



FIRST STEPS IN DIPLOMACY

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Uganda)**

STARTING OUT YOUR CAREER

- INTERNSHIPS
 - ACADEMIC WORLD VERSUS REALITY
 - LIFE EXPERIENCE
 - NETWORKING
- FLEXIBILITY NEEDED
 - GEOGRAPHIC AND THEMATIC FLEXIBILITY
 - ACKNOWLEDGE LUCK FACTOR
 - DON'T BE DISHEARTED BY REJECTION

STARTING OUT YOUR CAREER

- CHALLENGES YOU WILL BE LIKELY CONFRONTED WITH
 - LOW/NO PAY – REALITY OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY
 - JOB INSECURITY
 - HR IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
 - IMPACT ON SOCIAL LIFE OF EXPATRIATE CAREER
 - INTERNATIONAL CAREER IN TIMES OF COVID-19



EXAMPLE PERSONAL CAREER

- OVER A YEAR OF UNPAID INTERNSHIPS (IRAN, USA AND THAILAND)
 - LEARNED PERSIAN
 - FIRST PAID WORK EXPERIENCE AS RESULT OF INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE IN THAILAND
 - UN EXPERIENCE IN NEW YORK – NETWORK BUILT AND FIRST THEMATIC EXPERIENCE WORKING ON AFRICA
- JDP EXPERIENCE IN UGANDA
 - OPPORTUNITY TO PASS CAST EXAM
 - FOUND NEW POSITION IN DELEGATION IN TWO MONTHS (TWO OFFERS)
 - NEXT STEP NIGER (HARDSHIP)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN EU DELEGATION

- JPD EXPERIENCE, LESSONS LEARNED I
 - IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT POLITICAL/CULTURAL SENSIBILITIES OF HOST COUNTRY
 - EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT DYNAMICS IN THE EU DELEGATION (INTERPERSONAL, EEAS/INTPA, HQ RELATIONS, MS, ...)
 - RESPECT FOR HIERARCHY

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN EU DELEGATION

- JPD EXPERIENCE, LESSONS LEARNED II
 - HUMAN RELATIONS ARE KEY (E.G. GET TO KNOW YOUR DESK OFFICER)
 - YOU REPRESENT AN ORGANISATION AND YOUR ACTIONS CAN HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE IMAGE OF YOUR EMPLOYER (E.G. MIS/DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS)
 - YOU NEED TO WORK TO EARN RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST (E.G. ROLE IN ELECTIONS)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN EU DELEGATION

- JPD EXPERIENCE, LESSONS LEARNED III
 - UNDERSTAND PERCEPTIONS OF INTERLOCUTORS (E.G. YOUTH AND GENDER)
 - BE SELF RELIANT (ADMIN AND HR ONLY GOES SO FAR)
 - CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION ARE APPRECIATED

SOME ADVICE

- IT IS TOTALLY NORMAL TO NOT HAVE A CLEAR CAREER GOAL/TRACK AT THIS STAGE
- ALLOW YOURSELF THE FREEDOM TO TRY/FAIL AT THINGS
- HELP OTHER PEOPLE ON THE WAY, EVERYBODY NEEDS A FIRST BREAK

HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

