

Education and Skills versus Careers and Jobs Interview

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Marina Barsoum

Narrator: Hanna Fayad

Dates: 24/9/2011

26/9/2011

27/9/2011

28/9/2011

Place: Narrator`s home

12 El Mosheir Ahmed Ismail Street. Block 1160 - Sheraton residence

Masr El Gedida

Cairo, Egypt

College: The American University in Cairo

Prof. Kim Fox

Date Completed: 27/9/2011

Introduction:

Hanna Fayyad was born in the 10th of August in 1970 in Cairo, Egypt. She is an alumni, she has graduated from AUC on 1993 majoring in Mass communication and minoring in psychology. Hanna is married to a Lebanese diplomat. She has been working in British airways for the past fifteen years, but she resigned because she was tired from travelling. Before joining the AUC, Hanna was living in the United States with her brother because her parents wanted that she get her education from the U.S. But Hanna's desire was against this decision, so after living for a long period just with her brother, she felt home sick. Afterwards she decided that she wants to go back Egypt and continue her education there, so she joined AUC.

The Background information about Hanna that I have collected is what made me take the decision of interviewing her. In fact, Hanna was an A student at AUC and she has graduated with honors. Also, as she worked in a huge airline company like British airways for fifteen years, so she must have gained a wealthy experience in the work field. For these two reasons I thought that Hanna will be just the right person for the topic of the interview.

The topics that interested the interviewee are the following:

- The difference between AUCians and Non-AUCians when applying for a job.
- Tips for a good C.V.
- Tips for a student who is going an interview for the first time of his life
- If the time goes back..Would you choose to join AUC?

Glossary:

AUC – The American University in Cairo. A private university in Cairo which has been established in 1919 and that the narrator had graduated from it.

GUC – The German University in Cairo. A private university in Cairo which has been newly established, the narrator mentioned it in order to make a comparison between AUC and between it.

C.V. – Curriculum Vitae

24 September 2011

Persons Present: Marina Barsoum – I

Hanna Fayyad – Interviewee

Barsoum: uhh.. hi Hanna how are you?

Fayyad: Hi Marina

Barsoum: Can you introduce yourself for everyone?

Fayyad: Right.. My name is Hanna Fayad. Uhh.. I graduated from AUC in 1993, umm I majored in Mass communication, PR in advertising and I also minored in Psychology.

Uhh yea, that was long time ago. (Laughter)

Barsoum: (Laughter) ok as you're an AUC Graduate and as you have a wealthy work experience, can you tell me umm.. in your opinion what makes AUC students unique more than other university students when applying for a job?

Fayyad: Ok.. Umm. Well AUC as you know is a private university and not everyone can afford it, you know it pay a lot of money to get into it.. umm so this is one factor when you apply for a job everyone will go for the AUCians because you know they have paid money good money to get a good education. So it is good education, the name aswell the name of the university umm.. it was been it was founded in 1919 as you know umm and is everywhere umm you find one in Beirut one in London one in Dubai its everywhere you know.

Ummm so the degrees are worldwide recognized unlike other universities like the new ones the GUC and I don't know other names of universities they have been established for the past I don't know five to ten years while this one it's long established and reputable and it's well known, it's a well known university.

Barsoum: Ok...umm.. and in your opinion what are the most important skills required for any job?

Fayyad: Ok.. well AUC as a university it follows the American system..ehh which teaches independency uhh and gives you the skills to learn how to choose in your life. Ehh so basically you are well educated when you graduate from the university you are well educated. Uhh uhh you know languages you basically know your mother tongue and you know English you need to be perfect in both languages both oral and written uhh and that takes us to the qualifications for someone who applies for a job uh because the university as well teaches you to be a quick learner, it teaches you to be flexible um uhhh.. you could work under pressure which is because you do lots of projects you do lots of uhh team work and this gives you umm umm the to be the perfection in this point uhh you can work within a team you do that a lot as well uhh you get self-confidence because you do things on your own you don't need the guidance all the way all the time.

Barsoum: (Nodding) uhum

Fayyad: umm.. so you take the responsibilities so basically you know what you do and you are well you are good at it.

Barsoum: Ok.. knowing that you have studied abroad how does it impact on your life?

Fayyad: well it did impact on my life big time..ehh because I was very spoiled, I was a very spoiled child uh I was the youngest of my brothers and sisters and you know my parents.. there is a big gap between me and my brother and sister about ten years and my parents just spoiled me anything I wanted I got. And when I went to study abroad I lived on my own actually I lived with my brother uh but my brother umm was completely Americanized for one year a whole one year he did not speak a word of Arabic to me
(Laughter)

Barsoum: hahaha(Laughter)

Fayyad: if you can believe it! (Laughter) I have to speak and converse with him and his wife his American wife in English all the time. Uhh.. I had to be independent umm so at the end of the day it taught me how to be independent uhh and not to be selfish to think about the others before thinking about myself sometimes. Uhh it helped my find my path in life Umm.. I forgot to mention earlier that after I graduated from the AUC I joined British Airways and I worked there for fifteen years as cabin crew.

Barsoum: That`s a long time (smiling)

Fayyad: yes (smiling).. it was a fantastic experience I really enjoyed it and I am back to AUC now I am studying for a Diploma in translation umm but you know basically it taught me a lot of good things umm of course to be open-minded umm that it helps you find your path in life I think that`s the most important.

Barsoum: do you think that all these things helped you in your career during the fifteen years?

Fayyad: it did yes..uhh it did in a way uhh yes it helped me a great deal of uhh being independent I had to travel on my own all the time because of my job it`s part of my job to travel around umm to deal with people to know how to deal with people uh as I said not to be selfish and to think about others umm so it did help me yes definitely helped me in my career.

Barsoum: Ok umm knowing that our university is a liberal arts education umm how beneficial is this education in the work field?

Fayyad: Ok.. umm I think it is very beneficial but I keep thinking umm that it helps you in your life it expands your vision umm like for example if you umm major in engineering for example then you think about your life from a scientific point of view umm you don`t you can`t you can`t expand your views and while you go to liberal arts it expands everything your mind your views your perspectives of life which is very important we don`t live on Science only (Laughter) yea.

Barsoum: so they you think they help?

Fayyad: I think so yea 100 percent they do yea.

Basoum: um ok what kind of tips can you give for any fresh graduate in order to have a good C.V.?

Fayyad: Ok. For fresh graduates uh I think the most important thing is that they have to be organized well organized in their C.Vs. Um and in the experience section I think they need to write down all the trading and the courses umm seminars they attended this shows your interviewer how active um and how keen you are on getting this job and you will be a great help to this company you will promote something to this company.(Mobile Phone ringing) So, I think yea I think the most important thing is organization and mention everything that you had to do during you`re course of studies as I said courses umm seminars um any training in what so ever just write it down on your C.V. and show interest that you are keen you are really interested

Barsoum: Do you think in the section of activities is it really important to have this section on your C.V. and why?

Fayyad: it is as I said it shows that you are an active person that you are you`re going to promote something into the company why would he recruit you and not the other person not only because you graduated from AUC but also because you interacted in real life you know you did something you were active person you wanted to study more to learn more this is how someone will get to hire you will want to pick you and not the other person.

Barsoum: Ok. What would you say for a student who has no time for activities who is only involved in in studies and courses and these stuff?

Fayyad: everyone has time for activity don`t tell me I mean if someone does not have an activity he doesn`t have a life you know even if they don`t have all year round they will

have it in the summer time, even if they take summer courses they will still have six weeks off they can do something you know even on the week end you can do a five hour course a five a five hour seminar this will help you, you know just go and explore, explore your world. You don't need to graduate with that.

Barsoum: yea. (Laughter) emm what do you think are the most important tips for umm a student who is going for the first time of his life in an interview?

Fayyad: Ok. Well this is a very good question Marina, uh because I think that's the first for any person who has just graduated and he is going on for his very first job in his life and very first interview but I think confidence is the key word here. So you need to be really 100 percent confident and it shows it reflects on the other person. If the person sees the confidence in your eyes, then he like you he will want to pick you and choose you umm.. as well you need to have a background knowledge so for example if you are applying like for example British Airways then you need to know something about British Airways you need to know about their profit you need to know something uhh when did it start how establish how it is going is it doing any contraction with any other airlines you need to know all source of background knowledge as much as you can the internet helps a lot as well you know.

Barsoum: yea (Laughter)

Fayyad: you need to be organized as well umm organized in your thoughts umm just you know prioritize what you want to say and in which order do you want to mention things uhh you need to be well groomed as well to dress well not over dressed or under dressed

just the right dressing code uhh be enthusiastic you know uhh and be as calm as you could, because if you are nervous you are out of it.

Barsoum: Thank you (Smiling) at the end of the..this really interesting interview I would like to ask you one last question. If the times goes back would you choose to join AUC

Fayyad: 100 percent I would choose nothing but AUC it give me it was the time of my life I enjoyed my four years of university very much I would not have chosen any other universities in this world rather than AUC I had a great time great professors great education umm blessed to have this education.

Barsoum: Thank you Hanna so much

Fayyad: Thank you Marina

Barsoum: thank you for your time.

Fayyad: Thank you.