

Future is the result of an individual's past & present.

“Unknown” is the best, yet most terrifying, adjective to describe this unavoidable time; and To say that working towards it requires efforts is an understatement.

University, though, is one place where one can grasp a glimpse of this future first-hand.

Realising it early and seizing the occasion to start planning ahead for this time to come, will Eventually give you an edge in life and better chances to those dreams you aim to fulfil.

I am a 22-year-old student who left home at 17 for university; and I would be lying if I said that I knew exactly, then and even now, what the future has in store for me. Hence, the adjective I used earlier to describe what lies ahead applies to me as well. Having said that, I must recognise that I am not the same person I was as when I first set foot in Bayes, previously named Cass – and yes mentioning this matters because it also affected me and opened my eyes to a reality I never really paid attention to before: how history can affect the present.

University life shaped me in many aspects: not so much career-wise if I am being entirely honest, because, again, I still do not know exactly what I want to do next nor where I want to do it. But university, its challenges and opportunities, its requirements and rewards, and the success and failures I have experienced forged my character and taught me many soft skills I know will be very useful in every sphere of my life from this day onwards.

I know I said that I do not know what I want to do next, but I should probably add a little precision: I do not know what I will be doing in my distant future, yet; but my near future looks a bit clearer. Indeed, after spending so much time in contact with people from various horizons, discovering their culture, debating over many issues, and appreciating their cuisine, I decided that I wanted more, that I needed more. Hence my decision to pursue a master next year in an Asian country, which one? I am still debating with myself. I want to be immersed in a totally different environment and learn as much as I can about it. I ought to become a versatile person who will be able to become a solution wherever she goes. The next logical question anyone would ask me would be “What master do you want to do then?”. Well, to be honest, I have a few options. In fact, I am grateful that I got to study so many subjects during my bachelor because it allowed me to explore many areas and to figure out what I love and can do, and what I do not see myself doing, EVER. Among those options are consulting, marketing, and management. And if you knew what bachelor I am currently undertaking, this answer might come as a surprise. And this worries me a bit. I am afraid I am making a mistake changing paths. I am afraid to disappoint the people around me and those who cheered on me the past

few years. And most of all, I am afraid that I will not like what I plan to do as much as I think I will. "Should I just follow the path society and my family expects me to take?" I think that question is my biggest challenge regarding the future as of now, and I believe I am not the only one.

But I would like to say something before ending this essay: the uncertainty brought by my undetermined future does not stop me from achieving ataraxia. In my opinion, no one ever gets an exact and definite answer to what he or she wants to do 10 years from now. That is the reason why people change jobs, go back to school, or start their own business after a while. The world changes, seasons follow, and as all this happens, we also change.

So yes, university did not give me a clear-cut answer about my future, and that is okay. I do not even think that it should be its "job" to begin with. But studying at such an international school like Bayes turned me into a reasonable and responsible adult who knows how important it is to meet deadlines, who is still struggling with time-management but who will achieve it someday; an adult who does not give up but perseveres even when things get hard and most of all, one who knows how to interact with people from all walks of life. It also created in me dreams I never thought I would have.

The main lesson I learned about the future during the previous years is that one's future is not given by a straightforward formula, nor it is set in stone. So, it is okay to change your mind, it is okay to make mistakes, and it is also okay not to know what to do next...