

Life after RIT

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I started my RIT adventure accidentally, and looking back, I dare say it was one of the best accidents I've had. I was originally planning on attending a public college, quite different to RIT, however, life had other plans.

Coming to RIT, I was an introverted person, not much for socializing, terrible at public speaking and all other situations where I was supposed to 'take the spotlight' in any way. I previously attended a bilingual high school, so I wasn't too afraid of having all classes in English, but I was a bit nervous of how I will adapt to other students, and the whole international melting pot, once the year starts. As it turned out, there was no need for nervousness, and all I had to do was immerse myself in the experience.

The way the courses were formed was that it gave you the opportunity to learn practical knowledge that you would later, during the semester, use to create projects that would amount to the largest percentage of your grade for that course. The project also needed to be presented to the rest of the class upon finishing. This allowed me to gather some palpable knowledge, but also to work on my insecurities regarding public speaking. On my sophomore year, I joined the Student Government, a move that proved to be inferior only to my decision to enroll at RIT. Joining the student government (first as a Director of Clubs and Organizations, and then as the Student Government Vice president for two consecutive years), opened many doors to meeting new people, but also to new skillsets. I learned how to manage a team of 12 students, as well as how to handle constantly emerging stressful situations. I was able to travel, to learn to think on my feet, to connect with people who had similar interests to mine, but above all to be more open, more communicative...just more than I originally was. I was able to work on different projects in order to improve student life on campus, but also to connect students from RIT campuses in Rochester, Dubai, Kosovo, Dubrovnik and Zagreb. All the things I took from my work in the Student Government, helped not only during various situations at work, but it also helped me with being a more functioning member of society.

Another unique thing at RIT is the Tigers community. You make connections that will last a lifetime. Even now, almost 4 years after I graduated from the International business undergraduate program, I feel as much as a part of that community, as I did during those 4 years. I managed to establish connections with people who now hold an important role in my life. You continue to build bonds with other RIT Tigers even after college is done, some with people you never thought you were going to see again, let alone, spend as much time as you do. Not to mention how nice it is to find yourself in the most random place you can think of, and stumble across a fellow RIT alumnus.

My first job after RIT was at an international company where I was doing my second Co-op, as a Customer Service Specialist. Utilizing both of my coop experiences properly, had a strong impact on my future work experiences. I learned everything from how to approach

tasks, to how to dress for work. What is an appropriate behavior in each situation, and what is considered a faux pas. I don't believe any other college in Croatia provides you with such a wholesome educational experience, provided you take the full advantage of everything RIT has to offer. Simply going to classes and doing the bare minimum, is not enough in any situation, but at RIT it's more than that. You can miss out on a plethora of knowledge, connections, and above all experience that will be useful in the years to come.

I am the person I am today because of RIT. If I could do it all over again, I can safely say that I wouldn't change a thing, the good and the bad, the exciting and the dull, because this combination of events led me to where I am today – finishing my Service Leadership and Innovation graduate program and fighting my very own career battles. A job of any college is to create a good, solid basis for future endeavors, but I believe that RIT does it best. Overall, I would say, RIT is a well-designed support system from the minute you enroll, all throughout your career. Something you don't get elsewhere, and something only an RIT Tiger understands.

With all this in mind, I can say that you should take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way, simply because everything is a potential learning experience where you gather knowledge that will be of great help in the future. No matter how insignificant it might seem in that moment, there will be a time you'll need it, and you'll be glad you have it.