

From AUC to UCLA

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: **Yasmine Wahba**

Narrator: **Rana Mansour**

Dates: **01/03/2013**

Place: **Narrator's House; 53 Sheikh
Zaid city, 6th of October, Cairo,
Egypt.**

College: **The American University of
Cairo**

Prof.: **Dr. Kim Fox**

Date completed: **01/03/2013**

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Person Present: Yasmine Wahba –I

Rana Mansour – R

Wahba: Before we start the interview with a former AUC student, would you please introduce yourself?

Mansour: Hello. My name is Rana Mansour. I graduated from in fall 2012 with a bachelor degree in integrated marketing communication and a minor in digital art design

Wahba: Okay. Would you please tell me more about your experience as an AUC student like in few sentences?

Mansour: Well, being an AUC-ian for four years was the most fun experience one can ever have. (Umm..) I participated in so many different activities and clubs around campus (Ahh) though it was a little bit difficult if not the hardest challenge ever to keep up with the studying and the course work course load in AUC; as you know, being a student there its pretty challenging so

Wahba: Okay, (Ahh) beside AUC I've heard that you had a summer semester abroad; (Ahh) could you please tell me more about it?

Mansour: Yes, it was UCLA; University of California in Los Angeles. It was refreshing, educating and experimental summer to spend. (Ahh) sight seeing and travelling around the country was the most amazing thing to do. (Ahh) I've always wanted to do that and it was my chance to go for it.

Wahba: (Ahh) What made you choose UCLA?

Mansour: Mainly because UCs or the UCs in general are known for their high and strong educational reputation and accreditations. Aside from that was the fact that California in general and LA in particular are the most fun place and best places to spend as a summer. (Umm..) a lot of places to go; fun and serious at the same time. You can have the nightlife and you can have the day life. You can have the school life, you can have (Umm..) New friends to meet. Everything is just there. California is as wild as it can go so..

Wahba: What is your first semester abroad?

Mansour: Yes

Wahba: (Ahh) Did you go with friends?

Mansour: No. But I came back with a lot of them (laugh) (Ahh) I met a lot of friends there and we are still friends till now so..

Wahba: Did you meet AUC-ians there as well?

Mansour: More than I met at AUC itself (laugh). First (Ahh) first few weeks of classes we started meeting each other and ran into each other on campus. But (umm..) in, in the classes themselves; there we got to meet each other more so,,

Wahba: Okay. Tell me more about the difficulties or the challenges you faced while you were at AUC (Ahh) UCLA?

Mansour: First weeks of classes or first two weeks of classes to be particular (Ahh) were the most challenging because I'm not used to the registration system

there and it is so different than AUC that everyone can get lost and literally everyone got did so. Add and drop, add and drop and (Ahh) the timing for the classes, the places, the building; it's a huge campus and we thought AUC was big; just wait till you see UCLA. (Ahh) It was really, really hard to find classes and when you find them the registration system was a challenge in itself so..

Wahba: So what did your summer session add to you?

Mansour: I met people from different countries. So many different cultures. (Umm..) I've never thought that I will meet people from Far Asia, Australia, Canada, The US; so many countries. Maybe I've even heard a couple of names of countries that I've never known before. (Umm) Those different cultures and exploring those different cultures helped me in my particular life; practical life sorry. (Umm) And later on with my carrier. Now with my carrier so..

Wahba: So what advice would you give to AUC-ians going there?

Mansour: Just take the max out of the experience. (Ahh) Don't get lazy or a second; time flies by more and faster than you think. So just go for it (laugh)

Wahba: Is there anything you would like to add?

Mansour: (Umm) just that I would tell everyone not just to UCLA and not just California; whenever you have the chance for a semester abroad go for it, take it without a second thought. (Ahh) You have no idea how that will change you. It changed every single branch in my life. (Ahh) The way I see people the way I (Umm) the way I do my job now. Having different

nationalities at the same county; (Umm) The way that I deal even in my own small environment; family and inside the house is just different. You've seen a lot, you've experienced a lot and being outside .. okay; my advise would be that you would go for it outside of the Middle East countries because we have a lot in common in our cultures but the second you go to Europe or The US or any different cultures (Umm) any different culture will add a lot to you. So. Just don't hesitate and go for it.

Wahba: Okay, thank you so much for the information you gave us. Its definitely helpful to those going to UCLA again.

Mansour: Thank You its my pleasure