

IO READY COMMUNITY ✨

M.

*Read about M.'s experience with the
Career Coaching Programme*



Encouraging, supportive, eyeopening

Viola brings 100% to everything she does



What are your background (eg. education background, nationality, age, location) and career stage (eg. years of experience, specialization)?

I am early in my career, having earned both my bachelor's and master's degrees in international relations.



What is your background and career stage? Why did you decide to take the IO Ready Career Coaching Programme for IOs/NGOs?

I chose to enroll in the IO Ready program after realizing that my university did not offer clear guidance on navigating international organizations (IOs) or even on how to approach job applications. I wanted insider insight—someone who could explain what realistic opportunities exist, what roles are available, and how to craft effective applications



What were the most valuable insights or knowledge you gained from the program?

Through the program, I've gained a much clearer understanding of the essential skills needed during the application process. This includes tailoring your application to match the exact wording of vacancy notices, leveraging your networks, and making meaningful connections with those already working in the organizations where you're applying.

I've also learned that careers in IOs can be quite unpredictable at the start, with short-term contracts and a sometimes unstable path. Fieldwork, getting hands-on experience, is absolutely crucial.



How did Viola's coaching, support, and personality enhance your experience of the programme?

Viola is a rare talent—outgoing, energetic, warm, and truly committed to everything she does. She brings 100% to every session, and her enthusiasm is contagious. Every time I finished a session with her, I left feeling inspired and motivated.



Are there any tangible improvements in your career goals or job search you've experienced since completing the program?

I've become much more realistic about what positions I can apply for and, more importantly, how to articulate my applications clearly and effectively. Before joining the program, the entire process felt overwhelming; I didn't even know where to start. The guidance I've received has been invaluable.



Would you recommend the IO Ready Career Coaching Programme for IOs/NGOs? What would you say to someone who is considering taking the Programme?

I highly recommend IO Ready to anyone seeking a clearer understanding of how international organizations work from the inside. Universities often don't equip us for the critical step that comes next—transitioning from education to career.

The reassurance that I'm on the right path and doing the right things has been both mentally calming and hugely encouraging.

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