

## **JADE VAN BLERK**

**Country of origin:** South Africa

**Programme:** Master Transportation Sciences, specialisation Mobility Management

**Graduated:** 2019



**Hasselt University is not only a learning institution, but rather a home for many. The Integrated Human Factor, DISC project coordinator takes us back to memory lane on her school days at Hasselt University and cannot hide her pride for being part of this great institution. Jade made friends with both lecturers and fellow students, who made her student life worth living. She is a testimony of the fact that with a focused mind, one will never go wrong in life. Jade landed a Sustainable Consultant job immediately after her graduation, courtesy of the University. For her, UHasselt is Home!**

### **Bio data: tell us about yourself.**

My name is Jade van Blerk, a former student of Hasselt University and currently a Project Coordinator for the DISC project at Integrated Human Factors.

### **Hasselt University**

#### **When did you join University of Hasselt and for how long?**

I studied at Hasselt University for two years, that is from 2017-2019.

#### **Why did you choose University of Hasselt and not any other University?**

Hasselt University offers a good quality education at affordable rates.

#### **Programme of study: what course and specialization did you take?**

I chose to take the Master's degree in Transportation Sciences, with an option in Mobility management.

#### **Objectives and expectations: did the course meet your objectives or expectations? If Yes, Why and How? If No, what was different?**

I can actually say it did for the most part. The programme was structured in such a way that it was varied and multidisciplinary.

#### **Suggestions: do you have any improvements or suggestions on the course content or presentation?**

I would suggest a wider variety of guest lecturers for the Road Safety in the South course. If I recall, there were quite a few visiting lecturers from Vietnam which was interesting but I think a more varied perspective would have been beneficial to students.

The classes where software packages such as SASR and SPSS were taught could have been presented in a more approachable way. The courses seemed to assume a base-level of knowledge amongst students, however this was not always present, as fellow students came from different backgrounds (academically and with regard to knowledge). Some students failed those courses because lectures started from the middle instead of focusing on explaining basic concepts more thoroughly.

**Inspiring lecturers: which lecturer inspired you the most?**

I felt that dr. Veerle Ross and Prof. dr. Kris Brijs always presented well-planned and well-structured courses.

**Memories: what are some of your experiences in Hasselt University, i.e what are your best and worst memories of Hasselt University?**

My worst memory was failing my statistics course and my best memories were events such as the student take-off and meeting new friends.

**Life after UHasselt: after graduation, did you get a job in line with your specialization?**

Yes, I got a job in Sustainable Transport Consulting.

**Advice to future students: what advice can you give future Transportation Sciences students?**

One thing students should always do is to start looking for and applying for jobs a few months before graduation. If possible, find internships and other opportunities in Belgium, this will look great on your CV.

**What makes you still relate with the University of Hasselt Community?**

I am still in regular contact with my friends and other classmates. We have many shared experiences which will always connect us.

