

MOST ENJOYED

Student's Interview

By Zahra Rahabri

Tell us about yourself!

I came to Canada 6 years ago with my family. Currently, I am a college student, and I study Criminology. I love to dance, listen to music and work with children.

Considering you came to Canada not long ago, How different do you see education in Iran and Canada?

The methods used to communicate, teach, and the standard of grading are very different when it comes to these two countries. Canada is more based on one's own efforts to achieve academic success, whereas, in Iran, students learn everything during a class. In Canada, students need to stay motivated, avoid burn-out and stay on top of the schedule, even though it is very hard to do these things as a child and/or a teenager. On the other hand, in Iran, students need to be present mentally, in class and do homework to become successful students and that's it!

How did you feel on your graduation day?

I felt great! I felt free, and I felt like a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I couldn't believe I had finally finished high school.

Was your feeling any different from your school days?

On a typical school day, I was filled with anxiety and stress. From students being bullies to teachers being rude and distant. I also felt extremely uncomfortable and exhausted most of the time due to all of these feelings and the negative experiences I had when attending school.

Were you absent on any days of school?

Unfortunately, yes.

Can you associate any reasons for the absences?

As mentioned before, I felt like I was going to get punished, like I was walking into a prison every time I was on my way to school. The uncertainty of how my day was going to be was nerve-wracking, and that contributed to my choice not to attend classes.

How would you have preferred your teachers to be?

More friendly, more welcoming, more open-minded, more involved and more observant. I had to run the "Terry Fox run" every year, and not a single teacher ran with us, the students. I have many examples of teachers lacking compassion for their jobs but to keep it short and sweet I will mention this. Teachers used to follow us while

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driving in their cars to make sure we weren't cutting the run, which is quite ironic since they weren't even running with us and sat comfortably in a car while we were wheezing while running up the hill.

You mentioned you are a college student. What motivated you to go to college?

A better future. To be able to do a job that I'm good at so that I can have a positive impact in the community, which led me to study Criminology.

Why Criminology?

I like to study all kinds of crime, the underlying causes and problems and their effects on crime and individuals. As well as, ways that the criminal justice system can be improved.

As a wrap-up, do you consider school, teachers and peers factors for students' eagerness to attend school?

100%! These are the most important things that drive a student to have passion when it comes to school. Nobody wants to go to a place where they feel sad, confused, scared, lonely or stressed out all the time. Teachers and other students play a key role in a school's culture and students' lives.

Thank you for your time and for accepting to be here with me today.

My pleasure! Thank you for listening to my experience and trying to shed light on the issues of students.