was satisfactory for the teletandem sessions.**

**Strongly Agree: 20**

**Agree: 44**

**Neither Agree Nor Disagree:12**

**Disagree: 8**

**Strongly Disagree: 0**

**Q13. Do you have any suggestions or ideas to improve the teletandem program at VCU? If so, please comment below.**

- No (4)
- NA (2)
- The times that I was participating in the teletandem, there were a few of the students that didn't have partners... Maybe if there was a record of how many students there will be in accordance with the students in the other country, it may be helpful
- No, the teletandem was fine the way it was.
- you should do them more
- No suggestions. Everything went smoothly.
- It's great!
- I would like to do them more often/regularly. It seemed like we kind of randomly went in. Also it would be nice to maybe have one partner that we meet with repeatedly.
- Maybe try to match people with people of similar interests. I had a very engaging conversation but talked to people who did not have a lot in common with their person and did not enjoy the experience as much.
- I'm not sure how this would be enforced, but having a partner that speaks both English and Spanish would be helpful. I've had a few partners who would speak in Spanish, but then when it was time to switch to English they couldn't communicate with me.
- Maybe have a certain topic to talk about and stay on track
- It was most helpful when the professor asked the students to write out questions we wanted to ask before the session.
- I thought that the sessions ran smoothly. Most of the issues were with the connections and audio inconsistencies from the other university.
- More sessions!
- n/a
- To make sure that the partners act professionally during the teletandem
- N?A
- N/A
- Do it more often! And let people know it's available!

**Q13 (continued) Do you have any suggestions or ideas to improve the teletandem program at VCU? If so, please comment below.**

- I wish we had people from other countries to speak with, not just exclusively from Mexico. I definitely liked most of the people I spoke with but it got pretty repetitive since they were all from the same country. Overall, I really did enjoy the teletandem sessions.
- Listen, you need to figure out how to make the wifi connection better, because sometimes I have trouble trying to talk to my teletandem friend and it gets really frustrating, because we're always having a good time and to have that get interrupted really stinks. That's really it...Wifi. I also would like to have an option to be able to do this at home. Sometimes it's hard to make to campus when you are a commuter, or if you get sick or something comes up, but I'd still like to be able to talk to my teletandem partner and have it count as credit.
- I feel that they should be done more often so that we can stay progressed.
- A bit more structure would have been useful, neither my partner nor I had any idea when we were supposed to switch languages or when the session was complete.
- I wish there was some way to have more opportunities to speak with native Chinese speakers.
- Try to expand to other universities
- The background noise from Mexico made it difficult to hear at times. One staff member turned down the sound and that helped.
- Before having any meetings with participants, information on general meeting duration should be made known to both parties (so when they need to finish; if they have time demands/obligations close to teletandem time).
- Most of the class had started but I had to wait around 10 minutes to connect with my partner.
- Sometimes the audio messed up.
- The person I spoke with said that they had trouble hearing me, so there are just some technical issues that could be improved.
- Improving audio would allow the sessions to be heard a little smoother. As many students are close together, sometimes it sounds like everyone is trying to talk over one another.
- More communication between other schools.
- I think shorter teletandem sessions would be more beneficial in the long run as I had a difficult time focusing attention for more than an hour.
- I would like to know what kinds of students we will be speaking to before the session.

**Q14. In your own words, briefly describe your personal experience of Teletandem and what it meant to you.**

- I think teletandems help you practice the language. The best way to learn is to throw yourself in the situation
- It was helpful and interesting to speak with someone fluent in Spanish other than the professor.

**Q14 (continued). In your own words, briefly describe your personal experience of Teletandem and what it meant to you.**

- It was nice actually talking to people who speak Spanish in their native countries and learning about how their lives are in said countries.
- It was going okay until the video feed went out
- My partner for the teletandem was very entertaining, and we had a great conversation in both Spanish and English. He seemed shy at first, but he eventually opened up and told me about his school and plans for the summer. I really enjoyed the teletandem and it made me feel a little more comfortable with speaking to native speakers.
- My partners weren't always very interesting but they were very helpful!
- I talked to a girl similar in age to me about topics that were provided to us and then talked more about our personal life, she was sweet but looked at her phone a little during our session
- I enjoyed it.
- I had a lot of fun. The girl I was talking to was very patient and I enjoyed talking to her.
- I am extremely happy that in my Spanish 101 class I was able to experience talking to a native Spanish speaker in another country. Words can not describe how awesome of an experience it was. It does strongly encourage me to go further in a Spanish course than a 101 or 102 Spanish class. This experience gave me more self confidence in speaking the language and gave me more interest to learn the language beyond a basic conversation (e.x. hola, como estas, estudias mucho?).
- I've loved my experience. It has given me the unique experience not only to meet students from Mexico, but to make friends as well. I have always wanted to have more experience speaking with native speakers, and this opportunity is exactly what I was looking for. I would recommend Teletandem to anyone who wants to get more confidence in their speaking skills. All of the students that I've spoken to have been wonderful as well.
- I talked to a young woman named Diana who was very helpful and excited to learn English as well.
- The teletandem experience was a very educational one for me. It showed me where my skill level was with Spanish and what to improve on. I also learned much from the students in the teletandem, about who they were and what they did.
- I had a lot of fun talking to my partner! Neither of us were that great at speaking the language, but being able to use Google Translate helped a lot. I didn't feel pressured which was nice.
- I got to speak Spanish with a person who speaks it fluently and get feedback on how my speech could improve. It is always nice to practice Spanish with a native speaker
- I first used Teletandem last year and the partners I've had always help me improve my speaking skills. I am more confident using Teletandem than I originally was.

**Q14 (continued). In your own words, briefly describe your personal experience of Teletandem and what it meant to you.**

- I enjoyed it very much. At times it was difficult to keep track of the conversation but it definitely was fun talking to a native speaker.
- Teletandem was a good way to practice conversation skills in the target language. Most of the participants in Mexico were helpful but others had a difficult time coming up with questions to ask. Overall, my experience was good.
- Teletandem offered much encouragement and application of the Spanish class teachings. Going to several sessions allowed me to find where my vocabulary and conjugations were strong or weak. Overall, it was extremely helpful and gratifying. Thanks!
- It was much easier to ask questions about things that were acceptable and not, language errors, and I got to see what it was like for the native speaker on the other end. It was a beautiful opportunity for enlightenment.
- It was a way to help me learn how to use the language in everyday conversation as well as become comfortable with speaking it.
- It was very interesting
- I loved teletandem because I was extremely nervous to speak to native Spanish speakers before I took SPAN 311. Now I feel confident talking to my peers and teletandem helped me with that because I know they speak English just as well as I speak Spanish so it was very relatable to me, which calmed my nerves.
- It enhanced my speaking skills which was beneficial in my overall study of the course.
- Very fun way to better understand and communicate with native speakers!
- A better opportunity to learn a language and the culture that goes along with it
- It was a fun experience and it helped me truly understand how to converse with others in Spanish. I hope to be able to do this again in the near future!
- It was a great experience having to speak with someone in another language that I wouldn't get to otherwise - and it wasn't just basic "hola/como estas/etc." we were forced to have an actual conversation and it was extremely helpful.
- I think it definitely was helpful to practice my Spanish with fluent speakers since I don't get to do it on a regular basis. Most of the students were outgoing but there was definitely a couple that almost didn't seem interested in talking to us. Many of them didn't speak English, so we had to speak Spanish 99% of the time. But overall, I did like the teletandem sessions.
- It was very easy due to the fact my partner was good at speaking English already so they helped me greatly in speaking with them in Spanish by helping me translate words to English. It was fun especially since my partner had similar interests as me and they were similar in age.

**Q14 (continued). In your own words, briefly describe your personal experience of Teletandem and what it meant to you.**

- I found Teletandem helped to boost my confidence. Often I find that I get lost in the details of learning Spanish and I forget that my personal goal of learning a language is to be able to communicate with others coherently, even if I am imperfect in the Spanish language.
- I had a waning interest in Chinese this semester, due to a lot of other things, but I felt that my conversation partner in Teletandem tried their best to keep me motivated and excited to learn about China and Chinese. We didn't have much in common, but we still had a lot of fun talking and learning. I had a positive experience.
- It was fun but I think it was easier for the other folks to speak English which made it challenging at times. I also think preparation for the sessions was crucial to a successful session.
- I really enjoyed it I felt that it was a more natural way of learning.
- I spoke to a Mexican college student the same age as me with similar hair and interests. It was really neat to connect with someone in a similar linguistic situation as myself in another country.
- The opportunity to speak with a native Chinese speaker is essential for this course.
- It was interesting and a great experience to be able to speak with someone with Spanish as their first language. It also made me realize how much Spanish I actually know and that I can be more confident while speaking it.
- It is always great to be able to practice with a native speaker. I am always nervous at first, but by the end I feel more comfortable.
- It was awesome! I truly enjoyed it because I had [sic] the opportunity to speak to a native speaker from another country! I would do it again.
- Teletandem [sic] was a great experience to connect to people I would never have been given the opportunity to talk to. These sessions pushed me to become a better and more confident speaker and it was fun getting to know people and different cultures.
- It was great to be able to speak to a native speaker and the two of us were able to help each other. It helped to give me more confidence in speaking.
- This opportunity has been valuable, with much consideration for engaging with varying worldviews, utilizing another language and way of thinking, and communicating with others among another culture.
- I think it was really useful to have a conversation with someone my age who speaks the native language. She was really helpful and it was good to know that if I really needed to, I would be able to get my point across to a native.
- My experience was quite positive. I had two great partners and I learned just how capable I am with not only talking to someone in Spanish but also a complete stranger. The conversation was great and I would gladly do it again.

**Q14 (continued). In your own words, briefly describe your personal experience of Teletandem and what it meant to you.**

- It motivated me to put more time and effort into learning Spanish which turned out to benefit me in many ways.
- I had so much fear regarding the Teletandem. I dropped from SPAN 102 to 101 because I didn't want to do it. Then I found out we'd still be having them so I had to suck it up. My conception of what it'd be like and where my language abilities would be as a result of Prof. Moheno were so off. I was totally prepared, I had fun, and it's so relieving to know that I can handle myself in a situation like that. Very happy I was forced to do the Teletandem sessions.
- The Teletandem was really a good experience for me, I felt comfortable talking to the people I was paired with, and it really helped me get more comfortable in communicating the language.
- NA
- The first time I went through Teletandem, I spoke with a native whose English was a little more difficult to understand, but it made me more comfortable that she was on a similar level as I. My second teletandem session, I had [sic] a very positive experience talking with a native whom was helpful in understanding me, and vice versa.
- It was very fun, and my partent [sic] was very enjoyable.
- The Teletandem activity was helpful in my learning of Spanish. Personally I think it is more important to be able to communicate with a native speaker than take a written test on a language.
- The teletandem was a notable experience. It is innovative and is a great way to practice your verbal skills in a new language.
- I enjoyed the teletandem sessions as they enhanced my learning experience for medical spanish. I especially liked talking to the nursing students as I got to talk about the healthcare experience in spanish-speaking countries.
- It was a real experience that allowed me to apply what I learned in class and learn material beyond course content.
- Teletandum [sic] gave me the opportunity to practice my spanish language skills. I enjoyed meeting new people in Mexico and practicing my Spanish with them.