

## ERICK OVARES FALLAS

**Country of origin:** Costa Rica  
**Programme:** Master Transportation Sciences, specialisation Mobility Management  
**Graduated:** 2020



**Erick Ovares from the Masters of Transportation Sciences class of 2020, made the decision to study at Hasselt University because to him it was a good programme and required a low budget. He describes his journey through Hasselt University as 'culturally challenging and academically easygoing'. From his expectations of the course being met to him securing a job by graduation, and now working in a new country, together let us follow Erick's Path.**

**Life at UHasselt and Course work:** With his favourite spot being the stairs in front of Building D, he was generally impressed by the modern infrastructure of UHasselt. The free bus and the professionalism of the professors at Hasselt University were some of his favourite aspects of studying at UHasselt. Erick graduated early in 2020. He felt relieved and proud of this achievement, despite the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

**Internships and Research Experiences:** Erick describes his internship as a beautiful experience. During this period, he had to work in Brussels, where the social atmosphere was completely different from Diepenbeek and Hasselt. He considers this experience as one of the highlights of his stay in Belgium. To him, the freedom and approval he received for his master's thesis greatly contributed to his early graduation.

**Life After UHasselt:** Erick was able to secure a job in Berlin upon graduation and he now works as a business developer for a transport ticketing company. His role draws on many aspects of his academic work at Hasselt University, his internship experience, and the communication skills he perfected through both experiences. With aspirations to nurture his career in development, he hopes to build his own firm one day.

Erick's few words of advice to prospective and current master's students are:

"Finish the masters as soon as possible. Try to make a two-year plan with a goal of passing every course and always look to improve your CV. From the first year of the master, send out your CV to see how employers evaluate you. Even if you get rejected, you can learn from that as well, so that by graduation, you have acquired enough knowledge about the job market and you can actually secure a job."

