

REFLECTION

My journey in IBIS is one which has taught me to appreciate a lot about the essence of creative and innovative learning which brings out those inborn skills in you. It has made me realize the essence of making mistakes and learning from it, unlike the system I was used to back at home in my country where little mistakes are pronounced and the appreciable work done by an individual is seen as nothing unless it is close to perfect. As a result, am now conscious of the fact that mistakes doesn't mean you are weak, but it only shows where you went wrong and the need to make necessary corrections.

My learning process started when I realized the desire and need to enroll for a business oriented course which will allow me learn modern trend in the business world. With this in mind, coupled with the desire to learn and experience a new environment, I decided to seek for an up-to-date business course which will give a soft landing for someone like me coming from a different field the opportunity to learn at my own pace. After a lot of research, I came across the course International Business Innovation Studies (IBIS). I was attracted to the course because it is something new and its form of negotiated learning curriculum which is based on the meta-skills of Define, Design, Execute, Learn and Lead. To me, it is really motivating and a good way of learning when students have a say in what they learn, how they learn, and how they are assessed.

I was happy about my discovery of the course and the way the staff of IBIS helped me through the application period till I arrived in Amsterdam. Even before arriving here, I learnt a lot about meeting up with targets and deadline. That period was the beginning of a new era of a learning system in which I began to realize the impact of the contribution

of my actions to my success. I learnt that results are effect of past actions, so one needs to be careful with one's action.

My first week in IBIS was a memorable one with inspiring guest lectures and visitation to the famous "House of Eleonore" a foremost company known for Diamonds production in Amsterdam. I was so fascinated about the Innovative technology that the company was introducing into diamond production through 3D printing. It was a new way of producing artificial diamonds which has same quality and value to the one naturally sourced. Another exciting aspect of that week was various guest lectures which really talked about who we are and what we want to be. I was touched by the guest lectures because from past experience my choices where not mine but forced upon me, hence, I was really living a script written by others. After several thinking on the lectures, I decided I needed to let people know what I stand for and what I really wanted in life. That week also exposed me to meeting students from various cultures and backgrounds from around the world.

The introductory week soon passed and we were welcomed to the world of IBIS proper. This was ushered in with the division of the class into three groups. The new courses were eye opening for me, with the teachers introducing the courses in ways I have never experienced. One of the remarkable method which I observed was the use of Videos and presentations which made learning more interactive. The PSD courses (Information skills, My back pack, Thinking and reasoning, HTML/CSS) within a short period shaped my thinking and entire world view.

The Information skill course by Marette Ebert, taught me a lot. The course showed me reason why I needed Information Skills, and taught me how to make use of those skills. I learnt how to search for credible information on the internet and how to make good use

of it. The course taught me on how to define the information needed, how to get what I want, the strategy needed, where to search, and how to search for it. We did an aspect of this on “tip and tricks about google”. I was so surprised at some of the new things I learnt about searching for information on google. I learnt that getting information is not only key but also making good referencing. Above all the course taught me how to get reliable information and how to process them to achieve beneficial result.

What’s in My Back pack by Jolly Hesther, was another really interesting course that made me realize that the human person cannot fully know himself. I can still remember the first week when we had the lesson on “Who am I”. I was so perplexed and had to pause to discover who I really was, and I discovered that human beings have insatiable desire that is evolving and cannot be fully known. Today he wakes up to say he is this and tomorrow it changes. This was made evidence to me the following lesson when we tried to look at how the brain works. It was just like trying to look into my anatomy and seeing what makes me up. In the lesson “what makes me tick”, we tried to discover what really makes us go on. It was like trying to know the reason why I sleep and wake up every day. The various lessons helped me in discovering myself and for the first time I sat down to write a “masterplan” for myself.

Thinking and Reasoning course by Melissa Duchak, dealt with the ability to think and reason consciously. The classes were thought provoking and tried to question what we really think we know to be true. At a point I started doubting some of the things I know. My first class was about “What do you know, and how do you know it?” It made me questioned and learn about the various theories of knowledge. This was followed by the class on perception which showed the power and limitations of Sensory Perception. It

showed me how intuition comes into play when am reasoning, and this really affect the result of my judgement. This showed emotions can be obstacle to knowledge. The class on fallacies also made me see reason why some things or statement I use to make and hear people say is make to be wrong. At the end of the term, I was able to see the reason why I see things from some perspective and tried to question my judgement more to see that am not falling to antics of sensory perception which often sometimes distort real knowledge. Hence, I can say this course has developed me on how I acquire my knowledge and how to make good judgement devoid of fallacies.

The HTML/CSS classes was what I really looked up to attending, I really was eager and interested in learning how to design websites. I later discovered that learning to design websites wasn't as really as easy as I thought. I learnt that if I needed to produce an up to date website I must be able to painstakingly learn so many codes. Also I must be able to learn the CSS which is a modern trend in website designing that make websites more colorful. Though there was a lot of complaint about the teacher and her methods, due to my interest I was able to learn the necessary codes and elements which I used in building my IBIS passport website.

Apart from the PSD courses, **the English classes** by Helena Rogers taught me that language learning is an ongoing process which is continuous most especially if you are not a native speaker of the language. The course focused on all four-language skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking). I learnt how to write basic report, a proposal, a review, an essay and letters. Vocabulary development and correct use of grammar and fluency in speaking were some of the basis of the course. This course helped me to realize that even some native speakers have problem with the language, hence, it

boosted my complex issue and I was able to come out of my shell to speak fluently with others.

The International World of Business (IWOB) by Tom Kentson looked into some of the Challenges in the 21st century. The course was started with an introduction to the barter system and followed by some other challenges like the Industrial revolution, great depression, and reconstruction of Europe etc. I was introduced to relevant and significant business term.

Fundamentals of Business by Sleen, Edwin van der introduced me to business value chain and the Business Model Canvas (BMC). It taught me how to use the BMC to analyze businesses. The BMC building blocks was an eye opener into how business is operated and the fundamentals needed to make it function well. It highlighted those important things I need to know about businesses from Customer relations to revenue streams. With this course, I can say I have learnt the basics and fundamentals needed to establish and run a business successfully.

Challenges: My reflection will not be complete without me highlighting some of the challenges I had this term. The first challenge I had was *Culture Shock*, I became really anxious and nervous for the first few weeks. As much as I was trying to concentrate in school, I still found it difficult to control my feelings. The weather did not also help since I am coming from a hot temperate region, I still find it difficult adjusting to the new weather. My *unstable health* contributed to my not meeting up with task and targets and made me miss classes often. I think this was what also affected my class participation.

Aside from culture shock and my health, the *academic environment* here is different from the one am used to. I found it difficult understanding the **form of assessment** that is been used in IBIS. All my life I have been used to theory test and exams. This new form of assessment is really challenging to me but I know with time I will get used to it.

NLU: In preparation for the new term, we had to choose some courses to make up for our Negotiated Learning Unit. Though I was not able to choose all my desired subjects, I was able to choose some which I really liked and think will assist me not only in my learning journey but also after IBIS. The Negotiated Learning Units are broadly related to international business innovation, but also allow you to venture into other, related, areas of interest, for example: Marketing, Game Design, Advertising, Graphic Design, Foreign Languages (Dutch and Spanish), Magazine making, etc. Due to the way the selection process was done so many students were not really able to completely choose their desired courses because of limited spaces and the fact that some courses were clashing. I was however able to choose the following:

- Animation Fundamentals
- Russia; an eagle looking in two directions
- Visual Harvesting: The power of visual stories
- Design

I look forward to the NLU classes which I think will be educative and fun filled.

Conclusion: From all said, it is evident that my stay in IBIS has not only been educative and challenging, but also life changing. All I have learnt a lot have really changed my view about issues. Not only have I learnt academically, I have also learnt from the cultural perspective. I will like to conclude that I have not been disappointed in my expectation and look forward to the new term.

Apart from my health which did not really allow me to meet up with some task like the IWOB presentation, I will say my learning journey has been awesome.