

THE NEXT STEP

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ME, IN TWO YEARS

I have always found informational interviews to be very black and white. You go in with the intention of learning something from someone who you could see yourself looking up to, but at times you leave with an outcome that you hadn't anticipated and really don't like. This could be because of a clash in personalities or a disappointing discovery about your industry of interest. This time around I was looking for something different. I wanted to speak with someone who understands the next stage of my life. Rosy Lee was a Residence Advisor at UBC, volunteered for UBC Recreation Intramurals and held my current Co-op position when she was in the program. She is me, in two years. I know that statement is ridiculous, but I needed someone who could understand how I feel in this unsettling stage before graduation. She had the right background, and I knew she would have the right advice.

MAKING OPPORTUNITY EXCITING

My main focus walking into this interview was to figure out where to begin. I am a girl with three passports, endless interests and few constraints for my future workplace. It sounds nice, but without a single place to start I was starting to panic. I know it is a natural stage to go through, but that honestly just doesn't help. Rosy helped me realize that there are so many ways to narrow down your interests and find your niche. The key is people. Going to events and meeting new people to see what kind of environment you belong in and gaining advice from people who have seen many workplaces. It is amazing how happy people are willing to help, and how one connection could make a world of difference even when you don't expect it. Rosy said she got her current position (which she loves) from a random connection. A lot like love, jobs can come around when you least expect it. She also suggested that I try dabbling in different areas of interest before diving in. I would love to learn more about tech and possibly become a web designer. I decided this because of the work I have done with Adobe and how much I have loved it. However, that is clearly not enough to commit to an intensive program that costs thousands of dollars. But that shouldn't stop me! And it won't; I fully intend on doing some self-learning to see if I like coding, or animation, or who knows what. Rosy said that options can be scary, but it is best to look at it as open opportunity. Who knows what will come next. But whatever it is, it won't happen if it's not meant to be or if I am not excited to partake in it.

TAKING TIME

Not panicking is one thing, but weighing your options is a whole different animal. I have been so stuck on this idea of 'you graduate, you find a job'. Rosy made it clear that I should not be settling for anything. I need to weigh my financial situation with my job options. If I need to work but haven't found that perfect job, I should work part-time or find a contractual position. There is less urgency to find a permanent position because the most important part is finding a workplace that I am excited about and happy to be in. I have no excuse to waste my time and I do not have that kind of personality. I should be happy to keep myself busy by learning new skills that relate to my potential career options and keep me fascinated, or go to events and improve my network. It's not wasting time if you are working toward the goal of a fulfilling career. I still feel the pressure, but I can honestly say after my discussion with Rosy I have new priorities.