



ERASMUS MUNDUS

Journalism & Media
within Globalization: The European
Perspective



Blue Book 2010-2012



Introduction



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Moving local and global

Welcome to the the Blue Book of the Mundus Journalism 2010-12. The BlueBook is produced every year where students interview each other and write short articles which may be used by the alumni and by prospective students for the next Mundus Journalism to start in 2011 and any other interested in the Mundus Journalism.

The sixth group of Mundus Journalism students have had the first month in Aarhus, and is about to move from the concrete buildings of the Danish School of Media and Journalism to the yellow brick buildings of the Political Science Department before ending at the Media Studies Department at the end of the year. This move to experience different study environments in Aarhus is very local compared to the move most of the students have already done by coming to Denmark for the first year of study - and, of course, the move to be done for their second year of study in either Swansea, London, Hamburg or Amsterdam - each according to the chosen specialism.

The Mundus Journalism masters is both local and global in scope, where participants get the chance to experience and compare different cultures in Europe, and for some also at the partner universities in Sydney, Berkeley or Santiago outside Europe.

The 2010-12 group of 49 participants is for sure global with more than 28 nationalities being represented from all parts of the world. Looking into the interviews, a picture is shown of a group of cosmopolitans who, in total, may cover the world map with countries been visited. "A passion to travel" is a quote in several of the interviews.

The group also covers experience within all media, and several students have a dedication to learn and to make a difference, and come back to help their home country. Sports and/or music is an interest for many of the participants, so maybe we'll see the launch of a Mundus Journalism band and the continuation of the "Global United" football team.

The 2010-12 Mundus Journalism participants add yet another global group to the LinkedIn Mundus Journalism alumni which gives the opportunity for more than 200 to connect and to stay in touch.

Enjoy the reading of 2010-12 group of Journalism Mundusians, and get in touch if you're interested in joining the Mundusian family in the future. The best to tell about the course are the experienced participants.

Inger Munk, Coordinator Mundus Journalism



*From the world to the
Danish School of Journalism*

Erasmus Mundus Masters: Journalism and Media / Class of 2010

Specialism: Hamburg

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Alexander (Germany)

He doesn't talk all the time, but when he talks, it is usually not in short sentences. But that is because the topic that he talks about interests him and because he has so much he wants to say about it that he could talk about it for hours.

One of the things Alexander Meyer-Thoene from Wiesbaden in Germany talks a lot about is international relations: foreign policy, media from all over the world and of course globalization. It makes sense in many ways that these are some of his favorite topics, since he has a Bachelor degree in International relations and management from the Webster University in Vienna, and has been travelling the world ever since he was a little boy.

Alexander's interest and knowledge about the media world is great, which is also why he decided to apply for the Erasmus Mundus Masters Programme, where he will spend his second year in Hamburg. Moving around is not a new phenomenon to Alexander. Though he is still a young man, he has already lived in Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Thailand and now Denmark. Therefore it makes pretty good sense that he describes himself as a cosmopolite. A person who is interested in the world he is living in and who loves to travel all over the globe.

Like most reporters, Alexander has a vision of what kind of job he would like to have one day, just like he has an idea about which interview he would most like to do, if given the chance. Therefore in the upcoming future, Alexander hopes to work in the field of science and technology either for a print media or in TV and when that day comes, it will be the time when he hopefully gets to interview Steven Hawking, who, according to Alexander, is one of the greatest geniuses in the world.

But whether or not he will someday get to interview Steven Hawking, he still hopes that he will be able to live a life where he has a job, which he is passionate about, and that fulfills him and that he at the same time can have time for both family and friends that mean a lot to him.

Where he is going to live at that time is still a bit uncertain. For a young cosmopolite like Alexander, he probably hasn't decided yet himself. He just goes where his passion and his inspiration take him. It could be here in Aarhus, it could be Hong Kong or maybe even Saint Martins in the Caribbean, which Alexander refers to as his magic place. One thing that's for certain is that he is going to talk to the people around him. And most likely going to talk about globalization. (written by: **Anders**)



Annelien (Belgium)

Bright light blue eyes, an adorable smile and just a bit of sarcasm and self-irony. That's how Annelien looks like, at first sight. But have a chance to talk to her, and you'll discover much more!

Annelien, as her name declares openly, speaks Dutch as she comes from Brasschaat, in the Flemish province of Antwerp in Belgium, very close to the Netherlands.

"I live very close, so even though I'm not that into football, I went with some friends to the nearest city in the Netherlands to watch the semi-final of the 2010 World Cup, which was fun because people were so excited that everything and everyone was orange, and I mean it!" she remembers.

A year before this, she witnessed what was going on in South Africa for the global event of the World Cup. After her studies in Journalism she spent 6 months in Cape Town doing a super-interesting internship at "Voice of the Cape", a Muslim radio station. There she worked as a journalist for the local community reporting local news in English, with a personal column also called "Through foreign eyes".

In Africa, Annelien had a chance also to explore Namibia, which is "the best trip I've done so far", she states passionately. "That was different from everything I saw before, especially the landscape. I loved the desert, the open space, the sky... everything is so open and indomitable there... really different". That also changed her view on other cultures and life, which is the reason why she has chosen the Hamburg specialization.

"My main passion is travelling" and you can really believe it. Just 25 years old, this brave girl has already experienced an Erasmus in Sweden, lots of trips in Europe, and an internship in Africa. Her curiosity on other places and lifestyles seems to have no limit: indeed, she's already planning to go to Australia...

Gifted with a natural narrative attitude, Annelien is already capable of focusing more on the process than on the result, a good point since she dreams to become a travel journalist in a near future. In her point of view, everything can be experienced and enriches you at the end, even though sometimes it is difficult to take just one direction when so many paths are possible to take.

Indeed, "not all those who wander are lost" Tolkien said, a quotation she likes a lot.

She would like to be considered a girl who makes her own choices and doesn't follow the ordinary. Indeed, on the contrary, she has already started to "explore and discover" her own purpose in life.

Let's say we're waiting for some new stories through these positive bright blue eyes! (written by: **Anna Vanosi**)



Bettina (Germany)

Pedagogue, singer and journalist - Bettina Benzinger is a German girl with clear goals who has a way of life that she describes as 'it's not the wind that rules your direction but the way you put the sails'. She arrived in the State library with her rented bike, which she decided not to buy during her stay in Aarhus because she wants to apply for one of the exchanges the second semester. This slight and lovely woman seems to be shy and quiet when you do not know her but if you start to speak with her, she has much to say. Bettina was born close to Stuttgart, where she was brought up.

She has a BA in Pedagogy and German Language Promotion, which she studied in Karlsruhe. As a child, she wanted to be a teacher. Bettina achieved that dream but along the way she found that she was also interested in journalism. She has made several internships trying different fields: TV, online editorial team, freelance for a local newspaper... So Bettina decided to put the sails towards another direction combining her BA in Pedagogy with this masters and working in something related with Politics, media and education. She could work for the Government of her country when she finishes the masters but she also has an exciting dream of living abroad for some time. Perhaps in Istanbul, where she spent five weeks some time ago doing an internship in a school and she fell in love with the city. Not only does she like travelling, but she also sings really well and it's one of her hobbies. Her favourite musical is "Dance of the vampires". In her free time she enjoys riding her bike. Yet, nobody knows where she will work, the only sure thing is that it will be related to knowing different people and other cultures. 'My bachelor had an intercultural approach and made me interested in different cultures and their influences on people', she says with a big smile on her face to refer why she has chosen the Hamburg specialism.

Bettina is our media pedagogue, a person who can move the sails to arrive in the direction that she wants to reach. (written by: **Carmen**)



Elena (Italy)

Elena wondered for a moment if it was worth it. If decking herself in traditional Muslim garb – with only her eyes revealed – and going to Tehran was really the way she wanted to spend her holiday. She could, after all, have made the easy trek to one her favorite Mediterranean beaches, or taken a short trip north into the summer comfort of the Alps, or snaked her way around the Adriatic and taken in Eastern Europe. But Elena from Italy feels at home when she's abroad, and when asked why she would choose to travel in Iran – a country that conjures less-than-peaceful images among many Westerners – she brushes off the question.

"I think that when you go out of you own country," Elena said, "you can appreciate different ways of living, different ways of thinking. It is difficult to do that if you just stayed in your own country. You can't understand the differences and that there are a lot of good things out there unless you go to see other things." And that's one of the reasons that Elena ended up in the Erasmus Mundus Journalism Program. Sure, she had to skip over a few countries to get from her native Italy to Denmark, but going to study journalism in another corner of Europe was, in some ways, more comfortable than staying put. "It has been really good for me to see other parts of the world and to see the way that other people live and think," Elena said. "It is a way for me to understand other cultures." Elena ultimately wants to be a foreign correspondent for a print outlet, and she thinks that collecting stamps in her passport is a way to prepare for that gig. She spent three weeks in Iran; she made a jaunt to South America; she went to Morocco; she has been all over the United States. The 26-year-old from Como – which is in the northern part of Italy, nestled between Milan and the Swiss border – thinks that she will live in Italy eventually, just as she's confident that, before long, she'll land the job of her choosing. In the meantime, she's preparing her CV and her psyche for that day. "I think when you are young," Elena said, "you need to go out of your country and spend some years out of your country because you can really become better and you can come back with a lot of information.... "Every experience changes you. I mean, it's not just information. But the people that you meet, and the experiences you have and your feelings change. It's very important to do this kind of experience in countries that are different than your country."

(written by: **David**)



Fabrizio (Italy)

I remember the first chat on facebook when I was still in China. We talked about some tiny but funny things. He is a talkative and optimistic guy, we even made an appointment to play basketball together before we met. When we talked about nicknames, he said "I'm good at giving people nicknames." That's my first impression of him, nickname boy. Since I like to call him Fab, so, we just call him Fab from now on. Our Fab is from Italy, the place I would like to travel to. I have heard that people from the South of Europe are totally different from the North and a part of that is true. They are more outgoing and more passionate. And Fab is a typical Italian guy from my view, although he tells me he is not that typical.

If you have seen some photos of our class before, you can find that he likes the camera and spotlight. He is always making faces in the photos. Can we say that he cannot stop drawing people's attention? No matter what, he does it. Actually he is a kind-hearted organizer too. He can always come up with some nice ideas about parties or outside activities. The first time we met was in a party, none of us had planned for that, so it was a little dramatic when he tapped my shoulder and asked "Are you HuanHuan?" If you want to know the address of a party, just ask him, he will know for sure. Here comes another name, party boy. But you know, we don't have just one side. Fab also has another one: he likes writing, writing tales and short stories. He has taken part in a competition of tales, although he didn't get the prize. It's a really silent hobby, you need to stay alone to write your tales, totally the opposite of his character in party, but our Fab can handle it. He told me his dream is to write a book that can last forever. He wants people to remember what he said, not just a best-seller... it needs to last. It's a nice dream actually, everyone has dreams like that and our Fab has a long time to work for it. Maybe he will succeed, who knows? - Best wishes, Fab! Fab told me to add as well that he loves pasta. Actually, not only pasta, because he loves cooking! I'm really looking forward to taste his cooking. So, our Fab is a nice cook, at least he said that. You need a long time to know a person, no matter the nickname. Boy, party boy, making faces boy, writer, cook, it's just a part of Fab. I can tell you he is more diversified, he is really worth knowing! (written by: **Huanhuan**)



Franziska (Germany)

If there's one person to be credited with Franziska's enthusiasm for journalism it'd undoubtedly be her older sister. "She inspired me to get into journalism," says the young German Mundusian. "We are very similar in our character." Franziska was only 14 when she encouraged her to respond to a call for a one year youth reporters programme. "You just have to think what you will become in the future," the four year older sister said at the time. Eight years later, and not before contemplating other options, Franziska decided to take her passion for journalism a step further and applied to the "Mundus" Journalism programme. For her it was merely a natural step in a path that has so far been leading her through TV production and radio programs.

But it was in fact the globalization aspect in the bi-national masters programme that caught Franziska's interest. Born and raised in Stuttgart ("the city where nice cars are from"), she spent a great deal of her life outside Germany. Internships, studies and plain travel have brought her to Italy, US, Iceland and other corners of the world. Later, she went on – again, following her sister's track – to graduate in German Literature with a minor in Media Studies from the University of Tübingen.

Remarkably positive and equally ambitious Franziska wastes no time. Parallel to her studies in Aarhus, she writes for a German website on documentary films. Working for the online platform since April it is Franziska's first professional experience in writing, and she says she has already learned a lot.

But eventually it is TV that she's mostly into, and indeed her career goal can't be any clearer – it was her six-week Big Apple experience, interning for a German production company ARD as a cultural correspondent that made her hungrier for more. Franziska highly valued the network's research and intellectual level!

Meanwhile, the role model sister turned to public relations, and for Franziska this is where the inspiration ends. "I don't want to become a PR lady," she says decisively. "Journalists and PR's are enemies". (written by: **Ido**)



Gabriella (Hungary)

Meet Gabriella Vas, Hungary's representative in this rainbow group. Starting out in the world of advertising, ten years of what can be described as writing lies left her unfulfilled. Born to a scientist father that worked to make the world a better place and a pharmacist mother that issued life saving medicine every day, she started to think of her place in the world. She wanted to do something of value. She turned her back on her job in an industry on which F. Scott Fitzgerald once commented "...its constructive contribution to humanity is exactly minus zero" and moved over from the dark side. A disheartening career of material wealth, writing pieces that perhaps nobody read or cared about, was substituted by a world of a different kind of fulfillment.

After her first piece of writing as a journalist, a story about a hailstorm in Hungary, she had more feeling of success than in all her years in advertising. There was no turning back.

Her original stint as an intern at an online news portal in Hungary almost landed her a full time job until the world economy crashed. The media, like so many other industries, was forced to cut back. Again, Gabriella found herself on crossroads. This time, she asked herself: "Why am I stuck in Hungary?" A Google search and an application later found her accepted to Erasmus Mundus 2010. Now, she is starting a new journey. She has ambitions to become a foreign correspondent in Europe and even in South America. At the moment the destination is uncertain but, wherever Erasmus will take her eventually, she seems to enjoy her new life and living in the moment. As a famous ad slogan says: It is the journey, not the destination. (written by: Jón)



Juliana (Brazil)

Juliana Guarany is like a Brazilian beach – warm, silky smooth, full of inner energy, which fills up the room when she enters. She enjoys human contact – hugging and cuddling comes naturally to her – this quality stands out on a rainy Scandinavian day. You can always know where she is – just follow the sound of loud, heartwarming laughter. When asked to tell the story of how she became a journalist, Juliana corrects me – it was journalism that chose her. Her first journalistic piece was born when she was 17: "I had an assignment for a high school science fair and decided to talk about homeless people. So I got my moms tape recorder (she's a lyrical singer)

and went to a shelter to talk to a homeless girl. I interviewed her, then came home and edited the tape. I presented my work during a performance my group did on the same object and the impact was absurd. I didn't even realize I was being a journalist on that moment until months later."

She received her journalism BA in Brazil in 2001 and some years later she is here, in Aarhus: "Masters in Brazil are different from here. We usually take some time off after BA", she explains. What I am interested in is why would someone leave an Alpha - World City São Paulo and go to the "Capital of Jutland". Juliana giggles: "I just thought it was cute! Nah, just kidding." She explains, that her goal was to experience European life while improving academic skills. "The course showed me a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world, that's what is most important to me by being here."

However, she did experience a major cultural shock: "I'm Brazilian, I'm always late! And here I have to fight this very deep principle of my culture!" She smiles and confesses that she fell in love with Aarhus. For the first time in her life, Juliana is living on her own in a dorm, sharing kitchen with 15 people, biking around and trying to survive the Scandinavian climate: "It's gonna be the time of my life", she exclaims.

One can feel that she does not struggle to bond with people and enjoys relationships to their fullest – you should only see how she shines when her boyfriend comes to visit! This quality is also vivid when she talks about her study years in the States: "I have American friends for life. I'm still in touch with many of them and it's always great to come back there." Though she does express some criticism towards the American culture, she stresses that the most important and invigorating thing is to get to know different cultures and understand why people act the way they do.

Getting to know different cultures will definitely serve her well on her quest to make a difference – Juliana's wish is to be a journalist who can touch people with information and help them be more perceptive. This is why she chose to go to the Hamburg specialization: "I like to understand and compare cultures, I guess that's mostly what it is about." But it is difficult for her to stay serious about it and in a second she adds: "Plus... boyfriend is in Germany so... we can never forget the boyfriend!", and bursts into laughter.

After getting to know her a little I am not surprised when to my question what kind of job would she like to do after her master's, Juliana answers: "I'm going to rule the world!" All I can say is – I hope you do, Ju! (written by: Medeina)



Marian (Estonia)

Maybe a whole BlueBook wouldn't be enough to cover all the stories that this bright Estonian girl is able to tell you in a couple of hours. She spent her first 18 years in "a true soviet style district" of Tallinn and then the following four years in Tartu, where she studied Journalism. After her Bachelor Degree she was offered to remain at the University as a researcher in the new field of biographical method, but it seemed too settled and definite to her. Despite already writing to one of the most influential newspapers in Estonia, she needed something more. This is why she started travelling and doesn't seem to stop anymore. and getting comfortable.

Now she knows how to survive without worrying about others' judgements and expectations. The most important, she learnt to love life and trust destiny, her "best friend", who led her to Aarhus.

She went on studying on her own, while cultivating her greatest passion: travelling and getting to know different cultures. Why journalism, then? When she saw her first article published in the school paper she felt so happy and proud that she realised that journalism was her destiny. Journalism for her is not only about giving information. Marian wants to write about other cultures to stimulate readers - to show her one million countrymen for example that there is a wide world on the other side of the borders of Estonia. There are more ways of living and understanding the world. Her dream is to travel and write. After this year in Denmark and the second one in Hamburg, the next objectives are Israel, where she has relatives waiting for her and Chile ("So warm and great people!").

This programme seems to be created for Marian: she is interested in cultures, her curiosity has no end, she loves foreign languages and she is already taking the best from all of us - learning customs, travel tips and traditional recipes.

Marian is strong and free, and we will be glad to have her around, especially in the dark never-ending raining days of November, with her bright and "hyggelig" smile to light up our days! (written by: **Silvia**)



Nwet Kay (Myanmar)

There are things in our life that we cannot change: one of them is the place and time of our birth. Kay comes from Burma or Myanmar; it depends on the point of view - therefore, her life back home had been completely influenced by the political situation in her country. She and her two brothers and one sister were raised in the rural area, not far from Mawlamyine where she went to school. Later on she studied International Relations and she also has a master in International development studies which she studied in Thailand. Kay's parents were very smart to invest into Kay's education - however it was and still it is considered as something absolutely useless because you waste the family's money and you won't get any better job.

"You guys have such an easy life here," says Kay and points out that in many places in Burma the electricity works only six hours per day.

Apart from her academic background, Kay also worked as a translator for agricultural farm and she used to work in non-profit school as well. "Educational system in Burma was destroyed and even now, we cannot express ourselves and there are forbidden topics to talk because of the military system," adds Kay. Later on, Kay started to work as a journalist for Burmese weekly newspaper where she still has her column.

Surprisingly enough, there are no Journalism schools in Burma, therefore Kay got her training at the embassies in Rangun where besides journalistic skills she also learnt English. "None of my friends back home trained by mainstream education system actually speak English," say Kay.

For Kay it is the second time in Europe but first time in Denmark. With a smile on her face she ensures me that she cannot complain about anything - she is happy with the program as well as with people and I must add to this that I have not met such a modest person for quite long time. However, there is one thing Kay is really worried about - the winter in Denmark. "Summer in Denmark is still much colder than winter in my country," explains Kay and adds that she has never experienced such a cold weather in her life. However I would guess that Kay will be fine because she is a person with very warm heart, therefore Kay loves to spend time with her friends and often she cooks for them some nice meals.

Next year, Kay will do her specialization in Hamburg, although she would rather choose Amsterdam with specialism in political journalism, because, as she says: "Interest in politics is in my genes but learning about culture and its influence on political system is also, for me, a nice thing to study."

Speaking about further future, Kay has already a precise idea about what to do. She doesn't want to live abroad because this is only a temporary period after which she wants to return to Burma. "I want to dedicate my life to the development of my country for the next generations," states Kay and adds that she might become a politician in Burma if she believes that it would help things to change. In any case, Kay wants to help her country and the people to get a chance for a better life although it is an extremely hard task. "I believe that if you do good things for people, money will follow you," concludes Kay. (written by: **Veronika**)



Sophia (Germany)

"I'm really German!" said Sophia Pfisterer who, because of her looks, says she is often mistaken for a foreigner in her home country. Daughter of Thai mother and German father, she grew up in the small town of Asperg, just outside Stuttgart. But small town life wasn't enough for her. Sophia always dreamed of moving to the big city and seeing the world. After high school, she worked for a year in Australia and during her undergraduate degree she studied in Belgium. But her desire for excitement doesn't stop there. Having already gone bungee jumping while in New Zealand, she says before she dies she plans to go skydiving.

Sophia isn't all adrenalin rush though, to relax she enjoys cooking, especially Thai food, which her mother taught her to make. She even admits to curling up with a cookbook before falling asleep at night.

Sophia's interest in journalism started in high school where she was the editor-in-chief for the school newspaper. But, Sophia says getting into journalism during her bachelors degree in Literary, Cultural and Media Studies was more a matter of chance. She applied for an internship program targeted to young journals with migrant backgrounds sponsored by WDR, one of Germany's biggest public broadcasting institutions. After the internship was over, she continued to freelance on a regular basis for both television and radio departments at the regional studio in Siegen.

Sophia's favourite stories to cover were those which had a multicultural angle. She believes that in Germany minorities are often overlooked in the media. As a journalist, she takes seriously the idea of telling a story from every angle. She fought hard at WDR to air a piece she had done covering Christopher Street Day an annual LGBT celebration.

After the year in Aarhus, where Sophia says the best things have been living by the sea and meeting the other Mundus students, she will go to Hamburg. Apart from being excited for the course, she describes the city being a 'media town' with a bustling atmosphere.

After graduation, Sophia would like to use her journalistic talents to connect people by telling their stories. "I want to do really good journalism," she said. Her goal is to get the audience to rethink things and break their stereotypes by showing what is special in everyday people. (written by: **Zoe**)



Anders (Denmark)

Anders is an ambitious upcoming journalist with a passion for politics. His fascination for politics is founded on its importance for society and the game strategies of the international stage. This is one of the reasons why he joined the program. It gives him the opportunity to specialize in his second year in the beautiful city of Amsterdam and combine his political interest with his love for writing.

Anders is a cosmopolitan Dane with a broad field of interests, a happy demeanor, and an open minded outlook on the world. His hometown is Copenhagen where he went to school and received his high school diploma.

He went on to pursue studies at the Danish School of Journalism as well as New York State University from which he graduated in 2010. During his time at New York state, he fell in love with the city and its international flair. It remains his favorite place until now. He also worked as a journalist with the political newsletter of the parliament.

Anders loves to travel and has a strong affection for different cultures. In the future he would like to become a correspondent for a Danish newspaper in Washington. But more important for him are his friends and his family. Later on he wants to do something that he is passionate about and that he has a good time doing so.

Further facts on Anders:

Main interests: History, international relations, literature, media and football

Favorite movies: The Godfather Trilogy, The Dark Knight, 13 Days, A Beautiful Mind

Favorite quote: "Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly" Robert Kennedy

Last book read: "Game Change" by John Heilemann and Mark Halperich

Favorite food: everything Italian

Favorite possible interview partner: Barrak Obama

(written by: **Alexander**)



Anna Vanosi (Italy)

This is the story about a sweet-hearted 23 year old Italian girl aspiring to become a radio journalist. She is passionate about radio, music, theatre, travelling, the French language and romance. Anna Vanosi was born in Bovisio Masciago, a small town close to Milan in the north of Italy. She started her journalistic career while still in high school. At the time, she did an internship for a local newspaper. After that first experience within journalism she was hooked on it and spend years working as a freelance journalist writing a variety of articles on the local newspaper. Nevertheless, she chose a slightly different direction for her Bachelor studies.

Combining some of her other passions as theatre, art, literature, movies and history, the cultural heritage studies were a perfect fit for her. After she graduated, she found her way back into journalism as she spend six months making radio.

Radio is definitely her medium of choice. For her it represents life as it was in the twenties and thirties. Back then people stayed home together to listen to the radio and in her opinion people cared more about other people in those days. This enchantment with the past shows that Anna is a true romantic at heart. Besides the curricular programme of this Erasmus Mundus she also chose this opportunity to live abroad to get new perspectives. She will be spending her specialism year in Amsterdam studying media and politics as this will provide her the perfect frame for a broader view of the world.

The future might surprise her, but there are some goals she wants to achieve no matter what. She wants to travel, learn French and, above all, she dreams of being a radio journalist. (written by: **Annelien**)



Carmen (Spain)

13 minutes. "It's like an illness", she tells me later with a charming smile about a trait that makes her typically Spanish: unpunctuality. Having grown up in the North of Spain in Santander, Carmen Quintana moved to the Spanish metropolis Madrid for her Bachelors' in journalism, which she finished in June 2009.

In internships, Carmen cut her teeth in the practical work of journalism: she worked two times for newspapers and also gave radio journalism a try. Before Carmen started her Bachelors', she had liked to work for a famous newspaper like Spanish El Pais.

But she recognized that only famous journalists get the chance to write about the topic they want to. Her interests changed to communication in development and politics. This is why she chose the Amsterdam specialism in the Mundus Masters'.

Her goals for the future? "I'm open to everything and interested in different things". Maybe she will work for an NGO. Maybe she will work for the Spanish government and try to make the politics in her home country more transparent. "Each country should learn of other countries," she says.

Is it possible to describe Carmen in three words? "That's not enough," she counters, but tries nevertheless. She is an idealist, observant and sensitive.

Finally the question that tells the most about a person than any other: Which colour would she be? With an irritated look in her eyes, she says, "yellow". Yellow reminds her of the sun. If this could be more than a coincidence in Denmark, which is famous for its extremely sun-kissed weather remains an open question. Yellow has a positive character, stands for energy and for smiling.

Carmen has a passion for travelling which includes getting to know other cultures. Her favourite place she discovered has been the south of India. "If you enter this culture, you'll like to stay".

One motto leads her: Only dead fish follow the stream. She took the role of the fish alive when she decided to study outside her home city. "Doing the totally opposite of established things is what I do," Carmen says. There's no doubt that Carmen will shake up politics in Spain with her journalistic work in the near future! (written by: **Bettina**)



David (USA)

"I like orangutans!" – A strange favorite animal, we can say. But David explained: "They are cute, they think and they look humans. I really like to have one". David, or "Kansas" as he is referred to, comes from Kansas City but he is not the typical American guy. Apart from his strong American accent and his love for basketball (the Phoenix Suns!) he has travelled a lot. He went to Jinan, China, last year, to teach English and to Amsterdam as an undergraduate student for one semester. Now he is back in Europe: "I am flexible concerning where to work and to live in the future. Any place could be the right one for me".

Aarhus is for David: "cozy, tidy and happy". Really different from the places he has been though. "Kansas is simple, it is my home and it is a slow city. Jinan is big, dirty and very...Chinese!" In Jinan, he confides, he wasn't even able to read the menu at the restaurant. "But," he quickly adds "I know almost one hundred Chinese words." He says that Danes are nice but not friendly. "I mean, they don't smile a lot. In the US people are nice at the surface, but they may not really be that interested in how you are actually doing".

David is presently working as a freelance journalist and writing about basketball. He has so far only worked for the US papers but: "the journalism industry in the USA is very bad."

He is passionate about The Netherlands' national football team. This becomes clear when he proudly dresses in his favorite orange Dutch shirt. Thanks to our "extra-curricular" activities, we can firmly say that he is very good at playing Texas Holdem (though the others wouldn't approve)! (written by: **Elena**)



Huanhuan (China)

Huanhuan Guo is the third essence of the contemporary world. Born 22 years ago in the Chinese city of Urumqi, about 3000 km east of Beijing, Huanhuan is a girl that definitely stands out from the crowd in the quiet city of Aarhus. Tall, thin, with black hair that frames her oriental look, Ms Guo's silhouette reminds me of a dangerous Bond girl in the 70s. Nevertheless, she does not hide any small gun in her handbag. In reality, her only weapon is the tip of her pencil, with which she precisely writes down her impression. Graduated in Journalism in China, Huanhuan has decided to face a unique and exciting experience, choosing to study abroad in Europe.

She has never been to the "Old continent" before and in Denmark everything seems incredibly new and original to her.

"My dream is to travel around the world," she explains smiling, "and to write about it." There are no borders in Huanhuan's world. The planet we live in is a mystery, worth unveiling. Freedom is the key. No place can keep Huanhuan for too long, and thanks to her journalistic writing she hopes to be able to keep on travelling a lot. Trip after trip, kilometer after kilometer, she has written millions of Chinese ideograms: "At that point I really would like to publish a book about all my travel notes."

Her technological 24x zoom camera is her trusted friend. "I feel that time stops for me when I press the shutter," she says, "and I think that taking pictures is a good way to reflect what your thoughts are. Life is too short, things are just disappearing after this moment." Every moment counts because it is inimitable with the future: "Everything is possible before it really happens," she repeats, "so everyone's life is hopeful." Sharp pencil, charged camera, Ms Guo is ready for the next exciting story! (written by: **Fabrizio**)



Ido (Israel)

When it comes to the duties of a journalist, Ido seems to be one of those who are fully aware of them. He believes that journalism should affect people's way of thinking. "Many people seem to intake a narrow minded way of thinking – I want them to focus on a more global perspective." Global thinking includes the interest in broadening one's horizon, critical thinking, exploring and travelling.

Ido's backpacking trips to New Zealand and Iceland are examples for his curious and open character. Another proof can be seen in his decision to work as an intern for the German newspaper „Die Welt“ in 2007.

Even though Ido is from Israel, of Jewish origin and had never been to Germany before, he had absolutely no concern about going to Berlin. The work experience that he had were worth the travel - although he was not able to write articles in German, some of his articles got published after being translated.

However, Ido's first experience in Journalism was more than ten years ago. As a teenager in the age of 15 he got the chance to become part of the youth TV shows „Hatzata Me'ucheret (“Late Ignition”) and Omes Yeter (“Overload”), which were aired on a national cable TV channel. In the film department of his High School he was able to learn more about filmmaking.

After his military service Ido wanted to do something new in his life. By choosing Journalism and Communication studies he said goodbye to filmmaking and put all his effort in reporting about environmental issues and foreign affairs. In this field, he has written articles for more than 10 Israeli news outlets, one of them is the leading newspaper in Israel, “Haaretz”. What a success story! But Ido's mission made him to look for new adventures – after his studies in Aarhus he is eager about making the University of Amsterdam a think tank for his global perspective. (written by: **Franziska**)



Jón (Iceland)

Nonni is actually Jón but only his mother calls him that when she's unhappy with him. Originating from Ísafjörður, an Icelandic city of about 3000, he's naturally keen on going places, the further the better, where there are no tourists, but where a steady supply of beer is available. This is more or less how he ended up at the Mundus course, too.

It would be an exaggeration to say that Nonni has always had a thing for journalism. In fact, he's tried his hand at whatever seemed fun (and involved the right amount of beer). In college, he experimented with natural sciences but soon grew bored of them.

This was followed by a brief stint in media, doing marketing for a Reykjavík paper. His rating of the experience? „Horrible!” In no time, he was back in Ísafjörður, where he joined the local police.

Now this was definitely more fun. Though most of his days were spent idling by the phone, when something finally did happen, Nonni was all in one: traffic warden, bouncer, ambulance driver, fireman and shrink. With the money he made, he spent five months crisscrossing South America – he even volunteered to save the rainforest in Ecuador, though mostly for the heck of it (and some cheap beer). Another long trip took him to Africa, where he was especially fond of Sudan (even though beer is illegal there).

On and off, he spent two years in this blissful state. When he felt it was finally time to grow up, he moved to Scotland to study film, media and journalism. At first, it was the former two that intrigued him, but eventually he ended up doing the latter, hunting for stories at Ísafjörður's local weekly. „It was cucumber season every day”, he recalls. Nevertheless, he found some exciting assignments: with one article, for instance, he managed to infuriate a whole town, which he hasn't been allowed to enter ever since.

War and conflict, obviously, are his favorite topics, but so is politics. He envisions himself as a „correspondent in some s***hole nobody goes to”. After all, it's all about traveling and getting paid for it. (Oh, and did I mention beer?) (written by: **Gabriella**)



Medeina (Lithuania)

It's not everyday that a beautiful life story is presented to us like the one that I had the chance to encounter when I had the pleasure of writing Medeina's profile. This special girl is a very familiar face among her Lithuanian compatriots. Her natural talents go way back when she presented her own children's shows on TV during the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Her beautiful looks has always been there, and so has her ability to sneak into our souls and make a difference. She grew up to be a delicate journalist, always looking for that little secret inside of us that would make us so special.

When we first met I noticed how her classic beauty catches the attention of everyone around, but soon I found out that she is actually the one watching us all. Medeina has a passion for photography. It's her favourite hobby along with horseback riding. I loved to see how she captured the most interesting views of the city and how she portrays people from our group. Her natural talent stands out in her unique view of the world.

Medeina has been living a life full of great stories, but since she's still a very young person, it is not hard to imagine how much more she is going to do. Her specialization in Amsterdam, focused on politics, suggests that she is about to take her part in Lithuanian history and transform it together with her own life. We will be here watching her, taking a little peek into her very special soul. (written by: **Juliana**)



Silvia (Italy)

Twenty four year old Silvia Giannelli went for a job interview at a local newspaper in Lucca, Italy.

"Tell me about yourself," the editor asked.

"I just came back and I'm bored," Silvia answered.

The reggae-loving-curly-haired-hippie-girl had just come back home after three years of studying communication science in Bologna.

"What else?" he asked the graduate.

"I don't know how to spend my time, so I've started playing volleyball again."

After 11 years of ball bouncing the volleyball player mumbles in her timid Italian manner, "I am not that bad."

"So, you can write about that," the editor says delightedly, clapping his hands between sips of espresso.

"But I play the same time that the matches are on," the brown-eyed says worriedly.

The editor says, "It doesn't matter. You can check the scores and imagine you were at the game."

Silvia has always been writing. From the time her mother made pesto sauce in the kitchen and her policeman-father fined those bastardi's who parked at the wrong place (not realizing his daughter will be no different), to the time her friends grabbed a camera to photograph those important occasions, ten-year-old Silvia has been running back to her room to write down everything she saw.

She was given the job.

Whether reporting on a volleyball game she never saw, assisting a reggae radio show, (she compiled the playlist) writing radio news (which she did for a year in Bologna) or describing the floods at her hometown, journalism has always been a creative job for her. When Silvia is not writing, she is dreaming about travelling. "I want to go everywhere," she says.

"It doesn't matter how much I try," she adds after a few minutes of silence. "I will never be as good as I want to be." She goes on. "I have no idea why they chose me to be a part of the Mundus programme!" With her eyebrows raised, Silvia says, "Maybe I was just lucky?"

The bird is singing in the hygge-language and the sun lights up her room. She signs off, "Time will tell."

(written by: **Marian**)



Veronika (Czech Republic)

The first impression Aarhus gave to Veronika is mixed with the sound of Danish music. Vocal music is a part of her life since she started singing when she was in kindergarten. Singing with a rhythm and tone is never an easy task. Only those with high level of vocal skill, deep commitment to practice with patience, and strong competency among other competitors, can sing in harmony with the music played by the instruments. All of these qualities make our Lady Veronika that we see in Erasmus Mundus class today. Love for music, studying and adventures are deeply embedded in her heart since childhood. Now she has started singing a nice life song with all of us.

She lived away from her family for the first time after high school in order to continue her education at a top journalism school at Prague in Czech Republic. She went to France as an exchange student in the 3rd year of her study. Looking back on her time in Paris, she feels very satisfied with her decision to study abroad. Although staying abroad as an exchange student is optional and was not a very popular choice among her classmates, she looks back at it as an important step, which moulded in her a high level of intellect. This also proved to be her inspiration in applying for the Erasmus Mundus Masters.

Veronika will go to Amsterdam in her second year at the Erasmus Mundus Masters programme. Pursuing academic learning in a Dutch environment is one of her dreams. Sharing enormous similarity with the Czech mentality, she hopes to have a pleasant time in Amsterdam. While the distance from her mum and little sister is not such a big problem in these days of communication interconnectedness, the weather in Aarhus is what troubles her the most. While biking under the rain is still a challenge, she said, "I'll try to get used to it." But she is quite happy about the living cost, which was not as high as she had expected it to be. During her spare time, she loves organizing projects with her friends and writing letters instead of emails! While she did roller blading in Paris, the hilly streets at Aarhus prevent her from doing this. Veronika also hopes to show her snowboarding skills during winter time at Aarhus.

Veronika worked as a journalist in a private broadcasting channel in Prague. For the future, she finds that life is more exciting outside of the motherland.

In fact, life is a series of songs that cannot be sweet without harmony, with the community around us. By singing songs, people express emotion, belief, love, and gain strength. We all are singing a series of songs along the living journey. For Veronika, I believe the Mundus song will be one of the sweetest. (written by: **Nwet Kay**)



Zoe (USA)

New York – the big apple, the city that never sleeps, the so-called centre of the universe. This is where Zoe Thomas grew up. So why would anybody want to leave this great city and study in the world's smallest big city, Aarhus in Denmark?

Already as a little girl, Zoe had the strong believe she belonged somewhere else: "I was so obsessed by snow, in the bottom of my heart I was convinced I actually was an Eskimo and that my parents had only adopted me." Today, as a 21-year-old, she laughs about her vivid filial imagination and feels very much at home in New York. Still, this was the first time in her life, she realized that there must be something else out there. Some other fascinating places in the world, she wants to discover.

In the age of 17, she turned her back to the big apple for the first time. This was when she decided to study International Relations at Saint Andrews University in Scotland. During that time, she travelled Western Europe and experienced parts of the world outside of New York. "It is funny: now, I feel that I think more European, when I am back in the States, and more American when I am in Europe." However, reflecting about different points of views is what Zoe is interested in. And, she cannot get enough of that: her goal in life is to travel the whole globe.

Apart from travelling, Zoe's second passion lies in journalism. Over the summers before her 3rd and 4th year of study in Scotland, she came back to New York to work for two newspapers: Canarsie Courier and Brooklyn Daily Eagle. "I just loved the feeling, when you publish a good story of which you can say: It's an interesting read, it's well researched and that it provides all the information, you need." Zoe is convinced that even though there are vast changes in the media landscape, e.g. Twitter and blogs, old-fashioned journalism will still endure: "Journalism has the capacities to supply reliable and trustworthy information and classify it for audiences."

After completing the Erasmus-Mundus Masters programme, Zoe wants to become an investigative journalist. "A hard-as-one", she says with an impish grin. "I always admired journalists who are persistent enough to get politicians to plain talking, and who don't give up until they have the story clear." Her favourite future job would be to combine her passion for travels and journalism. The media will surely have to look out for this New York girl with an Eskimo heart – so wrap up warm! (written by: **Sophia**)



Aljosha (Germany)

My first direct contact with this somewhat seeming calm but friendly person was on the 4th of September. It was Aljosha's birthday and most "Mundusians" had congregated at the "Mundus house" to plan a treasure hunt theme birthday surprise for him. He came towards everyone, shaking hands with the guys and kissed some of the girls on the cheek – and then he came to me... and as he redid the custom ritual for greeting... he said, "I'm tired of kissing!"

I could not help but laugh as it was not only strange for me to be kissed on the cheek by a person I barely knew, but also because his comment put me at ease.

Aljosha exudes an air of confidence. He makes one feel comfortable at the same time interested in what he has to say. For this interview we met at the canteen and he was quick to tell me about his life's passion, cars. This is because he grew up in Stuttgart, a city in Germany popular for car manufacturing. Also the fact that his father is in the business meant that he grew up loving cars.

Aljosha went to Stuttgart Media University ("Hochschule der Medien") from September 2007 to September 2010 and just received his Bachelor Certificate from there. He studied "Media Economics" (Journalism + Business Administration) there. During this time, I was one of the editorial students for a blog from the "Stuttgarter Zeitung" (that is the most famous newspaper in his hometown) where he also gained his first journalistic experience.

From March 2009 to September 2009 he did an internship at Europe's biggest printing and publishing house "Gruner+Jahr" where he was responsible for the design of big advertisement campaigns which he designed with Photoshop.

The striking thing I learnt about Aljosha is that he is both an Arab and a European. To me this sort of represented a cultural contradiction and I was curious to find out which he identified with the most. Aljosha identifies more with the Arabs. He says they are friendly people and that's what describes him best.

He recently discovered his father's family, and visited them for the first time in years in Syria. As a child his father often went on business trips to Syria and unfortunately did not take him along. He decided two years ago to venture out and find his family in Syria. To his utter delight, he was accepted and quickly included in the family. According to him it was the best moment in his life!

Aljosha loves to meet people, which is why he says he picked this course in the first place. He has traveled a lot to countries in the Middle East. He is excited about this course, and hopes to meet interesting people in the "Mundus" program. (written by: **Ann**)



Alfonso (Spain)

Meet 23 years old Alfonso Campo Macia. Born in the north western part of Spain in a small town called Quiroga, Alfonso was sure early on his life that he wanted to be in the thick of action, where the news happens. And for this reason he decided to pursue journalism.

Having grown up in a town that had 4,000 people, Alfonso moved to the city of Valladolid to pursue his bachelor's in journalism at the age of 18. In his fourth year of university, Alfonso went to Katowice in Poland as part of the Erasmus student exchange programme. "It was my first time away from home and on my own.

I made so many new friends, and experienced a completely different culture. I fell in love with the Erasmus experience," says Alfonso.

Unlike many, Alfonso has had the opportunity to work across the news mediums – having interned at a regional newspaper in Spain as well as a television news channel back home. This Spaniard even worked as the web editor of an International film festival. Alfonso is quick to say, "Print is where I want to be though. I want to work for a financial newspaper in the future."

Alfonso has chosen to specialise in Business and Financial journalism at City University, London, in the second year of the Erasmus Mundus programme keeping with his dream of being a business reporter.

Beyond the field of journalism, this Spaniard has quite a few hobbies including playing the bagpipes since he was a child. Contrary to popular belief, the bagpipes are not only played in Scotland, but are also typical of the region of Galicia in Spain. Although he's not fanatical about football, only a few months ago, Alfonso along with thousands of his countrymen sat at the edge of his seat, praying to God for Spain to emerge World Champions. The rest is history. (written by: **Anna Isaac**)



Anusha (India)

Coming from the land of Maharajas and exotic fairytales, the land that fills the westerns minds with dreams, exotic landscapes and cultures - this is Anusha Sodavaram. India, Anusha's home country, is the land of diversity and home to 26 different languages, 28 states, seven Union territories and more than 1 billion people.

It must be hard to find a national identity in such a big country, but Anusha considers herself Indian at heart. She also adds, nevertheless, that she was lucky to be brought up in an independent family, where she had the right to choose her own path and change her own destiny.

"Back in India nothing is more important than your tradition and culture. They follow this very religiously, come what may. Indian girls are brought up with a very definite mind frame. Women's decisions are not always taken into consideration."

But Anusha was fortunate. The girl who wanted to be a journalist, dancer and badminton player as a child, had her family's support and followed her own will, meaning not always making the "right" Indian decision: she chose to marry for love. And though in our innocent hearts marriage seems always as a beautiful story, she had to face up to some challenges.

"People in India think that girls should always get married to an older man and it can never be vice versa. But in my case, I have done everything which is not accepted with open arms in the society. To start with, I had a love marriage and married a guy who is from a different community and doesn't speak my language."

Anusha says that now she is seen as having a totally new identity, having lost the one she carried from her birth. But this doesn't destroy her. She keeps her career dreams along with her personal ambitions. "Balancing my professional goal and my personal life is a very challenging job. And I am happy that I am successful in doing a fair job of it."

Over the past five and a half years, she has been associated with the various spectrums of the communication industry including journalism, public relations and media management, and advertising. This experience has given her considerable insight into the various shades of journalistic and media skills. It has also in a way strengthened her creativity and communication skills that have not only brought her closer to understanding the finer aspects of factual reporting and researching information as a reporter, but also improved her interpersonal skills such as listening and interacting with people. Anusha, with her positive attitude and her passion towards risks and challenges, has a bachelor in economics and a post-graduation diploma in journalism and she plans to be successful and fulfill her dreams, "working with a top publication house of the world." (written by: **Catarina**)



Arin (Canada/Netherlands)

I cannot say that Arin is a person that talks too much, quite the contrary. He listens, observes, memorizes. He scans the world cynically and without illusions through his sharp look, and sometimes he shares his twisted reflections with people on the Web. "tempered blather. A working attempt to organize my scattered thoughts" is the name of the virtual space where we can read some of his hilarious notes.

'Actually I am not a very funny person, but I am pretty funny when I write' he confided to me during our interview. I am not surprised then that his dream job is to write a humorist column for an influent journal, it does not really matter where in the world, as long as he can use the language in which he is most confident, English. He also speaks French, Dutch and Czech.

Who is Arin? Canadian and Dutch passports, according to the canonical definitions. A citizen of the world, I would say. Dutch father, mother from Trinidad, he was raised and educated in Ottawa, Ontario, and then he arrived in Europe. Some months in Barcelona, 7 years in the Czech Republic, where he worked first as an English teacher then for a NGO.

Denmark now...why this passion for Europe? With two hours drive you can be in a totally different culture and also - he added - people in North America live for working, on the contrary in Europe they work to live. And he does not want to live to work.

Why a master in Journalism in Denmark and in the UK? He has a degree in Sociology and Anthropology at the Concordia University, but he used to work for a radio for several years.

He chose this master in Europe to see journalism from other perspectives, not to remain confined into the Canadian and North American media system and, hopefully, to gain more experience.

What else? Arin likes red apples, often he wears a hat, he loves meeting people who can help him change his perspective. In his backpack you can always find chewing gums, which strictly - in his own words - should be free to go wherever they want without being forced in the box.

His favourite color is dark green, he loves cats because of their independence, and I am quite sure that reading this last sentence he will crack a smile, recalling the conversation we had in a noisy and decadent bar in Aarhus. (written by: **Claudia**)



Dobriyana (Bulgaria)

"You probably wonder why I am applying to the Erasmus Mundus Journalism Programme." That's how Dobriyana started her motivation letter for the application for the Erasmus Mundus Journalism Programme. Why? Well – from the first sight – she seems to have nothing to do with journalism at all. She did her Bachelor Degree in Music Education and Piano Performance in her hometown of Plovdiv, Bulgaria and is about to finish her Master Degree in Piano Performance. She is actually a musician! But to understand this 25 years old woman, you have to delve deeper into her past. She won a national competition for cultural journalism that led to an internship at the Bulgarian National Radio where she worked for six months.

There she had the chance to present shows, do interviews and prepare the news. But more importantly, she was lucky to have an interview with Anne-Sophie Mutter, one of the greatest violinists today and one of Dobriyana's idols.

If you think Dobriyana is only interested in music or culture journalism, well – think again. She participated in several international conferences about international relations, journalism and other topics. This year for example she attended and reported on the XIII International AIDS conference in Vienna. This shows that she is not only interested in culture but also in politics and society issues - one of the reasons why Dobriyana has chosen to take part in the Erasmus Mundus Programme. Another reason was that it is the only international journalism programme that is offered within the EU with such a wide variety of specializations. She loves the international atmosphere and she wants to learn as much from her fellow students and their different cultures as from her professors.

After a year in Aarhus she will go to London because she simply loves the city and thinks that this will be a great place to live and work. No matter if she will be working for a classical music magazine, BBC World service or if she will become the chief editor of The Financial Times – with her experience and wide interests she offers, she will be able to work almost everywhere. Her greatest dream, though, is to work as a journalist for a big international broadcast company. So – watch out for this girl! She's up to everything! (written by: **Daniela**)



Elga (Bulgaria)

Meet energetic and multit talented Elga – or as everyone calls her: Elgi – from Bulgaria! With her 23 years she has not only seen a lot of the world but also already demonstrated her outstanding academic, journalistic and entrepreneurial abilities.

Born and raised in Bulgaria, she attended the American University in Blagoevgrad from which she graduated in 2009 cum laude with a double degree in Journalism and European Studies (specializing in European Law). Next to her studies, she has been working for multiple media outlets including the 1st Bulgarian TV channel,

a contemporary arts magazine, a cultural newspaper and her school newspaper - work for which she was awarded a Dean's list entry for "outstanding achievements in journalism & community service". She also ran national awareness campaigns against human trafficking & violence through her local Rotaract club.

In addition to her work and studies in Bulgaria, Elgi also gained international experiences when living for a longer time in Austria and the USA. She spent each summer of the past four years participating in a work and travel program in the Boston area. According to this international life, Elgi speaks fluently Bulgarian, English and Russian and is furthermore currently brushing up her Spanish, German and Danish skills.

In line with her international orientation, the "Mundus" program instantly attracted Elgi. By choosing the London specialism she hopes to further her understanding of finance and business journalism. A field she can easily relate to as being an entrepreneur herself: two years ago she founded - together with a friend - a snowboard and ski school in Bansko. Since then you can find her every winter in the biggest wintersport resort in Bulgaria giving snowboard & ski lessons.

When there isn't any snow around, Elgi likes to act on stage and is generally interested in culture and theatre. She plans to intensify this passion by directing an international theatre play in Aarhus - a project which she already set up from back home... What else would you expect from a very ambitious, outgoing and communicative person?

If tackled in the same way, there is no doubt that Elgi will make her dream of an employment abroad come true after the end of the Erasmus Mundus program. So you better watch out for our energetic Elgi in the Canadian and American new media industry! (written by: **Felix**)



Elsy (Syria/Armenia)

Elsy Violin is the mysterious "Mundusian". Just arrived from Syria, but originally from Armenia, she was the last one to arrive and the only student from the Middle East. She hasn't yet discovered the "Danish secrets", but she is very curious and excited indeed.

Elsy majored in English Literature, but had the unique chance to follow journalism. She attended courses on Online journalism, Cultural reporting and Business and Financial journalism and was a representative in the Euro-mediterranean Academy for Young Journalists in Amsterdam, last year.

This violin player is motivated, ambitious and outgoing and believes that her major strength is that she can "get mingled with any society very quickly", a valuable attribute in the "Erasmus Mundus Program". Her specialism will be in London, "Business and Finance", where she expects to pursue her dream career. "My future goal is to be specialized as a financial journalist. I have been practising that for almost a year, but having an academic base would add a lot to my experience and would lead me to work for renowned media agencies." Elsy has actually a romantic idea of how money influences people's lives. She also adds that "the way money influences people's life amazes me- it could help a student to obtain a higher degree, a company to flourish and recruit a large number of unemployed people and moreover, it could be a reason for many wars and calamities all over the world, such as the recent global economic crisis." Elsy Violin has definitely chosen a wide subject to study. We bet that with her positive attitude she will succeed!
(written by: **Catarina**)



Jan-Henrik (Germany)

From sports to being told he would never work in the journalism field again, from guzzling tequila in Mexico to Joplin, Missouri (Who would ever go to Joplin, Missouri by choice?) finally to Aarhus, Denmark, this is the seesaw story of Jan Forster.

Jan claims he's from Hamburg, but he really grew up 100 kilometres away in a town called Rendsburg. He entered his undergraduate degree with aspirations of studying sports, yet following an unfortunate knee injury a mere two weeks into the program, Jan was forced to drop out of the program. Thanks to a convenient relationship made between Jan and an associate teacher in his brief stint at school, he was able to catch on at a local newspaper covering sports.

Unfortunately, the seesaw continued, as after only a few months, Jan was told from an editor, "You will never work in journalism again!" Not exactly what you want to hear from your employer, or in Jan's case, ex-employer.

What does somebody do when they drop out of school and are told to stay away from the journalism field? Go to Mexico naturally! Jan soaked in the sun, teaching English for eight weeks before regaining the itch to enter the journalism field, contrary to his former editor's desires.

He enrolled in a Journalism degree in Bremen, Germany, which gave him the opportunity to go abroad on an exchange semester. Jan had never been to the United States so of course he chose California as his destination. No. New York? No. For a reason I still struggle to cope with, Jan chose Joplin, Missouri. What the hell is in Joplin, Missouri? For Jan, he found a personable, small town that provided an interesting, foreign atmosphere and pretty ladies.

Following a two year stint working for the Financial Times in Germany, Jan finds himself continuing his seesaw adventure in Aarhus, with the motivation to prove his former boss wrong.

Facts Jan wants you to know:

- * He's complicated
- * He has an explosive temper
- * He demands clean dishes
- * Loves the way Americans dance
- * No more tequila

(written by: **Jordan**)



Joyce (Philippines)

According to the historians, the French leader Napoleon Bonaparte needed only 4 hours of sleep a night. Then he could easily carry on making the world changing decisions. It is absolutely nothing unusual for Joyce Anne Fernandez, a Philippine journalist with big dreams and even bigger determination.

At 4 o'clock at night, when 99% of the Erasmus Mundus group is still dreaming about fame and fortune, Joyce takes the matters into her own hands. The condition for her to be in Denmark is to carry on with her regular job in Manila. She writes and edits stories for "Manila Bulletin", as well as for her beloved magazine "Imagine", for which she's the editor in chief.

She keeps works until 8 am, then goes to the university, comes back... and is back to work again. She finishes her work around 2 at night. "Is that enough sleep?" - "Girl, I used to work for four days without going to bed," she laughs.

Back home, many people ask her: "Why are you in the business which can't even pay your rent?" and she answers "I just love it!" And this love started to grow very early. When she was in the primary school, Joyce enjoyed writing short stories and poems for her closest friends and family. When she was choosing her academic path, she knew that this must have something to do with writing. "I decided to go for English literature, but then I heard the voice of reason coming from my mother: Why wouldn't you choose something more practical, like journalism for example?" she recalls. "I thought she had a point".

At the end of her last year at the University of the Philippines, being just 19, she stepped into the newsroom of the biggest national newspaper, "Manila Times", and asked for a job. "They told me to go out and do a story about a new taxi service at the airport", she says. "I did a story and they liked it. The next day I was in the business". For the next years, Joyce was writing mostly about politics, NGOs and human rights. She worked for many different titles but it wasn't always nice and easy. "Being a journalist in Philippines is a tough job," she says. "You can't just write whatever you want. There's a lot of corruption, political or business dependences. It can also be dangerous, as journalists sometimes receive threats. I've been there".

Being fed up with this struggle, Joyce switched to culture, lifestyle and fashion writing. She started working for "Manila Bulletin", and soon after her boss let her create a new magazine. That is how "Imagine" came into being. Every time she mentions this name, you can see a smile on her face. "I can finally write whatever I want. In 'Imagine', we try to tie up fashion, culture, politics and life-style", she states. However, this was still not enough for her. She decided to take part in the Erasmus Mundus course, to get a better understanding of the world, which she could later apply in her journalistic work. "I've chosen business and finance specialization, as I think this knowledge can help me help my country," she says. "I think we need more professional coverage of economic issues in the Philippines, in order to create a nation of entrepreneurs".

Well then, how does Joyce see herself in 10 years? "In Manila, running couple of well established, widely read magazines about culture, fashion and business", she smiles. "I would like to make a difference in the Philippines and give people hope, that we can live in a normal, well prospering country." With her self-determination and diligence, one can be sure that Joyce will succeed. (written by: **Kornelia**)



Peter (Slovenia)

There are some topics that divide the world in two groups. The Republicans versus the Democrats, 2Pac versus The Notorious B.I.G, believers in God versus the heathens, the Sopranos versus the Godfather, Israel versus Palestine, Real Madrid versus Barcelona. So, when I went to Peter to have dinner and do the interview we could have discussed any of these battles. But we didn't. We chose the classic: Pineapple pizza. For Peter there is no such thing. "Its not a fruit salad" are the words he used if I remember correctly. So I could say Peter is old-fashioned and just leave it at that. But unfortunately it's not that easy. He is more than the 300 word limit that I have been given to describe him.

Peter is kind, caring, interested in other people's lives, someone you can tell anything without fear of being judged. A good listener, a good interviewer, and a good journalist. So good in fact that it's hard to get him to talk about himself.

He comes from a town I can't spell, but is a Ljubljanian by choice. He is a great cook, but apparently a bad flutist. He might not be good at making and than following plans, but he is good at improvising. He is spontaneous but sometimes thinks too much. He is charismatic. He has been to Scheinfeld, but did not know where it is. He names his plants. He is close to his family, but independent. He is fun, but deep. He is an international person, but doesn't like Berlin. He likes cats more than dogs. And Italians more than Austrians.

Of course there is this really great story about him, the lion and the mermaid, but that would go way beyond the 300 word limit. He remains a bit of a mystery to me. But I will come back for dinner sometime. And I will bring pineapple. (written by: **Katharina**)



Lynn (Taiwan)

Even though it may sound trite, studying overseas is a dream coming true for Lynn and a chance to get "Europeanized". It all began with a short trip to the UK when Lynn was 17. While living thousands of miles away from home, she realized that she could be independent and that this independence was something she did not want to let go of again. From there on, Lynn continued her studies with a newfound perspective on life. With her Bachelor degree in speech communication, she seized the chance to sharpen her verbal ability. "You need to have a clearer mind if you want to have good control of words and of speech," she explains.

Even though communication has already played a major role in Lynn's life at that point, it was not journalism that she got involved in after graduation. "I wanted to contribute something to society and I thought I can do that by teaching." Teaching English was not completely new for Lynn, she had already financed her Bachelor that way (given that her clumsiness made any jobs at restaurants impossible).

But after a few years she got tired of pouring her knowledge out into the brains of "little brats" and decided she needed more input. So at 26, she quit teaching and applied for a job at "Taiwan News" – with no journalistic experience so far. She must have made quite an impression, because she got the job and stuck with journalism ever since. "What really got me into journalism was the chance to interview representatives from all over the world. It made me realize that the world is wide open and that journalism is a never-ending field."

Last year, she was given the opportunity to stay with an American family in Minnesota for nine months. "If I hadn't gone to Minnesota, I wouldn't be here now," she resumes. "I saw that I can go further, that I don't have to go back to Taiwan. Minnesota just gave me the boost."

Now Lynn enjoys getting to know more about journalism and globalization in the cultural melting pot, how she likes to call Europe. Next year, she will be off to London to specialize in business and finance. "Business affects so many people, just think of the financial crisis. If I know more about it and write about it, maybe I can educate people so that they will know better and make better choices." (written by: **Lea**)



Raia (Bulgaria)

Raia was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, but she spent most of her life in the United States. Raia grew up in Chappel Hill, North Carolina, but always had something else in mind: to go back to her home country. That happened six years ago, when she got accepted at the American University in Bulgaria to study journalism. Her family stayed in the U.S., but it wasn't in her plans to go back to America after graduation. "I always knew that I wanted to live in Bulgaria. Life over there is great, even though there are so many things that p*** me off, like corruption and poverty," says Raia.

After she finished her bachelors, two years ago, Raia started working at the National Bulgarian Darik radio station, covering all kinds of events, from politics to culture. "It was there that I became positively sure that journalism is what I want to do with my life. I love that you get to meet so many interesting people," she says. Raia likes to remember the story she did about a single mother that came to the radio station she was working at. After her report went on air, social institutions contacted the woman and helped her. Raia says, "I love that feeling when you can help someone out."

Although she enjoyed her job back in Bulgaria, Raia was looking for an international experience and she thought that the Erasmus Mundus Masters programme was a great opportunity. "I had never heard of Aarhus before this and I never imagined living in Denmark. But I'm very glad that it's all happening".

After Aarhus, Raia is going to London to study business and finance. She doesn't know if she actually wants to become a business journalist, but is certain that the course will contribute to her career. When she is not working, Raia likes listening to music. She is very influenced by her parents; her mother is a piano teacher and her father plays Bulgarian folk music. "I'm obsessed with music. I listen to everything", she says. Besides music, journalism is another passion. When I asked her if she always wanted to be a journalist, without a blink of an eye she replied, "Absolutely!" (written by: **Wilson**)



Sebastian (Germany)

Sebastian Kirsch was quick to leave a global mark in Denmark. Actually, he didn't have to try too much. He was just biking up the hill against the wind at 'Viborgvej' in Aarhus and then a Google Maps Camera car passed by. Now Sebastian will be on Google maps.

I am not sure whether Google maps was his dream destination, but Aarhus – yes. Actually this German guy stopped his North American Masters' studies in Cologne in order to become globalized in Denmark. Sebastian says that the Erasmus Mundus journalism programme has everything he is interested in.

He has chosen the economic perspective for specialism in City University London, which is related to his Bachelor's degree in social economics in Nuremberg. However, Sebastian has a love-hate relationship with economics. "I never liked economics, but I found it very important, and after years of study I had to admit that I like economics", said Sebastian. And if he finds out later that economics is not where he wants be, there is always sports journalism.

Although Sebastian hasn't done too much of sports reporting, he gets highly enthusiastic when it comes to playing sports. "I ride my bike 12 kilometers a day, here in Aarhus, but I'd love to do more". Back in Germany he played football as well as that crazy game of handball.

It's clear that sport is in Sebastian's blood, but there is something else as well: his German roots. He is punctual, and well organized. Always answering to the point, Sebastian's love for journalism goes way back. He says, "I was interested in journalism since I was 14. When I graduated from school I knew I wanted to do journalism, but my BA had no connection with media as I decided to go for more practical studies that could assure me 'a real job'. However, I attended various courses to improve my journalistic skills. I gained a lot of experience at my university radio station. Then I searched for programmes that included more journalism studies". And now he is a part of the Mundus Media family.

He signs off, "I'm going to be a journalist in whatever field, somewhere in the world. I am sure, it will work out."
(written by: **Simona Strimaityte**)



Simona Strimaityte (Lithuania)

She entered with a friendly smile. The library, where we had decided to meet, was crowded and she was a little late for our interview, but for twenty-three year old Simona this was no reason to lose her happy attitude.

On this very day, she had another good reason for being cheerful: Lithuania had just reached the semifinals of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2010 – for the first time in the history of this little north-eastern European state. She seemed very proud on her country when telling me this. As Basketball is the national sport, Simona showed some patriotism at that moment, just like any other Lithuanian would.

Generally though, Simona has no strong connection to her home country anymore. "A lot of my friends back home in Lithuania are very traditional. They are all from Vilkauskis, the small town where I grew up, and everybody knows each other for such a long time. This kind of networking is very important in Lithuania. But personally, I feel disconnected now," she said.

This is due to her studies. After the first three years of her Bachelor's degree in Journalism, she left Vilnius University for the Netherlands and Denmark. The exchange program "Europe in the World" led her exactly to the same place she is studying right now: the Danish School of Journalism in Aarhus. The international experience that helped her build up a new network of friends as well as the quality of study brought her back for the Erasmus Mundus Masters in Journalism.

"I am looking especially forward to my specialism in London. This international city will hopefully be a great place to get new experiences in economic journalism," said Simona.

Simona has always had a major interest in economics. But she has not been able to combine this interest with her journalistic work so far. Nevertheless, during an internship at the Lithuanian national public broadcaster LRT, she realized her full potential in a very supporting editorial department.

She said, "They involved me in the working progress and I could even do some live-reporting. By that, you are always improving yourself. You have new challenges every day. That's why I don't want to stop doing journalism. Despite my parents telling me that this is not the profession for a girl."

She smiled again.

Probably because she knows that she will end up doing journalism, even against the traditional Lithuanian influence of her parents. But maybe because she already knows at this instant that Lithuania could win the Bronze-medal at the 2010 Basketball World Cup; one of the most patriotic events for every Lithuanian. Even for a non-traditional, cosmopolitan student and journalist like Simona. (written by: **Sebastian**)



Simona Suci (Romania)

When I asked this lovely Romanian girl what she would like to read about herself she answered with a big smile and a wink : “within five years I want to be a happy and satisfied journalist, reporting for the BBC and with a big family.” From the first till the last question I realized that her family is the most important factor in her life. Simona grew up as a only child in Orastie. Her biggest wish was to have brothers and sisters. As a little girl she threw kilos of sugar on the windowsill, because according to an old tradition people do that when they want the stork to bring them children. Unfortunately for her the magic trick with the sugar did not work, because her father did not want to have more children. He grew up without any siblings and he wanted to give the best to his only child, just like his parents did for him.

Simona dreams of a balanced life with a big family, and an eco house where she can find her rust and quietness. What matters for her professionally is the opportunity to develop and improve herself. Besides that she wants to work with people and have enough time to visit her friends and family as often as possible. Not so surprising to hear then is that family and friends are the things she misses the most when she is abroad. Traveling around, experiencing other countries and cultures is one of her hobbies. She really got into this when she lived in Brussels during an Erasmus exchange year. “What is better than living this dream, spending your time in an international environment without having a lot of responsibilities and on the top of that being funded by the government?”

The expression “Once an Erasmus student, always an Erasmus student” encouraged Simona to apply for the Master program: Journalism and Media within Globalization. This international program is for her the perfect way to continue the Erasmus experience and meet more interesting people. At the same time it will be a good way to equip herself better to become a responsible journalist after getting Bachelor degrees in journalism and literature.

Because that is what Simona wants to accomplish. She feels it as her moral duty to contribute something to communities that are not as developed as the western world. Her wish is to go to Africa and bring alive her motto, “Be the change you want to see in the world”, which she borrowed from the spiritual leader Ghandi. Now you probably think that she has these utopian ideas about changing the world. However that is not the case at all. She realizes that she cannot change the world. But writing about Africa in a responsible way or educate the population in hygiene matters for example will be a good first step. Besides that living in Africa will help her personally to realize and appreciate everything that she has.

Her grandmother, one of the persons she admires the most helps her also to bring perspective in her life and tone down all the little problems she has. “Sometimes I find myself complaining to my grandmother about my awful life; exams, stress, lack of money, really stupid stuff as I realize later. She listens to me and says with a peaceful look on her face: yeah, I understand you perfectly. When I was at your age I was facing war, communism and revolutions...” Her grandmother showed Simona how to make sacrifices and to put family always on the first place. (written by: **Johanna**)



Ann (Uganda)

When I found out that I was supposed to do the interview with Ann Mabel Sanyu, I was really interested from the start – she has one of the most unique backgrounds of the entire course. She originally comes from Kampala (Uganda) and is the only person within the programme that has an African ethnic background.

Ann Mabel has studied Mass Communications at the oldest and most prestigious university in her hometown Kampala.

She describes herself as reserved, shy and quiet at first, but as soon as she gets to know someone better, she becomes outgoing and friendly – the complete opposite.

As soon as you recognise that, you can easily tell how well it suits that “Sanyu” means “Joy” – she really has a totally different character as soon as you get to know her better. At first, however, she'd rather observe a person from the distance.

She strongly believes that it was her family that shaped her personality and made her become a very independent person – in fact, she mentioned that she does things that some of her closest African friends wouldn't even think of doing – like, for example, suddenly travelling to Denmark and engage in a fundamentally different culture from hers and being in contact with so many divergent ethnicities. However, the programme seemed to tempting to not joining it.

Ann Mabel clearly remembers the moment when she found out that she got accepted to take part in the Journalism course in Denmark. In fact, she was so surprised that she even sent the admission offer to her sister to make sure she hadn't misinterpreted it! According to her, that was her “magical surprise” and she was “on cloud number nine” – especially because she felt that she had reached a dead end at her former employer, a national broadcaster in the city of Kampala, where she was responsible for covering politics and foreign affairs. As much as she liked her job, she felt it was time to move on and continue her academic career in a completely new environment. (written by: **Aljosha**)



Anna Isaac (India)

With a smile on her face - this is how you will always find Anna Isaac. This amazing girl is from Chennai, in the south of India.

Apparently, she was always very ambitious, even as a little girl. She knew she wanted to be a journalist at the age of 12. But she really didn't know what was in store for her. LOL. Before she came to Aarhus she studied English Literature and then did her post graduate diploma in Broadcast journalism from India. She worked as a journalist in a television news station in New Delhi for a year.

She was on the Production side, but then her ambition gave her a new direction and she decided she wanted to be in front of the camera. So, she moved to Chennai and began working as a reporter.

Anna decided to do a Masters to broaden her knowledge and what programme could be better than the Erasmus Mundus one! In addition to learning, Anna wanted to be a part of a unique international experience. After her one year in Aarhus, she will do her specialisation in 'war and conflict'. So this Masters is actually two in one! After the degree Anna doesn't have preferences about where she will live and work. She says that she likes Denmark. So if she can withstand the temperature changes from 40 °C to 10 °C, she will be able to adapt to any place.

In short, if one day you come across the smiling Anna you will discover a great person, ambitious, and who will get what she intends in life. (written by: **Alfonso**)



Catarina (Portugal)

Catarina graduated from tourism in Portugal two years ago. She started her journalistic career in a University radio station. Over the time her passion for journalism developed and from last year she started working as a freelance journalist, mainly on web-based newspapers.

"I have many interests," she says. "Sometimes too many, but basically, I have a great interest in people and world matters. I love history and learning. I like trying to understand the world that we live in by listening and researching". This motivated her to go for a full fledge journalism course.

She considers herself lucky to be part of this prestigious program and believes that it will give a whole new meaning to her passion for journalism.

"To start a career in journalism without knowing it..." she says: "It is funny how I look back now and realize that this actual moment is the result of another single one, totally unpredictable. I am now in this master program, changing my entire life and broadening my perspectives, with no security of what is going to happen from now on. And I do feel like this is my best achievement until now: to leave my guarded life and still be happy and confident about my future".

She is a very hard-working woman, very curious about the happenings around her world, persistent, stubborn, opinioned, witty, a person with a good sense of humour. She is a constant learner.

Nothing happened by chance: she has worked hard for everything and had a very busy life from childhood. "I'm a person who has learned with experience," she says. "I'm also a dreamer and sometimes moody. I would like to have a meaningful life, meaningful conversations and experiences. I would like to know that somehow I have made something good in the world".

Catarina's future goal is to know that what she is doing is necessary, relevant and that it will make a positive impact in the world. She likes to read mainly historic books, watch movies, play games and hates aggressiveness and greediness. (written by: **Anusha**)



Claudia (Italy)

Grosetto: The setting for cult Indie Classic *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, the birthplace of the great Italian actors Elsa Martinelli and Luigi Pistilli and the place that Claudia calls home. We meet at the Sherlock Holmes Pub in downtown Aarhus. She's dressed in dark colours and has a quiet confidence about her as she sips a gin and tonic. Her smile is comfortable, unforced. We block out the distractions around us and start to talk. So what are you good at, I ask. She hesitates, so I explain that we all have a super-power—something that we can do really well.

She tells me that she can read people. She understands their needs. This is a good trait for journalist, particularly one that wants to pursue a career as a war correspondent.

Tired of covering the day-to-day administrative workings for a Grosetto daily, she has decided she wants a little more. She wants to challenge herself and expand her horizons and she figures the Erasmus Mundus Master's program is the way to do it. As she says: "I'm ready to go into the jungle of the world."

Despite having a fairly bleak motto on her facebook page — a quote about disconnected people, from Orwell's 1984— Claudia tells me that she's an optimist and that little things make her happy. She considers herself to be a romantic, and keeps a small group of very close friends. She is particularly close to her grandmother. Along the course of her life she's picked up a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts and became a feminist. I ask her, aggressive or non-aggressive? Again, she pauses and smiles, "Non-aggressive."

Claudia believes that you make your own destiny, and the destiny that she has made for herself will take her to Swansea after a year studying in Denmark. It's no problem for her to live in these foreign places, she is comfortable everywhere. It's a question I don't need to ask, so instead I wonder where she sees herself in five years.

This time she answers without hesitation, "Reporting back to *La Repubblica* as a war correspondent.

Me, I think she can do it—but one more thing, what's your favourite colour?

"It's red."

(written by: Arin)



Daniela (Germany)

What are the requirements for a War and Conflict Correspondent? - You need to know languages, politics, history, to be curious about how other people live, diplomatic when interviewing people, to be strong enough to hold up under pressure yet flexible enough to adapt to other cultures and usually you need to be a MAN. But take care gentlemen, because on the focus of this article is a young and very courageous lady, who can outshine all of you! She is tall, blond and with blue eyes, which makes her perfect for the Germany's next top model...(!)...TV reporter. She knows 3 of the world's most spoken languages: Spanish, English and German.

She adores traveling and adventures. She is interested in International affairs.

She is Späth, Daniela Späth. Remember this surname because some day it will be behind some of the DW's foreign reports from hot crisis zones! After high school Daniela made her first transatlantic trip to Boston, USA. She was working there as an Au pair for one year. However in her free time she was studying psychology and management. After two semesters in the US, she started her Bachelor degree in Media and Communication at the University of Augsburg, Germany. Her knowledge of Spanish and love for Latin America took her for a 5 months university exchange all the way to Buenos Aires, Argentina. One of the things that shocked her culturally was the wide spread of extreme poverty, the organized crime, the wide use of drugs, specifically cocaine, and the shortages of coins...(obviously in Buenos Aires for some reason there are not enough "pesos" and it is a real challenge to find change for a bus ride!). Did I mention that she is really courageous? Her love for travelling and adventures took her for a 4 months trip across Latin America-Panama, Mexico and Cuba... on her own! There were some scary and frankly dangerous situations on the way, but she got real life experience close to the hectic traveling of foreign correspondents. Back home in Germany she got internships in two world-renowned media companies: at the magazine *National Geographic Germany* and at the radio station *Deutsche Welle*, where she specifically worked on the American foreign policy reportages. Daniela wants to be journalist because she is constantly interested in new topics. Once she makes a thoroughly investigation on the subjects, she produces the reportage and she is ready for the next hot news. She is interested in conflicts, because they are all over the media-wars, fierce political campaigns and debates, domestic violence. Daniela chose the War and Conflict specialism at University of Swansea, Wales, because her main goal is to become a TV foreign correspondent and to report from the hot spots around the world. She believes that women are also important for war coverage, because they can have a better understanding in some cases for example, of gender violence. "We shouldn't shut our eyes for the things that happen around the globe" she says and adds "If I become a correspondent I will be able to see how truly things are and I believe that my journalistic mission is to tell people what is REALLY going on." (written by: Dobriyana)



Felix (Germany)

Photography is his talent. Music is his passion. Being global is his way of living. From Europe to the US and Australia, Felix Irmer has spent the last few years travelling around the world. Back in Europe, his eagerness to explore, discover, and gain even more international experience is what motivated him to become a part of the Erasmus Mundus program.

Originally from Germany, Felix started his undergraduate education in his home country.

At the University of Paderborn he completed his bachelor degree in Media Studies, as well as American and British Literary and Cultural Studies. As part of the program he studied for half a year International Business at Maastricht University (NL) and for one year as a Fulbright student Communications at the Western Michigan University (MI, USA).

Being interested in media and journalism, Felix did his undergraduate senior thesis on the freedom of press and bias reporting in Iraq during the 2003 war. This topic reflected not only his journalistic curiosity, but also his excessive interest in the clash of different values and opinions in the contemporary society. In relation to it, he has chosen the University of Swansea for his second year specialism.

During his academic years, Felix also gained a wide range of work experience. For four years, he worked for the college radio station, being first a reporter and then a host and co-host of a weekly show about the contemporary digital culture. He was also involved as an executive board member in the administration and marketing of the radio station.

Apart from his journalistic experience, he was employed at two major communication consultancy agencies and a leading Internet company. During his stay at the United States, he worked for a few months for a digital marketing agency in Chicago. These experiences he considers to be very significant for his future professional development since it allows him to reflect on the world from both the perspective of a journalist and a PR & marketing practitioner.

Beyond his academic and work life, Felix participated in various extracurricular activities. Among others he was part of the Model United Nations society and a student organization dedicated to cross-cultural understanding. He also enjoys different sports. From scuba diving to handball, he has tried them all. Besides sports, music has also been very important for Felix. In the last few years, he has developed a passion for photography.

Caring, devoted, and reliable, Felix also proves to be a great friend. Being outgoing and sometimes sarcastic, he can always make you laugh. Having various ideas about how he sees himself in the future: political journalist, communication practitioner, or a PhD student, Felix is now ready to complete yet another important step in his life. (written by: **Elga**)



Johanna (Netherlands)

One of her wishes turned to reality when she was accepted at Erasmus Mundus Master's Journalism, Media and Globalization. A strong belief that during this program she can find out what she wants to do in life determined her to be persevering and to send her application two years in a row. And here we go: Aarhus, September 2010 with our colleague: Joline Bakker. Remembering her whole name is a challenge even for experienced journalists. Don't believe it? Then take a deep breath and try to pronounce everything in one go: Johanna Jacqueline Maria Rijckholt Bakker.

Born in Bergen op Zoom in the Netherlands, Joline moved to Utrecht five years ago for studies after spending her last year of high school in Argentina. The Latin American experience marked a turning point in life that made her take a decision: "I'm going to travel, to meet new people, to find out inspiring stories. And that's how I came across journalism."

"Get the best out of life" was what Joline told herself ever since. Besides filling a suitcase of not-to-forget memories and knowledge in terms of journalism, she is keen to live in Denmark a dazzling beautiful Mundus experience by learning Danish, combining fun with hard studying moments and a student job.

Optimistic by nature, she never lets herself trapped into homesick, focuses on positive aspects even in the most miserable situations. She is a true adventure-taker with strong will and ambition. She likes hockey, sail, reading and photography; she dropped Economics for Spanish language and culture, latter for Journalism and for her dream to travel around the world. Within five years, she sees herself with family and committed to a pleasant job for the fun of doing it and definitely not only for money. (written by: **Simona**)



Jordan (Canada)

There was no real reason why Jordan Winnett once found himself in a prison somewhere in the province of Quebec, Canada. He had not broken the law. Nor had he experienced an excessive occasion the night before to the point where he could not remember. He came voluntarily. "Prisons have always fascinated me," Winnett says. Not because of the interior architecture but because of the inmates. How do they live? What is it that drives their minds? „I was really curious about those questions“, Winnett says.

Therefore the choice of his academic disciplines was no coincidence. Winnett, who was born in New Westminster, studied Sociology, Criminology and Journalism at Bishops University in Sherbrooke in the province of Quebec. If he was, by chance, not visiting a prison or flying through the air while his ankle was connected to an elastic cord (he likes bungee-jumping and sometimes prefers sky-diving) Winnett wrote for the college-newspaper „The Campus“. He made his first journalistic steps there. In his column „Winnetts Whine“ the 23-year-old student observed the world of sports - sometimes ironically, sometimes quiet seriously. Winnett believes that it's a good premise for a sports reporter to be an athlete. „It's not the absolute precondition but it helps a lot with the specific language.“

Winnett played for the basketball team of his university as a shooting guard, once he was the most improved player at his team. Although in Denmark they prefer handball, it brought Winnett up to Aarhus.

His original plan was to travel through Europe with a friend. This friend found a job, so life turned out differently: Winnet found out about the mundus program and applied. „So many people from so many different places; this is amazing“, he says. So far he misses nothing at all, not even the Canadian prisons. (written by: Jan)



Kornelia (Poland)

Kornelia's decision to pursue journalism is, beyond a tiny parental influence (her father used to work as a foreign correspondent), born of an elemental instinct: an abiding curiosity about the world and how to make sense of it.

„My biggest passion is to get as much as I can from the world, to use the disparate knowledge to write about different policies,“ she says. „It's important to know what kind of world we are living in.“

Analytical by nature, Kornelia was already set on an academic path in Political Science—she was the sole doctoral candidate put forth by her professor at the University of Wrocław—when her interest in how the world works called her to look

outside of Poland and spend a year in Wales. After that another half year studying journalism in Denmark on an Erasmus exchange course. Her experience writing stories on lobbying in the EU in Brussels and on the lives of Senegal migrants in Barcelona opened up the possibilities of journalism for explaining the important issues affecting the world.

In Poland, she has worked the past two years writing and editing mainly political and sociological stories for the weekly, Tygodnik Wrocławski, and its daily website. Her curiosity led her to this program, with a specialization in War and Conflict. She hopes to understand the dynamics of conflict and use it as a tool in her analysis of world issues.

One of her father's professional advice to her is to find a new perspective and „look at the other side, not to follow the crowd.“ Kornelia's not merely sketch out the bare facts, which is doing a disservice to the news public's understanding of an issue, but goes further. „Today's newsrooms don't expect you to be an analyst, but, in the end, the task of journalism is that people should learn something from it.“

Her insistence on a closer inspection is partly a factor of her academic training. „I still have two years to decide whether I want to pursue an academic career or not,“ she says. „Or I may end up on a midway course, say, to work for an international organization for press freedom.“

The only certainty for now is that her passion for understanding the world motivates her to explore her journalistic prospects. „When I have something to do,“ she says. „I put everything into it. I have an interest that I need to satisfy.“ (written by: Joyce)



Lea (Germany)

Having just started her 24th year of her life and claiming that she is getting old, Lea, from Münster in Germany, is looking forward to fulfilling her dream in Aarhus, a "cute" city as she called it.

"I've always wanted to be a journalist," Lea says with an air of affirmation. With the goal of world peace as a vocation in her journalist career, she has chosen "War and conflict" at Swansea University, UK, as her second year specialism.

She also believes that spreading the word can enlighten the world and contribute to a better overall intercultural understanding. "If people want to change something, they need to have better knowledge of it," Lea explains why she wants to be a political journalist.

At the age of 16, she volunteered to work as a freelance journalist for a local newspaper, Westfälische Nachrichten. Her enthusiasm in journalism has led to an eight-year experience of journalistic writing and garnered her a bachelor degree in Communications Science at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster.

Aside from her attention in news and media, she has a "travel bug" in her mind. Spending a year at North Bend High School in Oregon, USA and another gap year of "Work and Travel" in Australia and New Zealand before college, "I got to know different cultures and learned to be independent," said Lea. "When I lived in Australia, I learned to adopt the mentality of being more laid-back."

With her enriching overseas experience, Lea found herself as an interculturally oriented person. This trait reflects on her good taste in accessories. Pairs of earrings hanging on the rack in her room demonstrate her graceful personality.

Always willing to explore new things, this energetic girl has got herself into the world of sports. "I love sports, that's why I played volleyball for about 6 years and I did track and field for another 4 or 5 years." She has further reached out to tennis, cross country, capoeira, thai bo and now fencing.

"I love music too!" The sporty girl enjoys immersing herself in rock, ska, dancehall and so on, "almost 24/7," she claims. Having just taken on Danish lesson, Lea has learned French, Latin and Spanish, on top of German and English. (written by: **Lynn**)



Katharina (Germany)

She's full of surprises, and not just in a rhetorical kind of way. Katharina is the type of person that doesn't run late. She doesn't miss the bus. She'll arrive right on time for dinner, carry a warm smile and she'll top it all up with impeccable table manners.

But give her some time – she'll tell you why bingo is banned in Brazil, why she believes Laos is just the most beautiful place on earth although she's never been there, and how singing "happy birthday" was forbidden by her tyrant granny when she was little. She's got a plan to go to the South Pole all alone when she turns 40 and dreams of the day she'll sell her violin.

She feels she's musically frustrated. But what does this matter when you've graduated from a six-year circus school and salto mortale comes as easy as flipping a pancake?

Having lived in New Zealand, Africa and the US, and surviving flights to Russia's Bursk on dodgy airplanes where people and sheep share standing seats (something that's beyond even O'Leary), she'll righteously tell you how boring and average her city of Bremen is.

And it must be, at least for a person like Katharina. She wouldn't think twice before taking batteries out of a nuclear war warning system. And in fact, she didn't. (written by: **Peter**)



Wilson (Brazil)

Wilson Gotardello Filho, born in Sao Paulo, but just as his first name suggests, he is not your typical Brazilian. Doesn't play soccer, can't dance samba, yet still has that charm that only Brazilians possess. Throw in the facts that he can make caipirinhas (Brazilian drink) and is always smiling, Wilson immediately becomes a person you want to have around. At just 27 years of age, Wilson has already lived in many different cities, becoming a true Erasmus asset before joining this program. His father being a civil engineer, they moved around to a lot of places like Belo Horizonte, Cuiaba, Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba and Ribeirao Preto.

He also considers spending his senior year of high school in Fort Morgan, Colorado as one of his great experiences. And even though he doesn't see any of the above as his home town, it seems like he left his heart in Sao Paulo. "Sao Paulo is a crazy 20 million people city, but fascinating", shares Wilson and adds that it is there he would like to live once the course is done.

Once its done, but how did it all start? Five years ago, Wilson graduated college with a bachelor degree in journalism. Since then it seems he's done it all. He's worked for a PR company, two business newspapers, among which is the Gazeta Mercantil, and finally for a business magazine called Pequenas Empresas & Grandes Negocios – Small companies & Great Business But it seemed as if all this wasn't his true passion. "After these five years, I realized that business journalism wasn't a choice, but something that kept happening in my life. So I let it go." What he actually always had wanted to do was to cover international issues. And that is when he came across the Erasmus Mundus program, which also offers a specialization on war and conflict. Perfect for Wilson.

And where can you find Wilson in his free time? Most likely at the movies. It doesn't matter what kind - Brazilian movies, Danish movies, Hollywood block busters...seems romantic. :-) (written by: **Raia**)

About

About:

Journalism is undergoing a fundamental transformation. Developments in technology, politics and society are increasingly putting the media industries and the profession of journalism at the centre of people's attempt to make sense of what is happening in the world around them.

The Mundus Journalism degree explores the practice and performance of journalism and the media in the context of a new environment brought about by globalisation, modernisation, commercialisation and professional developments. The scheme offers a unique educational experience.

The degree scheme brings together five leading European journalism and media teaching and research institutions, combining the best academic research and teaching from a variety of different national educational cultures. The program aims to prepare students for the challenge of working in the new global information society. Globalisation is penetrating cultural and social borders around the world and simultaneously reinvigorating smaller regions and feelings of local identity. Political and social power is taking on new dimensions. Cultural awareness is growing. Journalism is at the centre of these changes.

The focus of Mundus Journalism is to give participants the intellectual tools for a new and better understanding of reporting global change.

For further information, please visit:

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