

GRADUATION DAY CEREMONY – STUDENTS' SPEECHES

MASTER'S COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MANAGEMENT

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to thank professors and all the staff of ASERI as well as my dear colleagues for this wonderful year which has been the fastest, most dynamic, most stressful, but also the most enriching one of my life.

Fastest, because it seems like yesterday that I entered this same room to find a bunch of enthusiastic but hesitant young students hopeful and curious about what doors this master would open.

Most dynamic, because this year is made up of meeting new people, getting into new interesting topics, classes, exams, internships, a thesis and maybe for some of us a first real job opportunity now we (at least most of us I believe) say goodbye to student life and hello to adulthood.

Most stressful, because 13 exams and 4 papers (if I'm not mistaken) in just a few months, the worrying hunt for an internship and the nerve-racking deadline of the thesis is not exactly a piece of cake.

Finally most enriching since we have had the opportunity thanks to our own efforts and curiosity and that of professors to appreciate new matters, insights, points of view, and not to be underestimated: friendships. Each and every one of my colleagues, be it for their personalities, their presence, their ideas, have all enriched me, and make me feel less shaky to stand in front of you today, than I would have in January.

So this year has formed me, made me a more complete person and ready for a future, whatever it may entail.

Now, what can be our meaning in this challenging and beautiful world? I do not believe all of us had the same idea about the future at the beginning of the master and I do not believe we have the same idea now. I remember the embarrassing question of some of the professors as to 'what is your objective'? What do we want in life and in our careers? Many of us were interested in the field of communications, mostly in the private sector, other had the ambition to work in the highest ranks of diplomacy, in the European Union for example, others still did not have an idea or even a direction their career would take and then a few had the courage to say: I want to make the world a better place! I can imagine some of us think things differently now, having learned about new topics, having experienced an internship in the field of their interests or simply by discussing with others. I am convinced that whether our objectives have changed or not, they have become more solid and based on new knowledge and experience. I wish all of us the willingness and enthusiasm to work towards whatever objective we may have.

Thank you

Jo De Hollander – MIRM Student



MASTER'S COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Respected Dean,

Dear colleagues, professors, guests,

It is an honour to be here before you today in this special occasion, and to speak on behalf of my class.

It seems like yesterday when, entering that same door one year ago, I started my journey with ASERI. Since then, many days have past, and many goals have been achieved.

If I had to ask myself which are the reasons that brought me here I would still not have a clear answer. What I certainly know is that this choice has been one of the most important so far and that it will definitely shape my future and leave an unmistakable footprint in my life.

Here I met people from different countries, with different expectations and different ways to look at the world. Nevertheless, there were some common traits that guided us all during this intense time: the will to better understand the present, the curiosity needed to discover new things, the belief that our contribute could one day improve the world we are all living in today.

In order to follow these principles, we needed tools, skills, and method. And ASERI has been precisely the source we were looking for, the key that helped us reading the present situation, the map that will lead us into our future.

Let me address my colleagues for a moment now. We all remember those days when, gathered in the library for studying and discussing, we were working close knit in order to prepare exams, to develop presentations and to write papers. But what I care the most of that time, is the memory of the strong support and encouragement that we were all giving one another and that brought us together as a group.

Many times during my internship I thought of those “though times, difficult situations and challenges” we faced together. And many times, looking into the eyes of the children I worked for, I thought of all the theories, models and assumptions we have been studying this year. And if it is true that, as Oscar Wilde says, “Experience is the name everyone of us gives to his mistakes” I’m glad to say we have now the capacity to prevent those mistakes, or at least to understand and learn from them.

From now on, we are alone. From now on we won’t have professors to advise us, experts to solve our doubts or tutors ready to help us in organizing our work. But we will still have a strong group to back us up, real friendships to count on, and a future to share.

During the past year in ASERI, I really felt that Irish proverb which states that “there are no strangers here, only people you’ve never met before”.

Thank you very much.

Alberto Cremonesi – MACIS student