

Interviewer:

Hi Gabriela, how are you? Thanks for accepting the interview.

Interviewee (Gabriela):

Hi Juanes, of course.

Interviewer:

If you want, tell me a bit about your relationship with the Uniandina community and why you're a good candidate for this interview.

Interviewee:

Well, I'm Gabriela Escobar, I'm in my seventh semester of Systems Engineering. I'd say I'm a good candidate for the interview, and I've been at the university for 7 semesters. Part of my routine is having lunch here. I've never been one of those who bring lunch from home, like a packed lunch, and I feel like I always try to find new places with friends or with my sister. My sister was here a few semesters ago, and I try to find different spots to try different types of food.

Interviewer:

Great, and just to open the question in a very general way — what do you think of the gastronomic offerings at the university?

Interviewee:

I think they're good and there's a lot of variety for all kinds of food. There's everything, from the most to the most homemade, so to speak, and there are also all price ranges. But I do feel there's a bit of misinformation and the offering isn't very clear. For example, I have a little cousin who just started studying at the university, and she went to one of the most visible places with a big storefront, and she called me super worried saying, "I'm not going to spend at least 27,000 pesos every day on lunch." So I think it can be a bit difficult to find good places at first, but once you do, you realize there's actually a lot of variety.

Interviewer:

From your personal experience — you mentioned you have a sister — how did you get to know the different places, especially when you were a freshman? How do you learn about the gastronomic offerings and how do you hear about new places and changes now?

Interviewee:

In my first semester, a lot came from recommendations from my sister. Besides that, recommendations came from friends — even if they were also freshmen, they would talk to other people who would tell them about places. I have some friends in Industrial Engineering, and in the mentoring program, specifically one friend took me to Chick N Chips. I got to know it through her because in the mentoring program they talked about it, about types of restaurants.

Interviewer:

Ok, so mostly through other people.

Interviewee:

Yes, it's mostly word of mouth.

Interviewer:

Many people at the university say that there isn't much diversity in the gastronomic offerings or in prices, especially in the low-to-moderate range. What's your perspective on that?

Interviewee:

I actually disagree because I feel there's plenty of variety both in food and prices. For example, you can have a very good lunch — I think the Central lunch is about 17,000 pesos, which I think is great. It includes the main dish, soup, drink, and dessert — very good. Or there are super homemade restaurants like "Mi Caserito" or "Montserrat," which are only homemade food at very good prices. I remember at Caserito there were dishes for about 15,000 pesos, which is great. Or you could go to another place like a poke spot, where you could get a sushi poke for around 30,000 pesos. There are pasta places, chicken places, meat places... So yes, I do think there's a lot of variety. And as I said, I think people believe otherwise because of misinformation — they just don't know all the places there are.

Interviewer:

Ok, so you think it's actually quite complete. Do you have any dietary restrictions or is there something you eat more than others? Just to profile what kind of person is making these comments.

Interviewee:

I eat absolutely everything, I'm not allergic to anything, and I practically like everything. So for that reason, I have very few complaints.

Interviewer:

Do you think some technological tool could help — maybe for freshmen, as you mentioned — or even for people who have been at the university for a while, so they can learn more about the available places?

Interviewee:

Yes, I think so, because as I said, I feel like a lot of people just don't know. So I think that with an app that shows the places, shows the menu, and the offers they have, it would help people get more informed and also eat better. Because I think that when people don't know all the options they have... For example, I think the homemade lunch options are very good. But if people only see fried chicken and burgers, those eating habits aren't very healthy. So yes, I think it would be very positive.

Interviewer:

Great, thank you very much Gabriela.

Interviewee:

You're welcome, Juanes.