

Why and where are you studying architecture?

I am currently studying in Cambridge , England. I picked architecture because I couldn't pick between doing something that had to do with social sciences or physics or art and architecture fit all of those.

How do you get into Cambridge's Department of Architecture?

At Cambridge, first they look at your grades and prospective grades and then you are invited for an interview over there . I had two interviews, one of them where I had to show my portfolio of works and the other one when we discussed architecture and my motivations. Then I had a written exam, a 30 minutes essay about architecture and a 30 minutes drawing task.

A tricky question now, what do you think the examiners are looking for in a portfolio?

I think a lot of them are interested in are not necessarily drawings of architecture, you don't have to draw buildings. The basics are knowing what perspective is and how to use it so you should have something to show that you know what one point, two point, three point perspectives are. But then i think they are very much looking for creativity so it doesn't have to be drawings , it could be paintings. I think you have to show you have a creative style, whatever it is. It could be something very niche and quirky but it also could be other arts like dancing; anything is good.

What you think you would like to continue on to do, be it your studies or a job?

I think until last year I wanted to be an architect now I'm not so sure. I think it is still an option but I am not convinced. I think I would like to explore things like policy or move to urbansim but there are still a lot of doors open.

How did the adaptation to "Cambridge life" go?

Oh, I think it went really well. I made friends pretty quickly and it was a really welcoming atmosphere. Yeah, it is a bit challenging but I made some great friends so that helps you get through it.

Is the school system hard to get used to?

I grew up with the english part so the English part was not too much trouble adapting to but, yeah, university is quite different and not living with your parents is....

How about the costs of living?

Yes, It is expensive.[laugh]

Do you find it challenging to leave without your parents, because maybe you don't have a certain part of motivation?

Considering motivation, I don't think it makes any difference whether you live with your parents or not because my parents never pushed me really hard in my studies so, you know, you work hard because you want to work hard and that was the same in highschool as it is in university.

Thanks a lot for answering our questions!

*Reportage réalisé en décembre 2019 par Emie Veyratcote and Victoire Coustillieres*