

Curriculum Ambassadors



Case Study: Michaela Kosman

Michaela went to Holyrood R.C. High School in Edinburgh and is studying French and Spanish at the University of Edinburgh. She will graduate in 2019.

What attracted you to studying French and Spanish at the University of Edinburgh?

My journey with languages started 12 years ago when I first moved to Scotland. In primary school I had French lessons and seemed to be doing quite well. In secondary school I ended up studying French, Spanish and Italian.

Most of my teachers went to Edinburgh University and were very pleased with it. It was also a very good university in terms of rankings which was important to me. It had the highest entry requirements out of all the local universities and I was encouraged by family, friends and my school to apply. It was close to home with great facilities and a great reputation.

How do you feel you benefited through your work as a Curriculum Ambassador? What did you enjoy most about this role?

I feel that through my work as a Curriculum Ambassador I was not only able to help the pupils I taught French to, but it was also an opportunity for me to work on and improve my weaknesses such as organisation skills, punctuality, planning ahead, managing my workload and so on. The thing that I enjoyed the most was the fact that the pupils enjoyed the lessons and wanted to learn, they looked forward to the lessons and were very active during.

This made me happy as I felt that I was doing something worthwhile and useful and they wouldn't have gotten the opportunity to study French if it wasn't for the Language Curriculum Ambassadors.

What have been the best and worst things about studying French and Spanish at the University of Edinburgh?

The worst or most difficult part of university was definitely the transfer between high school and university, as in first year you are launched into massive lectures and you don't know anyone, you don't know any of the lecturers and the tutors and they don't know you which is very different from what you are used to in high school.

The best thing so far has definitely been my year abroad, and it's not over yet. It puts you out of your comfort zone and allows you to live unforgettable experiences. You have the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, discover new cultures, traditions and ways of living. It is challenging but incredibly fun at the same time.

How have you found managing a good work/life balance, either while studying or working?

It is definitely a challenge but I feel that the more you have on your plate the better you can manage it all and balance it out. It may sound strange but when I have more to do I have limited time to spend on each thing which motivates me to do it sooner, whereas, if I have a lot of time and not much work I tend to leave things till the last minute because I think that I have so much time. I would definitely encourage doing extra curricular activities such as ambassadorial work as it can also help you improve skills that will be useful within and outside of your degree.



What are you currently doing and what are your plans for your future career?

I am currently on my year abroad, I spent my first semester in Paris and I will be spending my second semester in Santiago, Chile. I am coming back to Edinburgh for fourth year to finish my degree and plan to either do further study or work in a French or Spanish speaking country in the field of translation, interpreting and business.

What advice would you give to prospective students?

Don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone, take advantage of all the opportunities out there. Don't underestimate yourself and aim higher each time. Take on challenges that make you uncomfortable, we learn from mistakes and now is the time to make mistakes. Just go for it. Be brave.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

Remember to enjoy your time at University. Yes, the degree is the most important part of it but so are the people you meet, the networks you build and the memories you make.

