

MASTER'S COURSE IN EUROPEAN STUDIES AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS
GRADUATION DAY CEREMONY – STUDENTS' SPEECHES

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In my country, Brazil, there is a famous writer and psychoanalyst called Roberto Shinyashiki, that says that you should never give up on your dreams and you have to do whatever it takes to make them come true. He says that: “Big dreams expand life”, another Brazilian writer, Augusto Cury, says that: “You are the size of your dreams”.

And these ideas are very important to me, and I am sure, that they are important to all of us that are here today, because we all had a big dream and today this dream is coming true.

This dream is not only about a certificate or the graduation day, but about getting to know new ideas and experiencing new cultures, meeting new people and making good friends. IT IS ABOUT LIVING AND LEARNING. And this is BIG.

But it was not so simple to achieve it as it seems, especially for each one of us that had to leave the comfort of our houses and move to another city, in the cases of our Italian colleagues, that after this year have become our friends, and in some cases, actually one case, more than friend... And for the not Italians, like me, that had to move to another country, it is even more challenging, because we had to learn another language, live in another culture and experience new ways of living and doing things. And there is the beauty and magnitude of this dream and the most gratifying part of this Master's Course.

Moving to another country is not just a decision, it is the achievement of a dream, it is putting into practice an idea that, in may case, came to my mind during my childhood, the dream of studying abroad in order to get to know new cultures and live new experiences.

During this year, we all experienced new things. As I am from another continent, coming to Europe to make a Master's Course in European Studies was a great opportunity and an unforgettable life experience. All that was possible, because of the great teachers we had from different countries. But, besides the knowledge we concurred during the classes, our experiences during the daily life and in our internship were also very important.

I say this, because my dream of coming to Europe, was not only about classes, but about living Europe, I do not mean living IN Europe, but living EUROPE, its culture, its beauty and getting to know its people and their way of living. With this and some trips around the continent, it was easier to understand Europe's history and to think about its future.

With this new experience I started to give more value to my country and my culture, and I started to see in what topics it can and has to improve. I also discovered good qualities that it has to pass to other countries, speacially our happiness and openness toward other people. But we still have a lot to improve, and this year gave me more strength and energy to go back to my country and work hard to make it a better place. And that is my new dream, and it is as big as my country.

So, I am certain that every one of us here has accomplished one of our dreams today, but I hope that this great experience throughout this year has brought many new big dreams, because it is important to dream and it is even more important to not ever give up on our dreams.

God, as always, will help us during our journey following our big dreams.

Thank you all for your attention and let's keep on dreaming.

Michele Morena

Dear colleagues and friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

First of all I would like to thank you for giving me the possibility to speak in such an important and significant occasion.

I would like to tell you very briefly my academic and personal experience in ASERI.

When I decided to attend ASERI Master in European Studies and Global Affairs, my idea was to deepen my knowledge about European and International issues.

The Master Course has not disappointed my expectations. I have found myself in an international environment composed by people coming from all around the world; I have attended courses prepared by some of the world best professors and seminars organised by persons working in various international organisations.

I have not only improved my academic knowledge, but I have also learnt to connect economic and political aspects, to look to the world's problems in a "global way".

One of the best characteristics of the Master has been the multidisciplinary approach of several courses. This element has allowed us to debate with teachers during the lessons, but also to create interesting and stimulating discussions among students.

Thanks to such an inspiring environment, we have learnt how big and important could be the European economic and political challenges. We have studied and analysed the process of European integration and enlargement; we have discovered the difficulties of Eastern European countries to catch up with Western Europe, the importance of a broad and deep reform of the European bureaucratic architecture and we have discussed about the possibility of new countries coming into the Union. While studying Europe and its problems, we have also looked beyond the Old Continent dimension. We analysed the various international scenarios in terms of political stability and economic development. We confronted us on the possibility of the creation of new world super powers such as China and India and on their impact on the future world order.

However ASERI has not only been an academic enrichment path, but also a place in which students with different backgrounds have met.

With my colleagues I have shared long studying sessions. We have exploited our best skills in different subjects and we have been able to help each other.

It will be impossible to forget our "economic training moments" when all together we were trying to solve economics exercises; or the infinite discussions about the new world order that will be created in the next 50 years and finally our big concerns about the German grammar .

We have created a big and compact group of friends staying together from the morning until the evening every day. We have learnt from each other and we have shared our different life experiences.

I would like to thank all the ASERI staff that has been very keen to help and support us in every way ; in particular we would like to thank our Tutor Elena that has been really patient with us.

I think that this one year experience in ASERI has enriched everyone and I am sure it has built the bases for our future.

Thank you very much.