



The Ekta podcast is hosted by Victoria Surtees, UFV's internationalization specialist.: victoria.surtees@ufv.ca

EP. 5: ANGELA CHUBAK

In this episode, we chat with **Angela Chubak, a half-Japanese, half-Canadian student from Tokyo** taking a gap year from her English literature studies in Japan to improve her English fluency and experience Canadian education at UFV. She shares the differences she's noticed in education at UFV, how expectations around her English level can leave her feeling powerless, and how singing has helped her hold on to her confidence.

FAST FACTS

- UFV has more [partnerships](#) with Japanese universities than universities in any other country: 11 in total.
- Canada is the second most popular destination for Japanese international students [with participants citing English and "public safety" as key draws.](#)
- [In March 2022](#), Tokyo school board repealed rules called "buraku kosoku" that mandated that high school students have black hair and white

ANGELA'S ADVICE TO FACULTY AND STAFF

Let students use their mobile phones during class

As this [blog post](#) explains, for students with English as an additional language, mobile phones are essential support resources that contain dictionaries and contextual information to support their learning. For some tips on how to integrate mobile devices meaningfully into your course, try [this resource](#).

Build in some processing time

[According to this article](#), providing extra time for students to think, brainstorm, free-write, or sit quietly before answering questions can improve learning and deepen engagement for all students. For students with developing English, this strategy significantly levels the playing field.

What is Ekta?

Ekta, pronounced "ay-k-ta," is a Sanskrit word meaning **unity, togetherness, and solidarity**. The Ekta podcast features student stories that highlight what is needed to foster ekta at UFV.

Spotlight on Japanese

Victoria greeted Angela with the following phrase:

🔊 ようこそ

"Yokoso" meaning "welcome."

Acknowledgments

A special thank you to Rajinder Singh for the introduction. UFV is situated on the Halq'eméylem speaking Stó:lō peoples S'ólh Téméxw.

Music by Saint Soldier. 🔊

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