

## Interview Transcript

### An AUC Graduate

Interviewer: Alya Hussein  
Narrator: Ahmed Ayman  
Dates: 21/02/12  
Place: Narrator's house, Zamalek  
College: The American University in Cairo  
Professor: Kim Fox  
Date completed: 22/02/12

Alya Hussein

Ahmed Ayman Interview

21/02/12

Persons present: Alya Hussein  
Ahmed Ayman

Alya: Good afternoon.

Ahmed: Good afternoon.

Alya: To begin with can you please tell me your name?

Ahmed: My name is Ahmed Ayman Hussein

Alya: and where do you live right now?

Ahmed: I live in Zamalek in Egypt.

Alya: how old are you Ahmed?

Ahmed: I'm 23

Alya: Ok What major were you at AUC?

Ahmed: I majored in Mechanical Engineering

Alya: Mmm.. Really I think this is a very hard one, why have you chosen this particular major? And did you enjoy it?

Ahmed: Well I guess I opted for this major owing my affection for the automobile industry and my flair for numbers and problem solving right through secondary education. My broad education background as well as my high academic involvement throughout an exceptional mathematical ability, made me eligible for this major right from the beginning

Alya: Mmm... That's nice, you just graduated this semester right?

Ahmed: Yes actually only 3 days ago.

Alya: I can tell from this that you've entered AUC in 2006, meaning you tried both campuses, the one in Tahrir or the one were in now, Katameya. Tell me which one you preferred?

Ahmed: The ne campus is a lot bigger it has better sports facilities, more advanced computer and manufacturing labs and a greater number of test workshops, but the old campus being situated in the heart of modern Cairo made everywhere pretty accessible but then again the parking there was a nightmare, also I must say

the Tahrir square brings back a lot of positive memories as we lived through this transitional era.

Alya: Ok, are you planning on pursuing master's degree at AUC?

Ahmed: At AUC, no honestly I don't see any benefit to that at all, its either directly to work or travelling abroad to evaluate my post graduate prospects, as a matter of fact currently applying for one of the post graduates taught programs at an imperial field of sustainable energy.

Alya: Ok, that's interesting, have you done any minors at Auc while having this hard major?

Ahmed: yea I minored in Economics and Business, I believe that collectively they are supplementary to an engineering degree.

Alya: Interesting much, with these two minors and this major, what Gpa do you have?

Ahmed: I graduated with a Gpa of 3.5.

Alya: Ok that's good, awesome actually, what activates in the university did you participate in or didn't?

Ahmed: I was a member of the student judicial board at AUC; precisely a member of the academics integrity committee, my responsibilities as part of the academic committee involved dealing with reaches of the academic code of ethics and violations of the university constitution. These experiences gave me the chance to further develop my skills as a leader and to effectively work as part of a team; I was able to set a high standard during my 10 year at the student Judicial board not only by setting in new bench marks and constantly receiving expectations but also by focusing on development on junior board members as well as my self.

Alya: I guess this was quiet an experience, what about activities outside the university, internships somewhere?

Ahmed: I did 2 internships, in fact I had an internship in Valve and tools for 8 weeks; a company that supplies main accessories to oil drilling companies, I had a hands on experience of what the work atmosphere was like, also I was an intern in EFG Hermes, I worked in the investment banking department contributing to the launch of Juhayna IPO

Alya: What about sports, you don't play any sports?

Ahmed: I'm a member of the Egyptian Golf team I played in every pan Arab tournament since 2004 and I participated in a junior world golf championship and even then I still have many hobbies, I play soccer and snooker at least once a week.

Alya: Ok, never tried any sports at the university with the lovely sports facilities there?

Ahmed: No, actually I didn't think I had anytime for sports at AUC.

Alya: What were your feelings during the commencement last week?

Ahmed: I was number 367 on a list of 370 graduates; how about that for boredom  
(Laugh)

Yeah, it was quiet long, what about the lovely memories, having your parents there and remembering a day like this, entering a new life?

Ahmed: I don't know actually, its hard to say, but I guess the commencement is vital to end a certain phase in life and its important that you have this closer to your academic career and start pursuing other careers in work core or even in post graduate prospects

Alya: Do you think what the university did for Omar Mohsen was enough and what they did for him as well in the commencement?

Ahmed: yeah, I felt it was more than enough, Omar was a popular member of the AUC community and his passing away defiantly touched a lot of people.

Alya: How was it like seeing his dad take the new award which they called Omar Mohsen, what did you feel when you saw his brother take the achievement and the certificate instead of him.

Ahmed: I wasn't in the hall at that time.

Alya: Really (laugh) How come?

Ahmed: yeah it was the time of the Maghreb prayer and I was praying outside.

Alya: OK, anyway, Omar Mohsen, actually I was there and seeing such a moment, it was very touching, God bless him, he was a lovely person, moving on if you would go back in time would you change anything?

Ahmed: I don't really have any regrets but I wouldn't have stayed here for college I would have I opted to consider one of the exchange programs possibly by travelling to Europe or the US.

Alya: So you actually regret staying at AUC, not enjoying these 5 years?

Ahmed: No, I mean it wouldn't hurt to take a semester or year off and meet new cultures and meet new people, it's defiantly a different experience.

Alya: Yes defiantly, finally every semester we get like about 1000 students that enter AUC what advice would you give them, these freshmen?

Ahmed: I'd advise them to engage on all fascists of the university life and study hard, try to balance, I guess time management is a key here, well that's it basically, anything else?

Alya: I think they'll benefit a lot from you advice and It was lovely talking to you and thank you so much for your time I hope we can do something else like this in the future.

Ahmed: Thank you very much it was very enjoyable talking to you, I hope we could conduct a more extended interview in the future and thank you once again.

Alya: Yes thank you so much.