



IUG Alumni Story: A short interview with Ms. Larissa Ratl



Larissa Ratl has successfully graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from IUG in 2014 and has since started a promising career within the World Health Organization's Communication Department. We have asked Larissa about her experience at IUG and her advice to current and future students about career plans and development.

Larissa, could you tell us why you have chosen to study at IUG?

I chose IUG for many reasons:

First of all, the admission office offered complementary classes that were in line with my set objectives. The staff were kind, responsive, and showed a great amount of flexibility while finding solutions to allow me to work and study simultaneously. IUG offers a hands-on approach. Professors are committed to teaching both the theory and the practice. You are given many case-studies and are able to ask as many questions as you wish. Visits and seminars are organized on a regular basis and students get to meet managing directors and human resources experts that bring a clearer view of the professional world.

A Career Counsellor is available to help you with your job search and applications.

Classes are made up of maximum 30 students per class, and have a great number of students from different parts of the world.

Finally yet importantly, I benefited from a Scholarship, which gave me a general discount of my yearly fees for maintaining a high grade average and working a certain number of hours for the University.

Why did you choose to follow a Bachelor in Business Administration?

I have always intended to open my own business one day, and Business Administration seemed to be the best suited to grasp a 360°-degree view of how I should go about that. The program really makes you aware of all the different aspects of business, how they work, what role they play, and why they are important. You are made aware of the challenges and given the tools to pursue your personal aspirations.

You have recently started a new job at the World Health Organization (WHO) after graduating from IUG. Could you tell us a bit more about that?

After I graduated from IUG, I was selected to be part of the Solar Impulse – Around The World In A Solar Plane – adventure as part of the Marketing and Communications team. This allowed me to be hired later in October 2015 in the department of Essential Medicines and Health Products as a Communications Officer. I work directly with the director of communications and was recently put on the R&D Blueprint project.

What would you suggest to students wanting to enter the sphere of International Organizations?

Try to connect with someone you know within the organization to get your profile at the top of the short list. **Networking** is the best thing you can do for your career. Be **patient** because the selection and recruitment process take quite a while. **Take initiative!** Find ways to quickly make yourself essential to the project team. Be a **problem solver**, but remember that mistakes are human and you learn from them.

Where do you see yourself professionally speaking in ten years' time?

I do have the intention of opening my own school one day and inspiring change through alternative educational methodologies. I hope that that will be the heritage I will leave behind.