



# CAREERS SPOTLIGHT - NEWSLETTER

## GC Graduate Spotlight

### Interview of Chloe Americanos – Grad 2015



*What and where are you currently studying?*

I'm studying Law at University College London (UCL).

*What made you choose this orientation?*

Apart from my genuine interest in social problems which I hope I will someday be able to play my own little part in resolving or minimising, I think what made me choose the legal path was my constant need for justice, fairness and equality for all as I feel that through a legal profession I will be able to pursue these goals of mine.

*How is university life and life abroad on your own?*

University life and especially university life abroad in a huge multicultural city like London really was a step out of my comfort zone. Yet, it was worth it. There's a lot more freedom to do stuff in your own time and space. Nobody's pressuring you into studying or

working hard to succeed. I think that is the major difference between high school and university. You go there and work hard because you want to, because you like it and because you're passionate about your chosen field.

*What were the requirements for getting into Law at your university?*

The generally required grades for an LLB Law degree at UCL were/are A\* AA plus the LNAT which is a timed examination specifically for law. However, they did make me an alternative offer with my apolytirion which was indeed a life saver

*Where do you see yourself in the future?*

I really don't know what the future holds for me yet. However, I would love to specialise on human rights and maybe child law.

*A piece of advice that you would like to share:*

Work hard, play hard and enjoy your last year as GCS students. It's never coming back and it's awesome!

## GC Teacher Spotlight

### Interview of Mrs Litsa Paralikki- Head of Art





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*What's your educational background?*

I went to the University of Southbank, and studied Art and Design. It was a 3 year course, mostly design based and under the school of Architecture. Areas within the course included interior design, graphics, illustration, fine art, and history of art and design. The reason why I decided to do it was because it was more varied and diverse, and for that reason it opened up a lot of doors for me in terms of career opportunities, something I was not aware of at the time, before going into teaching.

*Were you always interested in becoming an arts teacher?*

For a long time, I didn't know I wanted to be an Arts teacher. When I worked at the Canadian Embassy, which was my first job where I was part of a design team, the thought of being an arts teacher hadn't even crossed my mind. However, through the numerous design jobs I had before going into teaching, I was constantly given the opportunity to interact and communicate with clients which was something that interested me greatly. It seemed that by explaining and communicating my design solutions to clients, I was providing them with knowledge, and in a way teaching them. That was, I believe, what sparked my interest in teaching so when the opportunity arose some years later, I took it and hence started my career in the educational sector.

*What was your biggest challenge in your career?*

I think the first challenge I experienced in my career was when I applied for a job at the Canadian embassy. I remember thinking that there wasn't a chance I'd get the job because it was between me and another male applicant. When I actually got the job, I was totally surprised and at that point I realised that I shouldn't underestimate myself because at the end of the day you are not merited on who you are but what you're capable of. I learned to thrive on challenges, to see them as opportunities pushing me to different levels. It's all about building blocks of knowledge. Nothing is by chance, you don't know how or for what reason at

the given time you make certain decisions. The bigger picture comes later on in life.

*Have you ever felt that art has been underestimated as a school subject?*

Absolutely, art has always been misunderstood in the educational sector. The subject itself is underestimated and thus not given the opportunity to be established correctly in schools. What needs to be understood about art is that it offers just as many and in fact the same valuable skills as other subjects. It's a subject where you need to research, analyse, understand and apply. This process is done through a much more personal level of creativity and is what I believe, distinguishes art from other subjects. You're not only learning about how to explore and develop ideas, you're also exploring and developing yourself because you're working in a way which demands a more individual and creative response.

*Lastly, what's one tip for students who want to follow art either for IGCSE, A Level or at university?*

Don't be afraid to express yourself, and trust.

## **GC Student Spotlight**

### **Interview of Mia Stavridou- Form 7**





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*What subjects do you take?*

I take Art and Design, ICT and Economics A level. I also had English Literature for IGCSE and I am planning to take Spanish IGCSE this year as well.

*Why did you choose them?*

Although these subjects might not seem to have anything to do with each other, they are all subjects I enjoy and as a whole have helped me shape my personality and become a more of an "all-round" thinker. I strongly advise that if you are uncertain about what you want to do for your university degree, you should choose IGCSEs and A levels that interest you and inspire you. By choosing the subjects I liked, I was eventually stirred to something that really interests me and now know what I want to follow for higher education.

*And what is that? What are you planning to study at university?*

I decided to do an art foundation course abroad where I'll be able to explore various facets of art like Fine Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Set Design, Costume Design and many other types of art and design that interest me. After a year of this foundation course I will then choose a more specialised path and decide what my Bachelor of Art will be about.

*What extracurricular activities do you do?*

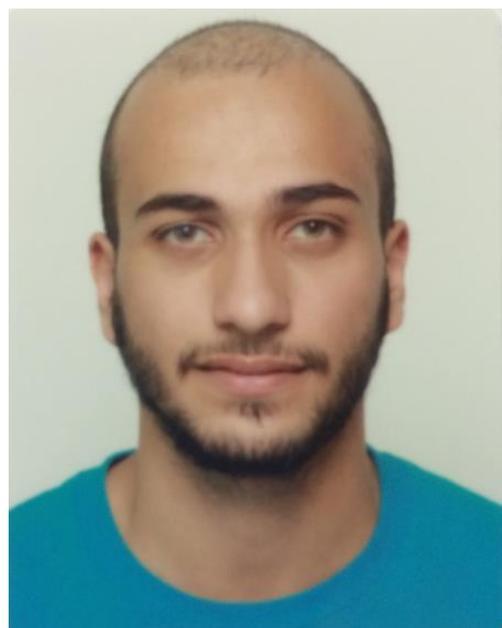
I am a member of a variety of clubs at GCS such as the Photography Club, Publications Club, Girl Up Society, Events Workshop, Photoshop Club and I also participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Scheme. Last year I was also in the Play-Act Club while this year I was assigned to be the Art and Design Club director.

*Why did you want to become a career's assistant?*

When I found out about the opportunity to become a careers assistant I thought it would be a great way to learn more about how the career counsellors work at our school. Moreover, through this I aim to become

better at communicating ideas and suggestions to people my age in a more influential and inspirational way similar to how career counsellors tend to approach students.

**Interview of Theophanis Kyriakou- Form 7**



*What subjects do you take?*

I have chosen the subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Maths for the A2 level.

*Would you have changed anything?*

Probably yes. At first, I wanted to study medicine but this is not what I aspire anymore. I am still glad that I chose these subjects because I got the chance to expand my knowledge on academic fields that under other circumstances I would have not.

*What subjects would you have chosen instead?*

I would have chosen the subjects of history and economics.

*Are you involved in any extracurricular activities?*

I take French lessons outside of school since I'm very drawn to the French language and culture. Moreover, I am involved in the Science and Volunteers club offered at school along with Girl Up, another club at GCS. I am also participating in a workshop called



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"GenDiV" which is about gender diversity and equality.

*Do you have any plans for your studies at university?*

I am not completely certain yet, but I am thinking of applying to courses in History and Politics, or PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). I interested in studying either in the United Kingdom or France which gives me many more options and choices.

*Why did you want to become a careers assistant?*

I believe that the position of a careers assistant is a great opportunity. It will be a contributing factor to my mental development, since I have responsibilities over organizing things and helping the department in general, and therefore it provides me with skills needed in my daily life. In fact, it has a positive impact to the enrichment of my knowledge over the career counselling field.

## CAREER Spotlight

### Studying: Art



*What is an artist?*

It is difficult to define an artist as it encompasses many different qualities and occupations. Broadly speaking, an artist is someone who creates art, performs art (acting, dancing) or a highly skilled or creative individual.

### *Studying Art & Design*

The study of art and design incorporates within the field many different specialities. Studying art and design will offer you the opportunity to study topics such as fashion, printed textiles, fine art, creative advertising, graphic design and jewellery design to name a few.

*What qualifications do I need?*

Every university varies in the qualifications they require. However you will need to take the Art A Level. Most universities require an Art and Design portfolio and you will also probably be called in for an interview.

*Applying to a Foundation degree*

Some students apply to an Art Foundation degree in order to learn and experiment with a variety of materials before deciding on their final course of study. Please speak to your art teachers and careers counsellors for more information on foundations

*Applying to University*

All applications for Bachelor's degrees to universities in the UK are handled by UCAS and the application process begins in September. For Art and Design Foundation courses some universities accept direct applications.

*Work Experience*

Gaining work experience is an essential part in the application process. Universities tend to expect applicants to have work experience as getting a place at a university is no longer just about getting the right grades. It is essential that you prove that you are a well-rounded individual. Don't forget that any experience is better than no experience, even if it isn't directly related to what you want to do as a career!

*What skills do I need?*

To succeed in your study in Art & Design you need to have an eye for design and have a creative mind. A great artist is always creative, with new ideas for



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projects and is familiar with a variety of materials. You should not be afraid to explore and experiment with new materials and tools. Moreover, artists should be confident to accept judgement and be open to analytical and at times critical opinions

### September Events

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September- American University of Beirut



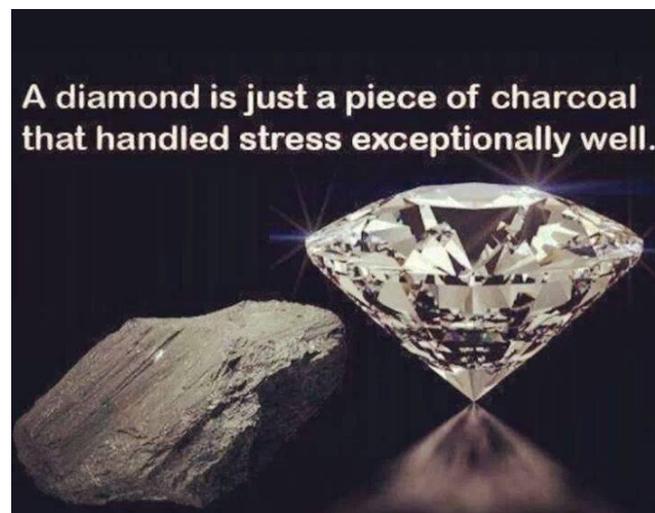
A representative of the American University of Beirut spoke to students about the university, entry requirements and degrees offered.

### October Events

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**- U.S. University Fair Open to Students and General Public (4:00 pm – 8:00 pm). Over 15 U.S. Universities will be at the Fair to answer any queries and give information about studying in the U.S.A. Universities include Boston University, Harvard University, Ohio State University and many more. For more information please visit <http://www.studyusa.com.cy/>

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**- Interview Preparation meetings for students applying to universities that require interviews.

### Quote of the month



### ***the Careers Team***

*Marianna Zittis-Charalambides (Head of Careers)*

*Elena Andreou-Ioannou (Careers Counsellor)*

*Mia Stavridou (Careers Assistant)*

*Theophanis Kyriakou (Careers Assistant)*