

✨ IO READY COMMUNITY ✨

CICERO CHEN

*Read about Cicero's experience with the
Career Coaching Programme*



Professional, Effective, and Inspiring

***'Wiola's professionalism efficiently
empowers young dreamers.'***





Why did you decide to take the IO Ready Career Coaching Programme?

I have been dreaming of an international career that would take me to experience life in different societies and could have an impact on improving peoples' welfare around the world. Working in an IO is an ideal option. I thus looked for employment information about my preferred IOs. However, most workshops and job fairs I had attended were too general to prepare for IO positions. I had no access to IO-specific resources and information at that time. The only thing I could do was to type a few keywords on Google and aimlessly look around the results. When I saw the services Viola offers, I thought the description matched my keywords, but I didn't expect too much as a coaching program designed for IO careers was unimaginable—that was too specialized, after all. However, it was not too long before I changed my perspective. It proved that Viola's coaching program was exactly what I needed.





What was your experience with the the IO Ready Career Coaching Programme?

My experience was EXTREMELY positive, which in large part was because Wiola structured the program very well. Each session accurately and sufficiently addressed a topic critical to starting an IO career. Within five sessions, ten hours in total, Wiola built a solid foundation for me and provided me with the skills and tips to become a competitive candidate in the job market.

The well structure was embodied not only in the curriculum but also in the tactics taught. Wiola explained in detail the purpose, steps, expected outcomes of each strategy, and, most importantly, the logic of adopting a particular strategy. She is good at using tables to organize information, which is a systematic and comprehensive way to unbiasedly assess my strengths, weaknesses, and the distance between my current status and my goals.





What was your experience with the the IO Ready Career Coaching Programme?

Wiola worked with me to build an agenda with specific objectives and approaches for my short-term, mid-term, and long-term career goals.

When I joined the coaching program, I had a doctoral dissertation and three research projects in hand. I am grateful that Wiola's good program management allowed me to complete this valuable and useful training.



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

In addition to the professional knowledge of employment in IOs—which I have no doubt that Wiola is fully capable of mentoring—the most valuable thing I gained from the program is to sort out where I am now, where I want to go, and what NOT to do. I have long aspired to an IO career, so my schooling and work experience have been geared toward this direction. An unexpected outcome is that all my preparations seem more or less related to the IO jobs, but it remains unclear how exactly they facilitate achieving my career goals. Each experience is something I had put much effort into. I naturally feel that every preparation is essential, and it isn't easy to tailor a story that fits well with a particular IO.

Wiola led me to reevaluate and rebuild my career plan from initially vague ideas to specific implementation strategies. In this process, I revisited my original dreams and past preparations and identified what are essential and what are fancy but unnecessary. The assessment allowed me to invest my time and energy in those most rewarding goals.





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

How can Viola make this possible? I guess it has to do with the fact that she is an IO insider. The career pathway in IOs is very different from the pathway in academia, where I am from. What I had previously thought of as career-building knowledge does not work in the IO world.

Instead, there exist cultures and opportunities unknown to outsiders. Viola provided instrumental navigation. Not only did her horizons pilot me over a wide variety of IOs, many of which I didn't even know their names, but her experience also helped me filter information and identify which IOs match my strengths and expectations. Her service has shed light on my career path.



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

I really like Viola's mentoring. She was well-prepared for each session, and I deeply admire her dedication. While I was very impressed with Viola's personality, I can't think of a more concise and compelling comment than Judith Koren's testimonials about the experience of the program. I recommend that readers check out her experience.



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

The most tangible improvement is setting up specific goals and identifying strategies. Removing confounding goals saves me considerable time and energy and allows me to plan my career pathway with greater flexibility strategically.

Wiola's strategies have proved workable and effective. I applied for multiple IO positions during the coaching program, immediately applying what I learned to real-world cases. Wiola helped me develop a more effective CV and statement and do the mock interviews. Shortly after completing the program, I successfully passed the interviews and was offered an internship position perfectly relevant to my professional field and future career. I would have missed this fantastic opportunity without Wiola's help.





Would you recommend the IO Ready Career Coaching Programme?

I strongly recommend the IO Ready Career Coaching Program to anyone dreaming of working in IOs.

IO Ready offers a comprehensive overview of the IO career, immediately applicable strategies, and insightful perspectives from the insider. All of these distinguish IO Ready from other similar services. IO Ready is worth my investment.

I intend to seek IO Ready's professional advice at every career stage. Viola is more than a career coach but a trusted partner throughout my career.



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