

S: How you doing?

J: Hi, hi, I'm good Sherry, how are you doing?

S: Yeah, I'm good.

J: Thanks for your time today. It's a weekends and you still have to interview with me.

S: Omg is any big ddl happened yet?

J: Oh ddl I just passed yesterday. So I'm actually taking a break right now. Even though I am still in New York, I didn't really go out much and I'm just staying at my friend's house.

S: Oh have fun in New York! Let's introduce yourself first, what's your name and the how to pronounce

J: my name. My name is JANICE. and our people usually call me Janice. And my last name is Cham. cham. So in Malaysia, people call me Janice. In US people call me Janice. That's how it's worked. I don't know why.

S: Okay, so what's your major? And what's the year at BU?

J: And currently a master's student in business analytics? And this is my last year my last semester at BU.

S: Okay, um You mentioned you're from Malaysia Right?

J: Right. I'm from Malaysia.

S: Okay. So what time do u come to US?

J: when did I come to us? Um, so I actually came like 2014 when I was 19. So I attended my degree at Ohio State University to study finance

S: Ah, so you make this decision that you want to come to US for the university?

J: You mean, Why do I pick US to study my finance? Because that time I actually wanted to study finance so that my dad give me some advice that actually you as has quite a good finance environment and course so he actually encouraged me to come to us to study finance that's how I made my decision to come here.

S: So that's what your dad want to you study here?

J: Once he showed like advised me to come here. So I actually think is pretty good advice for me. It's I really love, love the life live when I was studying finance at The Ohio State University.

S: Okay, um, is there have anything impact your like, your culture or your peer your value have on you coming to you , like about yourself.

J: Impact, Peer, culture...I would like to say first thing is that I became more confident and independent. Here's you as showed of having a culture like you just have to care about yourself. You don't care about how other look at you. So way they are.

S: Sorry, can you repeat again it seems have some internet problems.

J: Okay. So for the culture? Yes. I have I like I love the culture here because everyone has been really friendly and helpful to each other without asking for any returns. They just been kind from their bottom of heart. So because.....well, sorry, sorry. I think it's my airport. Let me...alright, I'll start over again, the same questions. Okay. So anything impact my culture, your peers and values on your country. I love the US culture because there has been really helpful and friendly. They were really kind from the bottom of heart. I still remember when I came to first came to us. I have lots of people been helping me. Like without asking any returns. They hosted me they let me stay in their house, they cook me food. They drove me to everywhere that I needed to. They also taught me how to actually survive and the product culture like tipping the waiters in the restaurants and my peers. And they also the culture also taught me that I have to the only thing that I need to care about is myself. I do not need to care how other looks at me So I actually became more confidence and independent.

S: Okay, so like this is what you learn in US?

J: Yes yes, be confidence. Be yourself, be happier about what you are, who you are. Do not care about how others look at you. Yeah, I think that's a very important value that I have learned. And that's the way I grown up with.

S: Okay. You mentioned that you take your undergraduate degree out of Ohio, right?

J: Yeah, Ohio State OSU.

S: when you're coming to Ohio, like, seven years ago?

J: Yeah, seven years ago.

S: Okay. That was the difference between Ohio and Boston?

J: Ohio is much more like urban area. Boston is a city. So Ohio do not have much good food or entertainment. Like Boston. Boston has lots of nice restaurants. Yeah, places to hang out with friends shopping places, Ohio. No, they don't have things like this. The only shopping mall that we can hang out with friends is like 40 minutes driving from school. Yeah, so the place is very peaceful and suitable for students who study to focus on study. And you get to make a lot of friends like much more easier and quicker because you don't have any other entertainment. Except hanging out with friends meeting friends as at a college at a university and the campus so the campus was really beautiful and big. We stay we spend most of our time at a campus and library. In Boston, It's really entertaining and happening everywhere. So I actually prefer to live in Boston, a city that over an area like Ohio State

S: What are doing after you graduate at Ohio?

J: I work at San Jose and move to San Jose and work as CEO assistant.

S: Oh, oh, tell me tell me some details about your working there

J: About my job. Yeah, that's my first full time job after graduations. So, it was like long time ago. Let me think. So it's a seafood company. So, what I liked the most is that I get to taste a lot of seafood like fresh seafood like oyster, lobsters, stream all kinds of seafood. And being an CEO assistant like assistant I had I got the chance to learn everything about a company. So whenever the CEO needed me to execute something, I have to like execute it immediately. And I get to learn everything that he was doing like finance, marketing , management's and I had to attend a lot of meeting with him and meeting my customers from overseas that time. So it was kind of like assistant and also kind of PR you have to serve his guests you have to arrange all the meeting places the the place and where to travel rattle bring time to after the meeting. It was very fruitful experience I would say so after that I moved back to Malaysia and well as a marketing consultant.

S: Oh is having some difference from the job you're taking America and Malaysian?

J: Job difference or the environment you in the environment?

S: Yes, environment.

J: Yes of course in US you are much more given your personal time. Like you're encouraged to take a tea. So you do have a very consistent working hours. But in Malaysia, you seems to be working 24 hours so the boss will call you whenever he needs you even during the weekend. But in US like your boss just will leave you her like leave you alone like he will He wouldn't call you during the weekends or after seven he wants like give you any

tasks after that he would just expect you to finish everything before the working hours. And that's the mainly the biggest difference and also in Malaysia they are more like hierarchy system so the boss and and senior will actually kind of give you more stress. yeah so in us is much more relaxed I would say yeah.

S: so you prefer the US or?

J: I prefer to work here and leave here work life balance.in Malaysia Asian culture I don't think there's a work life balance there life is that work.

S: So that's why you come back to us again.

J: This is not the main reason but it's one of that. I would love to have live like that. And also I love the culture here. I have friends I have also Yeah, many of my friends here. I would like to stay here. Yeah, yeah, I think US has the life I wanted to.

S: So, the salary in US is higher than Malaysia or?

J: Oh...salary. Let me think, my salary in Malaysia is much higher here in Malaysia, I work as a Senior Consultant. But in US I was only very foundations as an assistant. So I will say of course. Of course in US it will get better pay because of the currency. But in terms of experience, you will get to experience more in Malaysia because you just have to work a lot more than compare, compare in US. It's much more on tense working in Asian culture. Yeah.

S: Okay, so after you graduate ar BU you still want to work at US right?

J: Yes, yes. I really want to stay in Boston.

S: Are there any challenges during your working like in US?

J: The biggest challenge it was, Yes, of course, languages. English. When native local people speak English, in life, fast, I wouldn't be able to catch up. So it took me some time to get to understand what they say. And yeah, that was the biggest challenge. And also the way that email formal and informal. I did to lots of misunderstanding and miscommunications during my jobs in US. It was the biggest challenges for me. The language part. Yeah.

S: Okay, um, so how's your life been at BU so far?

J: So far so good. I love is students Student Life is always the best.

S: Okay, how's the midterm going?

J: Midterm I didn't do well. It was like much more difficult than I expected. I didn't doing well. But I hope next time I'll be better.

S: Must be, how's the different from your initial expectation about BU?

J: you mean initial expectations at BU? Let me think...okay. I didn't expect to be this busy and packed schedule because as a master, I think I was expecting my life like the degree in Ohio state . They like you study you hanging out you have your own time. But being a master student at BU and it is also extensive part. I have to finish everything within a year. So it's like much much much more busier than expected. And also very pressure. Because the life has totally different like being a master student you are expected to communicate more present more and also more capstone project for you to do. there will be less exam compared to the degree life but you have more assignment presentations and projects and research so on. Yeah. So it's really really busy.

S: Okay, so the study is the most challenges you experienced now, or have other challenges?

J: I think so far so good. So far So good, I think, yeah, the busy, busy schedule. So far the most challenging for me most challenging when, because I don't really have a very good time management. I think that's it.

S: just the studying things. Okay.

J: And also, I'm also very stressful about graduation because I really need to look for a job right now. That's a very pressure I have to prepare for my interviews, and I have to have to prepare for the technical interviews, writing the code, meeting people to network so that I would get up better connections.

S: Sounds like really hard.

J: Yeah, I'm facing like, the hardest time in my life right now. I think. I don't I really don't like to look for a job. And I really don't like to interview.

S: How are you overcome with them?

J: There's no way to overcome, you just have to do it. Keep practicing it, so that you get better. And to get a job.

S: Okay, this thing like, is you were offering you some resource to helpful?

J: Oh, yes. Yeah, so far as BU is really a great school, especially for my major, they really have a lot of resources available at the campus. First thing I think, Professors are really very good resources, they, they are very approachable. They reply my email, like within a second, even during midnight, their responses or prompts. And what else we do have all kinds of career development center, to help us with our interview and also how to polish our cover letter and resume. Other than that, we do also have like access and access and writing center Yeah, to help us to polish our research paper and assignments, and also what else? I'm make a lot. I met a lot of good friends who actually helped me with my assignments and my studies. I'm really grateful for all this. Yeah.

S: Okay. Are think someone like in BU help you feel supportive? Is there someone in BU...

J: Oh, yeah, of course, my friends, my friends, my professors, and also my class TAs, they are very supportive. Whenever you have a question, just have to email them or call them or text them, they'll just reply they'll just get back to you as soon as possible. They have been really supportive. The friends around me they'll just try to do my best to help me whenever I need them.

S: Okay, so is there challenges you face it that you feel people don't know about?

J: I think it's about loneliness because I'm staying alone. So sometimes you will need a company, you wouldn't be able to find someone to come to you immediately, because everyone has been really busy with their own stuff. So I think this is the challenge that we're facing right now. But whenever I feel lonely, and I can't get anyone to to accompany me in short time I'll just go ahead and walk to the library walk around campus go shopping or watch YouTube to cute a time yeah

S: okay, so is there have any stronger memory like before u come to US, made me think about they may feel about something about you, family or things like that?

J: Memories...

S: stronger memory.

J: I think I miss staying in my house, my room. And also the weather because the weather in Malaysia has always been a summer we don't have any seasons there. We only have summer. So it's really convenient when you want to go out you just with shots and singlets all the time. because the weather is really hot so I really missed the weather there it's really nice weather all the time in Boston you know that's it's autumn it's really cold and windy and

I really miss Malaysia food the local foods, yeah my home cooked food my mom's and also my family spending time with them yeah

S: what's the food miss the most?

J: Oh a lot like the the food I miss the most is a packet day it's kind of a pork soup cooking with mess with herbs. What else lasallama it's spicy noodle spicy rice sorry What else and all kinds of local desserts noodles yeah okay, guys yeah the Hainan Chicken Rice Yeah. One of the best food in Malaysia.

S: That sounds great. Just a curious ? Have you ever feel misunderstood by local American students at BU.

J: misunderstood... you mean about my friends? Right? Can I can I tell...

S: Not just friends... like some local local students?

J: I was share with you an experience about my housemate misunderstood that I tell you I'm Muslim. because I'm from Malaysia, Malaysia is a Muslim country. So Muslim country. We do have three races like the main reasons is Malay, Chinese, which I am Chinese, race and Indian. So three races only Malay are compulsory to be Muslim. But Chinese and Indians they are free to choose their own religions. So I'm actually haven't do this. So when my friends my housemate heard that I'm from Malaysia, so she actually taught that I'm a Muslim, I cannot eat pork. And then she was so surprised that why that I can eat pork. She was thinking that I am not respecting my religion or anything. So she didn't dare to ask me at the first place when she saw it. So after that, I talked with her about my religion and booties and how we interact and how we interact with all other races like Malaya and Indians in Malaysia the only she she was really surprised that way you're not Muslim but you are from Malaysia. I was say yes my my country is Muslim country which means that our formal, which means majority of racism Malay are Muslim but not as we are still we do have a freedom to choose our own religion except Malay Malay has to be Muslim so yeah, she was really surprised and I just explain this kind of culture...and what else and how it works in Malaysia. But even though we have a different religion in Malaysia, three races has you like being really friendly to each other. Because we speak the same languages we all speak Malay and English

S: so how's your feeling when your friends like just assume you as a Muslim?

J: feeling? I was like I was really Yeah, I laugh I laugh a lot I was like all this time all this while you thought I was Muslim. she was like yeah that's why every time when she just sees me eating the pot she was really curious like , Why Why am I ignoring my religion and

eating your pork? Like yeah, I was we laugh at it. Yeah, it was kind of special experience. I know I have to explain I'm not Muslim even though I'm from Malaysia. I'm a pure booties.

S: So, um, so far is any reflection on your own journey, like thus far and the choice you made?

J: Reflections on my journey thus far ...and my choice I have I changed my major from finance to analytics. It's because when I was working in Malaysia, I feel like being a consultant, I like to be a consultant. I like to help with companies to solve their problems. I chose analytics, it required me to write a lot of coding. So it's really, really hard and difficult for me because I do not have any coding background. I don't know anything about it. So this year, January, it was my first time writing a code. So I really have to catch up and work really hard. So there was a time my first semester I met, I have always, really, I always go to the office hour and keep asking different questions. That's how I learned. Yeah. But right now I'm feeling better. Like I don't feel any. Any difficulty, like my first semester, I still love it. I'm still really passionate in writing code. And I love to do analytics.

S: Okay. Wait a second, I think this zoom maybe ending at several mins...

J: Oh you can just ask the remaining questions. I think we do have like two more left. Just come on quickly. Let's, uh, let us do a quick play.

S: Okay. But No, I think we still have a lot of questions. So let's open another zoom

S: Sorry about this.

J: Actually, if you log in with our buid it's unlimited time. There's no limitations.

S: I log in with my buid. I don't know why is still have a limited time:((
Okay, Let's continue. Like you mentioned. You're struggling from like, change changing your major, right?

J: I was, but right now I'm getting better. Yeah, I'm still loving it. I love it right now.

S: Because of your love coding?

J: Yeah, I love it. I also like to do analytics by analyze what's happening right now about a data set. Yeah.

S: What's, what makes you love coding?

J: I wouldn't say I love coding, but I love to analyze data set. Yeah, I love to analyze. I love to find out what's happening. I love to get some insight from the data sets, because the data will tell you a lot of story. Okay, so you just have to write the code, get the result, analyze it, it's very interesting.

S: Okay, so do you chose differently if you do it again? like from all the experience?

J: Sorry, pardon?

S: Like, what would you do differently If you could do it again? Like, in your whole life?

J: in my whole life? We were in terms of major selections. Alright, let's talk about it. I think if I would, if I can go back, I would not study finance major. But I will still come to US. Oh, yes, I will study Business Analytics or marketing instead of finance, because I am not a finance person.

S: Oh, what's the way do find out you're not a finance person? Because like you're studying in finance, like whole you undergraduate life.

J: Yeah, that's why I get to know everything about finance, and I don't like it.

S: Why don't you transfer your major in your undergraduate time?

J: Why that I didn't change. I feel like it's kind of a waste of time I have to retake other subjects. So it will extend my graduations. So really the one to do that.

S: Okay. Is there any unique aspects of Malaysia have had a major impact you on your own life?

J: Unique aspects of Malaysia, impact my whole life? I think Malaysia and US have different kind of applications. So Malaysia is more to writing and exams. So we have to memorize a lot of things in order for score to score higher in exams. But in US, I think they encourage people to talk more public speaking, presentations, assignments, it's much more about practical experience. And when I came to us, I didn't know how to do public speaking. I do not I'm really shy to present in front of people. But I've learned really well during my degree life. Yeah.

S: So you'll prefer the education US?

J: I wouldn't say I prefer which one that both has really helped me to grow up with a better person. So of course you need to study well. So that you learn the knowledge. And also you need to do you need to have this presentation skill and public speaking so that you can

present yourself in front of people. And also when you work. It will help you in your career. I will say both are really important. Yeah. But this is the main difference I see in the education of US and Malaysia.

S: Okay. How do you see your life in the future? That's a broader question.

J: How do I see my life in the future? I feel like after graduation, I'll get a job of course and stay in Boston. And also I will look for more opportunity to start up my own company, my own company. Yeah, that's, that's what I'm planning to. But most importantly, I would like to have a work life balance.

S: Wow, you want to start your own company? What do you make a decision like that?

J: What's makes me to have a decision like this? Firstly, I was a CEO assistant. So I learned to how to be a good boss how to manage a company. Second thing when I was in Malaysia, I was also a senior manager in a company. So I do manage people at a company. So all this experience has helped me to inspire me to start my own company. So I really like to own my company and expand it to overseas, or just a small company to feed me and my family. I think that's a really fun thing to do.

S: That's cool. Do you think how is this vision different from the field you imagined for yourself before you're coming to US?

J: What do you mean by this vision?

S: Like this vision like like before you come to us what do you think about your future? Is there any difference?

J: I didn't really have any vision before I came to US. So the only thing I wanted was to graduate. And they really plan for my future when I was in graduate in undergrad. During my degree, I mean, so visions, yeah, I was not a vision person I wouldn't have. Yeah, I think that sounds normal. I'm not, I'm not very dreamy person. I didn't have any great. I really don't know what to do, even after graduation. That's how I ended up working as a CEO assistant, because there was the first job offer I received. So it was lucky, I was lucky. The job was really really, really challenging and helped me to learn. I really learned a lot from there. So from there I went, I really learn how to manage a company or a team better. I learned to be a leader and then how's different from the future you imagined. Now, I've always wanted to be a boss and get a good job in my life. So I know I didn't see any difference, but I'm on the way. I'm on my way to it. Yeah.

S: It's good. Thank you for coming today.

J: Thank you so much for your time today. Nice speaking to you.