

April 2020

Dear Sir Stelios,

This year so far has been a rollercoaster and I am really sad for the way my final year at LSE ended.

My year started off by being elected as the 1st Team Captain of LSE's Futsal Society and the Vice-President of the Cypriot Society. Looking back, I am really grateful for making the decision to be involved in these groups as I was in a position where I could further develop my leadership and communication skills, take more responsibilities and be more active in the student community.

Moments like the trials to select players, the away games with the team, being awarded the 2nd place at the London Universities League, the meetings for creating a new society formed by all the Cypriot Societies of London and the sleepless nights at the library working on our data analytics project are just some of the highlights that I will remember forever.

Additionally, as a Student Staff Liaison Committee member for the Department of Accounting for the past two years now, I am glad that I could bring to the table all the concerns and ideas of my fellow students and help to positively transform our course through all the great actions taken by the members of staff. Both of our meetings this year were really successful, and some useful changes are going to be implemented next year that will benefit the Accounting students, therefore I am really glad about that.

What cannot be excluded as a highlight from this academic year is the constant chasing for a graduate role. After tons of applications, a lot of video interviews and rejections and one assessment centre, I finally got a call for securing a Consulting job at Accenture. I got this call as soon as I landed to Athens to visit some friends who study there during the Christmas break and the feeling couldn't have been better! However, realising that a huge recession is approaching, I hope that there are not going to be any changes to my employment starting in October. I am really concerned for my friends who are still in the search for jobs and now things are extremely hard under these circumstances.

Thankfully, I was lucky enough to come back to Cyprus one day before the country's borders closed for all flights and I was self-isolated in an apartment away from my family in order to protect them in case I was infected with the virus. During that time my internet connection was unstable, having problems watching my online lectures and delivering my presentations but now I am back home and everything is functioning smoothly.

Technology has been developed at a level where all the materials have been delivered online with the help of software such as Zoom, making it really convenient for us to continue learning as if we were in class but still it cannot replace the face-to-face communication between teacher and students.

As a person who used to study in the library and be more productive there, the transition to studying home has been a bit hard for me due to all the distractions around the house and wanting to spend more time with my family, but day by day I am becoming more efficient and more focused on my goal of achieving a first-class degree classification.

Moreover, what I miss the most is walking around the campus, having lunch and coffee breaks with my friends as well as constantly meeting and interacting with new people. Through the access to all the social media I am still in touch with most of my friends where we text and video call each other but because of the time difference, the Easter holidays and the more intensive preparation closer to the exam period, it can't be compared to my usual campus-interaction with them...

All in all, I want to thank you again for all your help and being one of your scholars is one of the greatest blessings I have ever had in my life! I feel extremely lucky and blessed that I had the chance to study at one of the world's most prestigious universities, gain valuable knowledge, experience unforgettable moments and was able to grab amazing opportunities which could have been impossible without your generosity and bigheartedness! Also, a big thank you to Tracy who has been amazing all these three years that I have been at LSE and making all of us feel so included and close to your foundation with her kindness!

In every year's letter I keep making the same promise, that I will continue giving my best and making everyone proud as an act of repay, and I will make sure to keep that promise right forever.

Thank you for one more time, I hope God will help you continue your charitable work for many years, keep you and your family healthy, and looking forward to our next gathering but as an Alumnus Scholar from now...

Kind Regards,

Marios Yenagritis