

Transcription

Speaker 1: Okay, hello.

Speaker 2: Hi.

Speaker 1: How are you doing?

Speaker 2: Good, how are you?

Speaker 1: Good. Thank you. So this is the second round of the interview, we have done the first one, maybe around three or four months ago. It will be like follow up interview, according to what we have discussed in the previous meeting. So, first of all, I remember that you were in Saudi Arabia at that time. I know there are, you, you, are back

Speaker 2: Come back in Ireland now.

Speaker 1: Yeah. So when did you when, when you When did you return back?

Speaker 2: Late August.

Speaker 1: And you immediately start, you're going to campus?

Speaker 2: Nope. I came in early because I don't have any apartment at the time. I came in early. I start going to campus at the six sixth of September.

Speaker 1: Okay, good. So, um, how was how was the life? Like, on campus? After returning back? What are the changes there? What, what is the difference? Are everything as before the lockdown?

Speaker 2: No. After we came back, we they separate those into two groups a and b. And also separate the group A and B into two groups as well. So in total, we were four group we assigned to lectures as a whole group, for example, A or B. But in labs and workshops, they surprise us onto the a one, a two b one b two.

Speaker 1: So do you think dividing you into this groups? Is it good or bad? Or what do you think?

Speaker 2: Well, I think in general, the pandemic changed the whole perspective.

Speaker 1: Yes,

Speaker 2: I was. I was going to school, like every day before the pandemic. But after the epidemic, especially when the doctors and professors start recording lectures, I find it handfull to stay home, study these from home, rather than going to school, because when I go to school, the commuting takes time.

Speaker 2: And I really need that time to study. And the best solution is to stay home by class labs and workshop, I have to attend it because they have the number of benefits because there's an interaction discussions and activities, unlike lectures,

Speaker 1: okay. So you feel that either taking lectures or attending lectures from home or on campus will give us the same results.

Speaker 2: Yeah even better.

Speaker 1: So and.Yeah, at home, you can save time and attending lecture rather than going to campus.

Speaker 2: Exactly.

Speaker 1: Okay. So this regarding the education of the courses, what about the interaction with people there? um Is there any changes like, between when you work with Arabia, and now?

Speaker 2: Absolutely, yeah, yeah. Especially labs and, and workshops, you you attend with the same group every, every week, every two weeks, So you grow up, like a good communication, a good friendship with your colleagues in that specific group. But the issue is, we don't know. Other groups, we don't know the people from other groups. So it's been now three years with the same patch.

Speaker 1: Ok,

Speaker 2: Yes. We, we feel like separated.

Speaker 1: Okay, so you, you have been working or studying with this group since three years?

Speaker 2: No last year,

Speaker 1: just last year?

Speaker 2: Yeah. But I mean, we are we as a patch starting in 2019. Okay, we are very big group we meet every day and labs are as a whole group, over 200, 150 students. But after the epidemic, they start to separate us into 20, 15 students, so we don't he doesn't really know that people outside your group after the pandemic.

Speaker 1: Do you think this negatively negatively affecting you or your relationship or your study or anything, do you?

Speaker 2: Absolutely, absolutely yeah. How can you Explain to me like, give me an example or?

Speaker 1: Well, I like to go to study groups where before the pandemic, we, we, we go out together, sometimes we had birthdays parties together, going to play bowlings and pool. But after the pandemic, it's not, we can't meet after school. That's one thing. The other thing is our time in the school is limited.

Speaker 2: As you know, we don't we only have most people attend labs and workshop, they don't

attend lectures and if you attend lecture, there's nothing you can talk to your colleagues much because the doctor is giving the lecture presenting the lecture.

Speaker 1: So there is not interactions during the the lectures ?

Speaker 2: Nope.

Speaker 1: Okay. And after the lectures you said the interaction is not as previously or ?

Speaker 2: Yeah, because we only attend maybe two lectures a day,

Speaker 1: Every day?

Speaker 2: Yeah, as a group a for example because the the universities side yeah assigned three days and every week like separating the weekdays into three to two days. For example three days Group A attend on campus, the last two days could be attending the campus and they reverse the next week. So you don't have much lectures on campus. So most people just finish the lecture tried to go and study the lecture in the library coffee shops or even go back to their to their parking until

Speaker 1: Okay you are in Group A, you are attending the lectures only two days a week?

Speaker 2: But one week, is it two days the other three days and interchangeably between Kobe and Kobe?

Speaker 1: Okay, okay. So, after you finish the lecture, do you generally go to study with your friends or go to cafe or what do you what did you do like that?

Speaker 2: No, you know, I always I go back to my apartments most of the time,

Speaker 1: okay.

Speaker 2: Actually, after two weeks of attending lecture and in campus, I switched and I prefer to stay at home attending the lecture online because the, the, the lecturer opened the life because Group B is attending from home. A is attending on campus. either way, you can attend the lecture.

Speaker 1: Okay. Okay. So sometimes attending the lecture from home sometimes on campus, it depends.

Speaker 2: Yeah,

Speaker 1: And you have the choice, that's fine.

Speaker 2: Some lecture, they don't give the choice they take attendance and some lectures are not,

Speaker 1: okay. What about like lunch break? um Or any break on campus? Do you contact Do you have like a group to contact with or spend time with?

Speaker 2: Unfortunately No, because you know, we are in the University and is a big huge number of students so when you go to the canteen it's not a full capacity. we can't like find the place specially there's a lot of people in the canteen.

Speaker 1: Okay, so basically on campus, there is no interaction at all, as previous?

Speaker 2: Yeah. As previous for sure. Yep. Before the epidemic was a whole different story.

Speaker 1: Okay, because of the restrictions and because of the rules there. Okay. Okay. Understand. So during your day with who you are contacting with Arabs, internationals?

Speaker 2: mostly are because I live with my roommate, also Saudi.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: And my neighbor, just two minutes walking for me is also my friends. Yeah. An Arab as well.

Speaker 1: So you are mostly speaking Arabic every day. In Campus, like maybe with your professor or friends sometimes.

Speaker 2: Yeah, because we do have flaps on workshops if you're weak, so

Speaker 1: Okay. Yeah. Yeah, but during your day, like?

Speaker 2: Not that much

Speaker 1: Not that much of English. What about studying, reading, writing and you are every day working?

Speaker 2: Yeah, yeah every day because you know, medicine is really hard and you have to keep up with the subject. So you I always Yeah, interacting with English, either listening or writing,

Speaker 1: But alone with no friend?

Speaker 2: Yeah. No, I prefer a long because most of my friends would like to study right on to don't like that. And I prefer to study at my desk at home.

Speaker 1: Okay, so how, how, how was your life before pandemic like studying and routine, is it the same as now?

Speaker 2: No. no

Speaker 1: You are contacting more with people?

Speaker 2: Yeah, it was very socializing. Yeah.

Speaker 1: Okay. Okay. Do you think because of you are because of your preferences, it's changed or because of the pandemic has changed?

Speaker 2: Well, I've seen I've seen some changes on me. But I'd say I've seen people not liking to, to stay together after the pandemic and try to isolate alone. So I, I respect their preferences. So say it's a part of it from me an apart from the surroundings.

Speaker 1: Okay, and what about the difference between when you were in Saudi Arabia and then now?

Speaker 2: That's huge. That's a huge difference, to be honest. Yeah.

Speaker 1: Yeah. When you were in the lockdown in Saudi Arabia, like studying from distance? Like, tell me about the challenges, difficulties benefits.

Speaker 2: To be honest, there's, there was no, like, challenges. Because everything was remotely and for me as, as, as a student, I like to, to, to search for myself to look for other resources. Okay, was actually a very good period at that time, because I was with my family and I feel like focused more than anything.

Speaker 1: Ok. That's good. Because most of the participants who are in Saudi Arabia, they said the opposite because they said, there is, you know, relationships and families there. You need to visit there and,

Speaker 2: I know, I know

Speaker 1: They said we don't have like, we couldn't control our time.

Speaker 2: But my family was supportive to me. Was very supportive to me. yeah

Speaker 1: Good. Good. So, so you could manage your time there and Saudi Arabia and control your time and study enough.

Speaker 2: Very much

Speaker 1: You don't think that there is any thing distracted you or being students in Ireland more beneficial than there?

Speaker 2: No, I'll to be honest. I was I was I was afraid of that before moving back to Saudi to be honest. But I would say that was the most focused semester I've had in my university.

Speaker 1: Perfect, good. Okay, what's about contacting in English there?

Speaker 2: In Saudi?

Speaker 1: Yes.

Speaker 2: Well, we have a maid in our house, and she speaks English.

Speaker 1: Good, What about your friends have you contacted them there are?

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: Yeah. We don't, we don't, we don't speak English. They do speak English very well, because they have also students in the US and UK. But yeah, it's sometimes strange to speak English with your friends. Yeah.

Speaker 1: What about internationals Irish, you were in contact with them there or No?

Speaker 2: No, I was. I was I was in to be honest, because most people were in different timezone. Also the university when they assigned us to some assignments, they assigned us into timezone. So most of my assignments that I did in semester two, last year was with my art students because they have the same timezone Of course. So the dividing North Americans together, Asian together, European together and Middle East students together because of the timezone.

Speaker 1: Okay, that's perfect. So what, what, what is this is this your courses and classes, they put you on zone or just for activity or?

Speaker 2: Just for the assignment.

Speaker 1: Assignments. Okay,

Speaker 2: Yeah, that's assignments [inaudible]

Speaker 1: Okay, so do you think that using English during the lockdown and using English Now, is it the same or like, one period is more than other?

Speaker 2: No, I would say the same.

Speaker 1: Because you have [inaudible]

Speaker 2: Yeah, speaking is sometimes challenging if you don't speak for a long time.

Speaker 1: Yes.

Speaker 2: But I would say because have been, like since 2015, outside Saudi back and forth. I would say my English was, was, was a staple for for a long time. Yeah, I could have I could have improved it. But, you know, your challenges for the COVID was was, was definitely,

Speaker 1: I remember you, you told me that you are a visual person. So you are searching using videos YouTube's so listening to English a lot of reading and writing.

Speaker 2: Yes

Speaker 1: So you, you still keep the other skills. Working on other skills every day in Saudi Arabia and here, am I right?

Speaker 2: Listening for sure. I, I always look at videos on YouTube explaining my subjects and most of them in English because I, I, I've my first when I when I went out when I went out in 2015 I didn't like watching videos in English. I tried to do subtitles and stuff but after three, four years now I, I don't care if there's no I prefer subtitles, but if there's nothing,

Speaker 1: Yeah, that's good. Okay, let's talk about your free time weekends. How did you spend How do you usually spend your time during this, free Time weekends, going into cafes, with hop, and what will you do?

Speaker 2: Usually on I gave my, myself an off on Friday. So I went out with the with my art friends because we'd like together and, and one of the apartments each week and every one of my friend's apartment because we are almost 10 People,

Speaker 1: Have you had some times any Irish or internationals with you or no, at all, all at?

Speaker 2: No,

Speaker 1: Okay, Okay. So what about other days other free times what about your day Sunday?

Speaker 2: Saturday and Sunday. I'm a huge fan of football. Saturday and Sunday out the you know busy with football matches.

Speaker 1: So are you watching or playing?

Speaker 2: Watching and playing as well,

Speaker 1: Okay, good. So are you watching and playing with who usually also our friends or?

Speaker 2: Yeah, one time I played football with my Irish friends. I didn't like it to be honest.

Speaker 1: Maybe that plays different,

Speaker 2: Yeah. Physicality and we play like, skeletal football. We don't we don't. We don't play it physical. When I play with Irish, I was afraid to get an injury because for you really now.

Speaker 1: Yes, I understand. Yeah. And I heard about that actually before.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Okay. So all your free time mostly spending with Arabs with our friends.

Speaker 2: Yeah

Speaker 1: Okay. Okay. So, so you are speaking English maybe everyday, as you said, like, during your routine or Arabic more than English?

Speaker 2: I would say yes.

Speaker 1: Yes. Yeah. You just to speak English for necessary. Like small shots, maybe at bus stop or when you go shopping or so when you find people on the street, basically. But that's all there is no, like long meetings or with, with.

Speaker 2: No,

Speaker 1: Okay, okay. Understand. So you have mentioned that you are attending workshops and activities. And of course, I think it will be in English. Have you had that when you were in Saudi Arabia, as well or just here?

Speaker 2: Yeah, and how do we, we had we had a lab physiology lab every week or the entire semester and we, we attend to the, the lab and they break us into groups through Blackboard, and we have to discuss and scan answer question on the lab manual. So yeah, I would say, every week in the last semester, I speak at least half an hour an hour in English.

Speaker 1: Okay. Let's talk about your, like, how long have you spend your time on campus every day?

Speaker 2: For this semester?

Speaker 1: Yes.

Speaker 2: I would say maybe six hours

Speaker 1: Six hours every day?

Speaker 2: No, every day. No, every day, I told you like, from second third week, I stopped attending lectures. I only attend workshops and the workshop isn't almost every week. It's a week, maybe two weeks off a week with three workshop. The next week, the the week after with one to two workshop dinner, two weeks off, because they are mixing group A and group B to find slots for them.

Speaker 1: Okay. So you are, you are basically studying everyday, maybe more at home more than going to campus these days?

Speaker 2: Absolutely, yeah.

Speaker 1: So, like, let's say, how, how many days you're going to campus every week?

Speaker 2: I would say average, one, two days

Speaker 1: Maybe one to two days a week. But But yeah, absolutely. Every week you are going?

Speaker 2: Yes. Yeah, yeah.

Speaker 1: Okay. Okay. At home you are everyday working and studying?

Speaker 2: Yeah, everyday.

Speaker 1: Okay. So for how long?

Speaker 2: Six to seven hours.

Speaker 1: Six to seven hours every day?

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Okay. But there is no like a contract or other not. And even when you're attending the lecture online, there is no discussion or anything?

Speaker 2: No, the lectures online is about the lecture and the doctors did they just came in and do the presentation and they there is no discussion all in all in workshops and and labs,

Speaker 1: On workshops and labs, I think you told me every two weeks not?

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Here in Ireland during the lockdown studying, like the lockdown what what like you wish to have? What was the difficulties? What are the things that you mess?

Speaker 2: To be honest, I must. Places at full capacity because when I go out and I see restaurant, cafe cafes and, and shops not given the full capacity is sometimes difficult for me and my student, my, my, my friends, sorry, to God to cafe because some cafes says he can stay in a one table. And a few are more than five people for example. This is frustrating for us, because we usually go in like a big pool with at least 910 people. So this limits our time outside, outside houses. So that's why we usually gather in, in apartments rather than going out.

Speaker 1: Okay, and how do how do you think that pandemic impacted you? Personally, either your social life academic life, you your personality? What do you think?

Speaker 2: Yeah, academically, I would say nothing changed to be to be exact. I'd say the pandemic makes lectures more available because of recording. You can go back to them, reviewing them. Before the pandemic, there's one lecture you attend the lecture, you take your notes, if you don't take your notes at that time. It's difficult to go back and review what the lecturer say.

Speaker 1: Okay. Yes. Before pandemic Do you have like friends, like internationals or Irish that you were studying with or contacting with, with before pandemic, or your routine the same as now you are working on.

Speaker 2: Yeah. Before the pandemic, I only spent a year in Galway out, like only a semester in Galway and then, then the pandemic hit. So I didn't have time to make friends to be honest. Okay. I studied in Chile for a year in 2018. Most of the students in my class are still here was for. I didn't have the chance to make,

Speaker 1: That time. Okay. So yeah, you can continue talking about how the pandemic impacted you academically, socially, your personality?

Speaker 2: Socially, to be honest, I started to feel staying home more,

Speaker 1: As you said, because of the restrictions and...

Speaker 2: Yeah, I was very social before that endemic, I would like to go out, see friends, meet with them. But after the pandemic, I started to, to prefer to stay home, study at home. I like my free time at home watching TV or doing or playing video games, for example. Yeah,

Speaker 1: So do you think and have you engaged in any activities, hobbies before pandemic or not?

Speaker 2: Mostly Sports. I like I like attending. Yeah, I like varsity sports football. Running some time,

Speaker 1: You think you still keep this activity doing this activities as much as before?

Speaker 2: No. No, during the epidemic we can we can we can we couldn't play football. So I only take 45 minutes walk and jogging every day outside running is the one that I kept during the pandemic. Because it's the only one that could you could do outside your home.

Speaker 1: Okay, everybody running then?

Speaker 2: Every five days.

Speaker 1: Do you usually do that with people with friends?

Speaker 2: No, alone. But I I listened to podcasts while I run and walk

Speaker 1: And this podcast in English or in Arabic?

Speaker 2: Makes Arabic centers in English. Yeah.

Speaker 1: Okay. So and do you feel that pandemic impacted your English improvement?

Speaker 2: I would say yes. From a speaking point of view. Yeah. Sometimes it's hard to, to speak fluently after a while,

Speaker 1: You are keeping listening and reading graphic not as you are speaking.

Speaker 2: Yeah, it's different. Like you can listen as much as you want. But when times come to speak to, for example, present, and university, we had a presentation three weeks ago, I was nervous for nothing. Because to be honest, I prepared it very well. I know what I'm talking about. But still, I felt nervous to fall before the presentation. And I didn't I didn't know how I get through it to be honest, because it's been a while since we present in English. Yeah. When you don't have to be honest.

Speaker 1: Okay. So like every day you are speaking English. Only, as you said in, in, in lab.

Speaker 2: Yeah, lab. Workshop should be the everyday you know, activity as you said shops and restaurants, cafe.

Speaker 1: On the short conversation.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: And you see that pandemic doesn't impact your academic life. It's the up and like, it's making it more handy.

Speaker 2: Absolutely,

Speaker 1: Having recording lectures.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: You don't struggle with assignments or anything, everything more convenient than to be for pandemic. Do you think?

Speaker 2: Absolutely. Yeah.

Speaker 1: Okay. Okay. So it's positively impacted your academic life.

Speaker 2: Absolutely

Speaker 1: That's good, Okay, I think I have covered all the questions and things that okay, I need to know, or I need to follow up. Okay. Yeah. So, yeah, that's all.

Speaker 2: Perfect.

Speaker 1: Okay. Thank you very much.

Speaker 2: Welcome.

Speaker 1: Yeah, it was nice meeting you. And thank you for your cooperation. Good luck with your exams.

Speaker 2: You too. Thank you so much, Yes.

Speaker 1: Bye. Bye. Bye