HO READY COMMUNITY

Read about M's experience with the Career Coaching Programme



Eye-Opening, Practical, Fun!

'I can confidently say that the program was pivotal for me, and how I thought about my career. It allowed me to take the time to pause, reflect about what I wanted to do, and leverage Wiola's expertise into making a plan for how to get there!'





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

When I first reached out to Wiola, I was getting anxious with regards to my career prospects: graduating soon and having recently decided against the plan I had for the past 3 years (doing a PhD straight out of a master's), I was feeling drawn to IO but had heard about how hard it was to get in and navigate the complexity of recruitment processes, contracts, missions, etc. So I wanted to speak to someone who knew what this felt like and had insights into how to better prepare for it!

The program did not disappoint, as Wiola immediately addressed the two main sources of my career concerns: not feeling knowledgeable enough, and not having a plan. Overall, the program helped me to reflect on what I wanted, to prioritize the next steps and to understand where my profile and ambitions could fit within the world of IOs/NGOs.





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

The biggest lesson from the program was during the networking session. I was always fearful of the word "networking" and felt like I would never be good at it, that it was "not me". Thanks to Wiola, I quickly understood that networking is a skill, albeit one of the most important one to develop to work in IOs, and that it should be personalized to fit "my" networking style.

Another important lesson was definitely on applications: here again, I felt like I knew how to effectively apply to jobs and opportunities, and yet Wiola had a lot of great insights gathered from her own experience with regards to application, interviews and the overall recruitment process: where to look for positions, how to apply, understanding the platforms and the expectations for a job, decrypting the language on a job posting and what it actually means for the position, etc.





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

Wiola is truly a wonderful person, and her energy shines through the program. I really felt listened to and validated in my concerns about my career, and most importantly, I really felt supported in the learning process.

Wiola was very available and I sensed that she genuinely cared about my progress, which made the whole process a lot more enjoyable and personal!





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

Probably one of the most important one: I had always heard "tailor your resume to the job description" and thought I was doing it, until Wiola concretely showed me what it meant to tailor a resume to a job description.

Also, among others, my career goals are much clearer and I identified the main "next steps" of my journey, including a plan to develop new skills. I have a much better understanding of contract options, and of what to expect from the job market!





Would you recommend the IO Ready Career Coaching Programme?

I would 100% recommend the program to any soonto-be or young graduate who are struggling to understand where they want to go next and how to get there.

People who, like me, feel like they have a lot of ambition and intention with their career but are stuck with the "where to start" question would immensely benefit from this program.

I would take the course again, and do not regret the personal and financial investment I made in the program!



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