

ESSAY COMPETITION (850 words max)

I believe social connection is a very adequate term to define the type of relationships we develop nowadays. Why? Simply because “connection” does not entitle something deep, something physical, something human. If we think about the word “connection” on its own, most people, or at least me, think about a technology-based definition of the word. Why? I believe that is because technology is what we breathe. However, when we add the term social right before, this six-letter word adds a totally different connotation to our brains. Immediately most people, or at least me, think about a human definition of the word. Why? I believe that is because in the end of the day, we are humans, and we not only seek human interactions, but also human explanations

When looking back at my journey in Bayes Business School, it is not only amazing to think how fast time has passed, but also how my life and the life of other students has changed in such a drastic way.

September to June 2018-19. Location: London, UK. Setting: new faces, different faces, different languages and nationalities, range of ages and backgrounds, new professors and classrooms, events and picnics with friends. Variety of ethnicities = 100%. Channel of interactions = in person.

September to December 2019. Location: Singapore. Setting: new faces, languages and nationalities, professors and classrooms. Range of backgrounds. Trips and adventures. Variety of ethnicities = 100%. Channel of interactions = in person.

January to March 2020. Location: London, UK. Setting: familiar faces, friends, different but common friendly languages, range of ages that cannot be noticed anymore – unless mentioned. New and old professors, same classrooms, chats during breaks, picnics. Variety of ethnicities = 100%. Channel of interactions = in person.

April to June 2020-21. Location: Home Country. Setting: familiar faces through small screens, chats between classes replaced with phone messages, events and picnics with friends replaced with home cooking with the family, familiar and new classrooms replaced with unfamiliar zoom meetings – and end up with a mastering of the zoom app. Face to face group projects replaced with zoom-over group meetings. The writing of a final thesis, that came together, as you are all expecting, in a digital format, from corrections, to meeting with my supervisor, to feedback sessions. Variety of ethnicities = 100%. Channel of interactions = virtual.

September to June 2021-22. Location: Spain and South Korea. Setting: new faces, different faces, different languages and nationalities, range of ages and backgrounds, new professors, new campuses, chats during breaks, events, new food and culture, time to discover, back to physical interactions. Variety of ethnicities = 100%. Channel of interactions = in person.

Where am I getting to with this? Well, you, whoever is reading this, can consider this a summary of my years at Bayes, kind of my personal university entry diary. But where am I really getting to? When looking back at these years, the journey has been long, but felt extremely short. Why? People. That is my answer. Humans, my personal social connections. It is fair to say that my journey at Bayes is based on the social interactions I have had throughout my journey here, from my first touchpoint with the university, the admissions team who I talked to via email back when I was in high school, to my first day in 2018 when I met many of my classmates, new professors, the staff.

This takes me to 2019, when I met the Bayes Outgoing Team, who not only allowed me to meet other Bayes exchange students, but also gave me the opportunity to meet new professors, new staff and new friends on the other side of the world.

Moreover, 2020 Bayes enabled me to meet new faces in zoom seminars and breakout rooms, where I was able to discuss issues, learn new theories, solve problems, and work with people – who I know call friends – from all over the world AND with different time zones. Most importantly, the university allowed me to feel surrounded even in times of social distancing.

Finally, 2021-22, Bayes once again, allowed me to expand my horizons and my social connections with people from all over the world in Spain and South Korea.

Dear diary, dear person reading this, dear prospect social connection, in a nutshell this is what Bayes has given me throughout these four years. It has broadened my social skills and my communication abilities. It has given me the opportunity to make friends from all over the world, and to enrich myself with their different cultures and perspectives. Bayes has taught me that no matter the circumstances, strength and perseverance is key, and that allowing yourself to ask for help is okay. This University has taught me that keeping in touch with your loved ones is very important, no matter where in the world they are. Bayes has also taught me to embrace difference as this is the key for success since difference means variety of ideas, perspectives and skills. Overall, Bayes has helped me understand that my social connections are what shape me. And for that, I am forever grateful.