

Interview of an International Business student Samppa.

Interviewer:

Ok Samppa, nice that you have a moment for us. Could you tell us where you live and what do you study and where?

samppa:

*I live in Lahti, Finland and I study in Kymenlaakson University of Applied Sciences (KyAMK, Kouvola). My program is International Business (BBA) and my specialization studies concentrate on Marketing.*

Interviewer:

Why did you choose to study to be BBA? And what made you choose an International business program. Have you always been interested in studying in English?

samppa:

*Yes. English has always been fun and interesting to me. The reason I chose the business program is that, there are so many different opportunities you can do when you graduate. There isn't only a one type of job you can apply for, there are countless of options to choose from.*

Interviewer:

What would you say are the biggest differences or challenges at studying in English instead of Finnish?

samppa:

*Well, obviously, Finnish is my mother tongue so it takes time to get used to speaking and listening everything in a different language (even though that language is already familiar to you). Biggest challenge for me is the speaking part: pronunciation and forming correct sentences in my head, and them coming out naturally and coherently is very challenging.*

Interviewer:

Is your classmates mostly foreign students or from Finland?

samppa:

*Mostly foreign. When we began our studies, the group was pretty big and there were several different nationalities, but now the group has gotten smaller with students changing schools or switching programs etc. The majority of them are still foreign students...mostly Chinese, some Vietnamese, Russian and so on. Still a pretty international group, though.*

Interviewer:

Ok, I guess you have great parties with all the students bringing something new from their own cultures? :)

samppa:

*Yeah, we used to have in the beginning. Nowadays, not so much. It was definitely interesting to see and to get to know different cultures. I guess Chinese are used to share things more than us Finns, because they have no problem taking your drinks from the fridge during a party ;)*

Interviewer:

I think they just tried to benefit of your hospitality ;). What about the practical training periods, are they done in international companies? I have heard you were at a practical training period in Malmö in Sweden, could you tell us something about that?

samppa:

*Practical training for us is 5 months. It can be done separately or in a row. The first 2 months is basic training and the last 3 months is professional training. You have to do at least the other half of training period abroad, unless you choose to go abroad as an exchange student. This 'rule' is of course for Finnish students since foreign students are already abroad in Finland. I did my basic training period (2 months) in Malmö. I worked in an independent record label, where I did various tasks, mostly involving the marketing of the label and their artists (e.g. label website).*

Interviewer:

Sounds interesting! Have you planned to go work abroad in the future or what kind of future plans do you have? More studying or working asap?

samppa:

*Foreign countries definitely attract me. It would be great to work abroad at some point. I don't have any big plans, but I do plan on working and not studying anymore. I think 16 years of studying is more than enough for me!*

Interviewer:

Yes, it is a long time. Do you think you have an advantage compared to mainstream BBA students (Finnish education program) to get an interesting job in the future, because you are studying in an international business program?

samppa:

*It depends. If I apply for a job abroad, I definitely have an advantage. And if I apply for a job in Finland, I have the advantage of having a nice looking CV which says that I have worked abroad, which in many cases, is looked at positively. Then again, some of the business terms might be unfamiliar for me in Finnish, since I have studied the same things in different language.*

Interviewer:

Im just at the beginning of my BBA studies so the next questions interests me. Have your opinions of this branch you are studying changed during your studies? Has it for example filled your expectations or been a disappointment? And is this a branch young people should apply for in the future?

samppa:

*To be honest, I didn't have too much expectations when I begun my studies. I've never been the most diligent student, but I guess it mostly depends on your own attitudes and your own goals. It's difficult to speak for the whole IB program itself, since I'm sure there are some differences in how it's taught in different schools. Of course, there are always things that could have been done better, but all in all, I'm satisfied and happy about my decision.*

Interviewer:

I think we already know enough about your studies. What about your hobbies? Do you have any hobbies that supports your studies or what do you do on your spare time?

samppa:

*I don't really have much hobbies that support my studies besides chatting (in English) with foreign friends I have. Of course, I also watch movies, listen to music and read stuff on the internet, so my English is always improving.*

Interviewer:

Do you do any sports?

samppa:

*I used to do mixed martial arts, but not so much nowadays. I'm in to jogging and random ball games with friends. Beach volley is my favourite in summer!*

Interviewer:

I guess martial arts is a good way to relief the stress school sometimes gives you. :) But I am running out of questions. Is there something useful or just funny you want to tell us about your studies, practical periods, hobbies or anything else you want to share with us?

samppa:

*Yeah, there is, but I'm kind of hungry right now, so I'll have to leave the stories to some other time! ;)*

iisak sanoo:

Haha, well, I want to thank you for the interview. This was by far the best interview I have ever made and I wish you all the best in the future.