

00:04 Hello and welcome back to our Suffolk Spotlight series. Uh,
00:07 my name is Pierce Golden and I'm the Assistant Director of graduate
admission
00:11 here at Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts.
00:15 Today we're thrilled to turn the spotlight onto our incredible
community of
00:19 international students at Suffolk,
00:21 and I'm joined by a panel of current students who will share their
insights, uh,
00:25 experiences and advice on studying in a new country,
00:29 adapting to a new culture, and making the most of your university
experience,
00:34 whether you're a current international student or a prospective
one.
00:38 We hope that today's discussion will provide you with valuable
insights,
00:42 practical tips,
00:44 and a deeper understanding of what it's like to study in the US as
well as what
00:48 it's like to be part of the Suffolk University community here in
downtown
00:52 Boston. So thank you very much for watching,
00:54 and we look forward to a very engaging and informative
conversation.
00:59 So let's kick things off with, uh, self introductions. Celine, uh,
01:03 why don't we start with you?
01:04 Yes, gladly. So, hello everyone. Um, as Pierce just said, my name
is Celine.
01:10 I'm originally from Zurich in Switzerland,
01:13 and I'm here at Suffolk University study. In my second semester,
01:17 I'm enrolled in the M B A slash Ms, MSBA dual degree.
01:21 So msba a program is the Business Analytics Master here at Suffolk,
01:26 and I'll pass it on to Ian.
01:29 Cool, thanks, Aline. Hi, uh, my name's Ian Co. Uh, I'm from Canada.
I mean,
01:34 I'm originally from Hong Kong, but I'm from Canada, Toronto, and,
uh,
01:38 I'm actually back here right now dialing in remotely. So it's just,
01:42 it's good to see you guys all and, um, I'm in the M P A program.
Uh,
01:47 it's a dual degree with applied politics, so, uh, it's been a
pretty fun time.
01:52 I'm in my, I just finished my second semester and, uh, yeah. Yeah,
01:56 SO'S been a really good, it's been a really good school. And, uh,
01:59 I'm gonna pass it off to, uh, Al. Alex.
02:03 Yes. Hello everyone. My name is Alexander. I'm,
02:07 I just finished my second semester in the MSF program. I'm studying
finance. Uh,
02:12 I left with one more semester. Uh, I'm originally from Minsk,
Belarus,
02:17 um, and I'm happy to be here to share my insights with you. Thank
you.
02:21 I'll pass it to Carlos.

02:24 Thanks. Uh, well, hello there. Um, my name is Carlos. Uh, I'm from Ecuador.

02:30 Uh, well,

02:31 I'm pursuing right now my S B A A I business Analytics program,

02:36 but hopefully I'm gonna finish during this semester.

02:40 So I will graduate this semester. This will be the last one.

02:43 So I'm very happy to share my experience in software here.

02:47 Thank you all. Thank you. It's great to have you with us. So, um,

02:52 why don't we start with, uh, research, uh,

02:55 and what went into your decision to pursue a graduate degree, uh,

03:00 abroad? So, Ian, um, or, yeah, so Ian, let's actually start with you on,

03:05 uh, on the research here for what were some of the most important factors,

03:11 uh,

03:11 when you were considering a graduate program and also considering a

03:16 university, what were your, your most important, uh, factors?

03:20 Yeah, um, I, I mean, I would say location, uh, was the key in,

03:25 in my choice. Um,

03:27 I had left the banking industry around the time of Covid,

03:31 cuz that was during a period where I really wanted a new career change and I

03:35 wanted to jumpstart into the public sector for government, uh,

03:39 specifically with city hall style business. And I, um, you know, I,

03:44 I just, I I I wanted a school that was heavily integrated with the local, uh,

03:49 I guess municipal government.

03:50 And I heard that Suffolk was that school for Massachusetts.

03:54 And given how, you know, it's only a near, I would say like a,

03:58 like a two hour flight away from Toronto,

04:00 I thought that I could still have the experience of,

04:04 I guess learning how to govern in an international city while at the same time

04:08 not being too far from home.

04:09 So I thought that the location was one of the primary factors for my decision.

04:15 Yeah.

04:18 All right, awesome, thank you. And, um, Celine, in terms of,

04:23 you know, when it comes to doing the research, uh, on finding a program, um,

04:29 I guess it's a two part question. How did you conduct your research? You know,

04:32 what steps did you take, um,

04:35 and ultimately how did you ensure that the program that you chose

04:40 was, you know, the best fit for you in terms of your interests in,

04:43 in your own career goals?

04:45 Yeah, um, great question. So I'm a Swiss, so I like to do things thoroughly. So,

04:51 um, research is my thing. Um, I think, um, to be honest,

04:54 like a lot of Google research and looking through different curriculums,

04:59 um, I guess, um,

05:01 comparing them and whether or not like to see which ones spoke most to the, uh,
05:06 factors that I was most looking at, um,
05:08 I would say that most universities in America offer great orientation sessions
05:13 or just, um, zoom calls these days that you can just, um,
05:17 go in and ask all the questions that you may have in advance.
05:21 And then I do remember also that had great, um,
05:24 options to call in with a graduate advisor.
05:27 I believe it may have even been you Pierce and yes. So that's correct, yes. So,
05:32 uh, made sure to have my questions ready in advance and then ask them, um,
05:36 as I went. And so I think there is ample enough opportunity to, um,
05:41 do the research.
05:44 Very good. Thank you Celine. Carlos. We'll, we'll pass it over to you. Uh,
05:48 I wanna talk a little bit about location. And Ian touched upon this, uh,
05:53 in his response, uh, a moment ago. And I'm curious, Carlos,
05:57 how and why did you choose Boston? Uh, and we'll,
06:02 we'll start with that.
06:04 Well,
06:04 basically that was like a goal that I set myself when I was in my
06:09 undergraduate. Uh, I came to Boston 2000,
06:15 so I really like to city. Uh, that was like my goal.
06:19 That moment I set that goal. So that was one of the reasons actually,
06:24 well, Boston, as you know, uh, is very recognized in,
06:28 in the world as one of the best series for study.
06:32 And yeah, that, that was basically, that was,
06:37 those were basically the factor that I take in
06:41 consideration when I decide to come to Boston.
06:45 Okay. And then going off of that,
06:49 what ultimately made you choose, uh, to,
06:53 you know, choose Suffolk? What, what led you to that decision?
06:58 Well, uh, I was looking at the, at,
07:02 well at the university here in Boston.
07:04 So we have a lot of here of universities here.
07:08 But the thing is that for Suffolk University,
07:11 I really like the way that you,
07:14 I mean basically the structure of the programs. Cause for example,
07:18 you have here a master in this analytics, for example. That's my case.
07:22 And you also have concentrations.
07:25 So that's something that I didn't find in a different university.
07:30 I mean, most of universities offer, okay,
07:32 you have this mastery in business analytics or you have this mastery in data
07:36 science. Uh,
07:37 but here in South you have the master in business analytics and the cons and the
07:41 concentration in data science in the same program.
07:44 So that's something that I think is a very important factor.

07:49 That was the reason why I picked Suffolk. And also, of course,
07:53 the customer service. I mean, uh,
07:55 I always keep in touch with the university, uh,
07:59 during all the entire process. I mean,
08:02 since I start like requesting information and then during the
application.
08:07 So Suffolk was always, uh, communicating with me,
08:12 always letting me know, okay, uh, Carlos, you have to do this,
08:15 you have to do this. That's something that I didn't find in other
universities.
08:21 Very good. I'd love to hear that. And Alex would,
08:24 would you share your experiences about, you know,
08:28 why you chose Boston and then ultimately how did you choose
Suffolk?
08:32 Yeah, sure. So basically I wanted, uh,
08:35 to do finance industry and to get experience in this, uh, uh,
08:40 area. And I know that United States is, uh, one of the top
countries to do this.
08:45 And uh, uh, basically to be honest, I started my research from, uh,
08:50 from cities.
08:51 So I found that the Boston is relatively safe city comparing to
other others in
08:55 the US and uh,
08:56 it's also one of the top cities in the world to study to be as a
student.
09:01 There are a lot of good schools here around.
09:04 So I chose to go to Boston and then I found Suffolk University,
09:09 it has a business school and I found a good finance program here,
uh,
09:14 with, uh, interesting courses. And there is a, uh, good relation,
09:19 uh, to certificate I want to pursue in the future. Uh,
09:24 like to get more knowledge in finance.
09:26 So I just get enrolled into Suffolk University and, uh,
09:30 it was a good event for me.
09:34 So I just moved here to study finance. New York is near as well, so
09:40 Yeah, it's very close. Uh, only really four and hour, four hour,
09:44 four and a half hour drive or so. Yeah. Alright, so, uh,
09:50 let's talk about moving the logistics of that and finding housing
09:55 cuz that can be a challenge, right? As an international student,
09:58 even as a domestic student, you know, I experienced it myself
moving to Boston.
10:02 So I'd like to hear just generally, um,
10:07 how the experience was like, you know,
10:09 finding off-campus housing since Suffolk does not have on-campus
housing for
10:14 graduate students. Um, Celine, let,
10:17 let's hear what your experience was like to find, uh, an apartment.
10:21 Yeah. Um, I was actually pretty fortunate, so my story is rather
easy.
10:25 I'm interested to hear what, um, the others will say. Um,
10:28 but I came here with my husband and what we did is we looked at
Google Maps and
10:32 looked at big passing complexes, um, in the area. And then ended
up,

10:37 um, looking at a couple ones in the, um, Kendall area, which is,
um,
10:42 two T stops away from Suffolk University.
10:45 And so we had a couple of Zoom calls with realtors here and ended
10:50 up fi well, having a couple of options within reasonable price
range,
10:53 I would say, well, Boston is rather expensive, but Right.
Reasonable for Boston.
10:58 And then ended up finding something in Kendall Square,
11:00 which again is a couple minutes away from Suffolk University.
11:04 Okay. And, um, Ian, how, how about you?
11:07 What was your experience like?
11:09 Uh, uh, well, in terms of moving, um, it was a bit,
11:14 it was, it was a bit of a drive. It was like a 14 hour drive from
Toronto, but,
11:19 um, to be honest, in uh, a not so, like hot season,
11:23 it would probably take nine hours, so it's not that bad. Uh,
11:27 in terms of where I picked, um, I actually found a place in Beacon
Hill,
11:32 which is quite close to Suffolk. It's almost like a two minute walk
away.
11:37 And, uh, at the time I didn't know that I would gain employment at
city Hall,
11:42 so it just happened to line up that my place of work also was
really close to
11:46 where I live. So it just works out really well. Um, yeah,
11:49 That's the perfect scenario.
11:50 It is, it is. Yeah. Like with with, I mean in terms of prices, um,
11:55 the one thing is that a lot of international students will need to,
um,
11:59 view these units through like a site unseen kind of, um,
12:04 I guess like process.
12:05 They won't be able to actually see these units beforehand until
they actually
12:09 arrive. Um, and then there are broker fees to add on top of it.
12:13 But I do know that there are many realtors out there that
specialize towards
12:18 international students and if you search for those, they might be
able to offer,
12:21 um, like specific benefits or subsidies related to mitigating those
fees.
12:27 Right, absolutely. Yeah. Um, Alex or Carlos, um,
12:32 did you have any, uh, negative experiences moving to Boston? You
know,
12:37 finding an apartment?
12:40 Yes, I can start. Uh, I kind of have, not negative, but, uh,
12:44 tough experience. I didn't have an apartment like three days before
my flight.
12:50 Uh, and I think their market is kind of tight. Uh,
12:54 and it's difficult for, uh, international students,
12:57 like when you are sitting in another country to find apartment
here,
13:01 because they usually require like security deposits, first monthly
fees,

13:05 and you are like, uh, how can I pay this? There is nobody who I can trust.

13:10 Like if it's scam, I don't know if it's scam or not. Uh,

13:14 so basically I just used, uh,

13:16 the Suffolk partner for of campus housing, uh,

13:20 and it was pretty good experience. I just found,

13:23 found it one day prior my flight, uh, and there was flexible rules, uh,

13:28 agreements. So I just signed everything in one day. Uh,

13:32 paid one first month's lift fee and uh,

13:36 was just like that, you know? So,

13:39 but for others it's better to prepare and uh, have some people,

13:43 some friends here who can help you. Uh, because if you're located,

13:47 uh, here in Boston, it's, it'll be easier for you. You can do in-person tours,

13:52 um, but if you're in another country, right? So it's basically clients, uh,

13:57 trustworthy, uh, company or people, right.

14:00 Trust. Absolutely. And we do have resources, um, you know,

14:05 through the Office of graduate admission and the university overall, um,

14:08 to help point students in the right direction. Um, and uh, you know,

14:13 but ultimately it is, you know,

14:15 it's just part of the experience moving to a new place, moving to Boston,

14:19 which as you all have said is, you know, a huge student-centered city.

14:24 Um, but, uh, no, it's great to hear all of your experiences and,

14:28 and thank you for, for sharing that. Um, I'd like to,

14:34 uh, switch things up and actually, we'll,

14:36 we'll talk about now in the classroom what it's like actually being in the

14:40 classroom, what your classes are like, what your professors are like. Um,

14:45 cuz this is, this is what the experience is all about. Um,

14:50 so in terms of schedules,

14:53 overall workload, expectations, you know,

14:57 what you thought it was going to be like versus how it is,

15:01 were there any discrepancies? Um, so Carlos, why don't we start with you.

15:06 Can you share a little bit about, um, yeah, your schedule, your workload,

15:11 and also what your professors are like because you're nearing, you know,

15:14 now the, the end of your, uh, your, your program here.

15:19 Yeah, well, in terms of schedule where most of the, I mean,

15:23 most of the classes that I had this two semesters were in the evening.

15:27 So it's, I think it's, it's, it's something good,

15:30 especially for people who are here in the United States and

15:36 American students. Uh, cause we can have a work in mornings and that, right?

15:42 Uh, but in terms of overall workload, I think it's,

15:47 I mean like, like all the master's program,
15:50 it will demanding a lot of time.
15:54 You have to dedicate enough time to study. Um,
15:59 so yeah, it's, it's, it's something that, that,
16:01 that you have to consider when you are pursuing a master.
16:05 And in terms of the professor, I really like the,
16:09 the customer service I can say, uh,
16:12 of the professors because they're always like open to to
16:17 teaching. So they, they are not like, uh,
16:20 they have like a specific methodology well, a, that I really like.
16:25 Cause they're always trying to help me. They're,
16:27 they're always open to help you to,
16:30 in terms of if you didn't understand a specific topic,
16:33 they will take their time to explain you.
16:36 So that's something that I really like.
16:41 Very good. Yes. Um, and Celine, uh, how about your experience, uh,
16:45 in the classroom?
16:46 Yeah, um,
16:47 I actually remember my first couple of weeks in I was a little
surprised. Um,
16:52 I think the school system here is very different to the European
context.
16:55 I am used to. Um, but I have fun, like in a positive sense.
16:59 So the two main things that I really think are different is that
Suffolk has a
17:04 lot more assignments in projects to use and presentations in group
exercises
17:09 or whatever it might be throughout the course of the semester.
17:12 And then less big, um, final exams than we would have in Europe.
So, um,
17:17 that was a big, um, difference.
17:18 But I kind of really like it because I feel like, um,
17:21 the learning process is a little more, um, friendly I'd say.
17:25 And you have the entire semester to get a, like, um,
17:29 work on your performance or get the goals that you wanna have.
17:32 And then the other thing I was surprised by is how personable suff
is or how
17:36 personable, um, their programs are. So a lot of in-class
discussions, um,
17:41 teachers calling on your name, um, contribution grades, which is,
again,
17:45 I was graded on contribution for a long time,
17:48 and so that was very different to what I anticipated. But again,
17:52 I really like it.
17:53 I think it's easy to get to know the people within your class and
it's easy, um,
17:57 as Carlos was saying, to get some like, um, I don't know,
18:01 like personal feedback on stuff or ask questions, uh,
18:04 to a professor if you have any.
18:07 Right. Absolutely. And I think the students and the faculty have
that ability,
18:12 have that luxury of really supporting each other, um,
18:16 because of the class sizes. Mm-hmm. Um,
18:19 our average class sizes are around 17 students, uh,

18:22 across all of our graduate programs. In some cases, uh,
18:26 it may be less than that,
18:27 but we don't have anything more than 30 students in a class.
18:30 That's our absolute cap.
18:32 So I think the professors really do have a luxury to really getting
to know the
18:37 students on a personal basis. You know, you're not just a number in
the crowd,
18:42 um, and they really care about your success. So I'm glad to hear
that from,
18:47 from you and Carlos. Um, Ian,
18:50 I understand that you are working at, at city Hall,
18:53 so in terms of the classes,
18:57 workload and scheduling, how has that been for you in terms of, you
know,
19:01 balancing work life and school?
19:05 Been a bit of a, a teeter tottering balance, I would say, but, uh,
I've,
19:10 you know, I, I successfully pulled through the semester having done
half of it,
19:15 uh, with the full-time job in a full-time course load. Admittedly,
19:19 it wasn't really the easiest. And also, um,
19:23 if you have an F1 visa as an, as an international student,
19:26 you're typically not allowed to do full-time, uh, work with full-
time pay.
19:31 However, um, I'm,
19:33 I'm being paid part-time to do like a full-time job.
19:36 It's not really ideal necessarily, but in terms of experience,
19:39 it is very optimal. And, um, I,
19:42 I just wanted that experience to work in city hall.
19:45 So I would say that like, as much as I am working and learning at
the same time,
19:51 I'm technically just learning double time because I'm learning on
the job and
19:55 I'm also learning from Suffolk and applying those lessons back
towards the job.
19:59 So, so it all comes full circle. And I would say at the, um,
20:03 being a double degree, um, I, I see two sides. So I, I have the,
20:08 uh, political science courses, which are very theoretical. The, uh,
20:13 profs are like a bit more like zany and like different, which is
really fun. Um,
20:18 and I would say with the public administration courses,
20:21 those actually align a bit more towards my, um, I guess like I, I,
20:25 I have like a business background, so it,
20:28 I find that those courses are actually taught in a very similar way
with a
20:31 similar structure, you know, different names for different things,
but, uh,
20:35 roughly the same rules. So, um, it's been a really interesting
balance,
20:40 basically like political science, public administration,
20:43 and then the job at City Hall,
20:44 those are like the three simultaneous learning areas. It's kept me
engaged,

20:49 but um, yeah, I I've been balancing it well, but every,
20:52 every day is an active day and, um, yeah, I've, I haven't missed
out on,
20:56 on any day really.
20:58 All right, great. Thank you for that.
21:01 Moving on to another topic, which is equally important, uh,
21:06 and that is culture, cultural differences, right?
21:09 So you all are from different countries, different backgrounds,
21:14 uh,
21:15 and I'm curious to hear what you think are the glaring differences
21:20 that international students should be aware of, uh,
21:23 when studying in the us. Um, Alex,
21:27 do you have any thoughts on what the main differences in your
experience that
21:31 you felt, um,
21:33 as well as how you adjusted to life in a new city,
21:37 in a new country?
21:38 Yeah, sure. Um,
21:40 I think there are pretty good difference if we comparing to my
culture
21:45 here in the us but I would say like, uh,
21:49 what I have experienced,
21:50 it's be ready to a lot of appointments and try to do everything as
early as you
21:55 can, uh, because you cannot do something day off.
21:59 Like you cannot just come in the,
22:02 to the professor's office this day if you want, uh, and talk.
22:06 And there is office hours for it,
22:08 and you need to write a lot of emails and schedule a lot of
appointments.
22:13 Uh, also people are like different, they're busy. Uh,
22:17 we need to like appreciate the time of other people, uh, and for
adjustment,
22:22 I just, you know, I'm just trying to do this how, uh,
22:25 to understand how it works and just writing emails,
22:27 schedule appointments and something like this. So, um, I think
it's, uh,
22:31 good and it's, uh,
22:32 really saves your time if you're an not just walking to everybody
try to see in
22:37 person just saves your time. So, um,
22:41 I think this is the most, uh, the,
22:44 the biggest difference for me from my country.
22:48 Okay. Very interesting. Yeah. Carlos, uh, how about you? What,
22:52 what differences would you say are really apparent in, uh,
22:57 in studying in, in Boston?
23:00 Well, there are a lot of difference if you compare with my country
specifically
23:05 in terms of safety here,
23:08 you can walk at any time you want,
23:12 and my country is not possible.
23:18 Uh, but also here, the transportation system, I,
23:22 I really like it. Um, back to my country, we don't,
23:26 we don't have this kinda stuff. Uh, so yeah,

23:30 that's basically like the changes that I see here. Um,
23:36 yeah. And of course sharing something that I would like to add is
that, I mean,
23:40 as an international student, you are,
23:42 you are studying with all international math and this,
23:47 uh, this,
23:48 something that I really like is that you are mixing all of these
cultures,
23:51 so you are sharing experience with people from India, people from
Europe.
23:55 So that's something that I think it's, it's,
23:59 it's something nice because you can, you can understand their
culture,
24:03 you can know a little bit more about them, about those countries.
Yeah. So
24:09 Absolutely, yeah,
24:10 it's a very diverse community both on campus and you step into the
city and
24:15 it's also very diverse, just given our incredible international
population of,
24:20 of students and, and professionals from all over. So yeah.
24:25 Celine, um,
24:27 what would you like in terms of students who might be worried
about,
24:32 um, culture shock or adjustment issues,
24:36 just getting acquainted and acclimated to a new community in
24:41 terms of, you know, academics and social aspects. Um,
24:45 do you have any personal advice that you could offer, you know,
24:48 based on how you managed it, uh, integrating into a new place?
24:53 Yeah. Um, ob, well, obviously my advice is not gonna apply to
everyone, but,
24:58 um, I think what really worked for me is to be honest,
25:01 like I would've probably mentioned a few of the cultural
differences that others
25:06 said. Um,
25:07 I don't think that Boston would be my personal place where I wanna
say for the
25:11 rest of my life. Um, but I really appreciate being here in my
twenties.
25:15 And so I think Boston offers a great, like,
25:19 range of opportunities and people to meet and some chances to
25:23 grow, um, both academic career wise or just with personal
relationships,
25:28 I guess. And so I think really trying to embrace this as a,
25:32 like a learning phase or a phase full of opportunities and trying
to like view
25:36 it as a growth chance rather than like just difficulties per se.
25:41 And then the other thing I think that is difficult whenever you go
into New City
25:44 is that you might not have the in-depth relationships that you came
from.
25:48 So families far away, um,
25:49 your close friendships that you have been with for a while there
might not be

25:53 quite there. And so I think they're just really being bold and, um,
25:57 going to events or asking people for a coffee or whatever, um,
26:01 you may be looking for is really helpful in the long run,
26:04 even if it takes a little bit of effort at first.
26:07 Absolutely. Yeah, that makes perfect sense. Thank you for sharing
that.
26:12 Um, Ian, are there any other, you know,
26:15 words of advice or anything that you'd like to share about, um,
26:19 how you've experienced the differences? I know you're, you know,
just, uh,
26:23 a quick flight away from Boston, but still I'm,
26:25 I'm sure there are some differences.
26:27 Oh, yeah. Oh yeah. I mean, first, first of all, I, I,
26:30 I find that stereotype at least, um, when,
26:34 when we are in Canada looking over the border towards the
Bostonians,
26:37 we see this like community of very, like direct people.
26:42 And you know, some might see that directness as kind of like, uh,
you know,
26:46 very like, I guess like in, in, in your face maybe.
26:51 But I've come to really appreciate that that,
26:53 I guess directness as a form of like, being just sincere,
26:57 like the people of Boston are, I found to be really sincere people.
Uh,
27:01 they may speak directly, but they, they always mean well.
27:06 And I've always encountered like really hospitable people
everywhere I go. Um,
27:11 and kind of like what Celine said too, the city is an interesting
mix between,
27:15 you know, you have like local Bostonians,
27:16 but then you also have much of the city made up of, uh,
27:20 I guess like people from all over the place.
27:23 So you have options in terms of who you can hang out with. But, um,
27:28 kinda like what Celine said, again,
27:30 I would choose all of the options and meet all the people that you
27:34 possibly can. Um, yes, it's true that Boston is a bit of a, a city
for,
27:39 uh, I guess like transitional phases. Like not many people might
stay here in,
27:44 in the long term,
27:46 but it is a beautiful and I guess dynamic hub, uh,
27:51 for young professionals. Like, I, I would totally recommend it.
27:55 I completely agree. Yes, it absolutely is a,
27:58 a hub of innovation and where minds come together and, uh,
28:03 but it is a transient place, right? So, you know, people come and
go. Um,
28:07 that's just part of, of the dynamic here.
28:09 So it is very interesting to live and work here for however long or
short
28:14 your stay is. Moving on to our last, uh,
28:19 section of, of our spotlight, I want to talk about jobs and,
28:24 um, resources, um, that the university has, um,
28:28 and also just jobs and resources that are available in general. Um,
28:34 so specifically what is the market like? Um, and I know we're,

28:38 we're talking about currently right now, um,
28:41 it's hard to say for sure in the future,
28:43 but what is the job market like that you've seen for international students
28:48 in the United States? And it could be, you know,
28:51 more broad or specific to Boston. Um,
28:55 and are there any opportunities, uh,
28:57 available on Suffolk campus for, for work? Um, and Ian,
29:02 can we start with you?
29:03 Sure, yeah, I think, um,
29:06 so I had a bit of an unconventional path towards my job. However, um,
29:10 when doing the interview,
29:12 I found that the Suffolk brand offered a sense of legitimacy, uh,
29:16 that was much needed. And I was,
29:18 I was up against four other candidates at the time and what really helped me
29:22 stand apart from them, uh, despite me having like, you know,
29:26 from being from like a different country and having the F1 visa and adding those
29:30 complications to the mix, what,
29:32 what kind of offset all of that was the Suffolk brand of having that local
29:36 network. Um,
29:38 there's a huge alumni network and within that network there's a heavy
29:42 integration with the campus itself and the career center.
29:45 So I found that even once I got the job, I, um, I quickly slow.
29:50 Like I just quickly dialed up one of my professors from the semester before and
29:54 he just gave me a lot of advice on like the local politics around my district.
29:59 So just thing, things like that,
30:01 it's the dynamism that Suffolk offers that, um,
30:05 I found really helped me to get that job. Now many of my other friends too, um,
30:10 who are also international students, have found a lot of benefit from using the,
30:14 uh, Suffolk Career Center.
30:16 And I would say that given the F1 visas requirements of part-time work,
30:21 the career center is definitely well suited for finding specific jobs that
30:26 already are in the know with the F1 visas,
30:29 I guess like specificities and, um,
30:32 that way I think it would be an easier pipeline for many international students
30:37 to get like a starting job in, in, um, in like Boston. Yeah.
30:42 Thank you Ian and Carlos, I understand that you, um, you know,
30:46 since you're wrapping up your, your time here at Suffolk, um,
30:51 what has your research been into, you know, next steps for possible careers?
30:55 How has that looked for for you and, and just what, what's the pulse on,

31:00 uh, the job opportunities right now?
31:04 Well, currently I'm looking for like business intelligence selling
31:09 something that I can use my experience in Ecuador and my knowledge
that I
31:13 have acquired in doing the master, right? Uh,
31:18 I see that there is a lot of opportunities there outside, uh,
31:22 specifically for international students. Uh,
31:25 the only thing that I will advise is first user
31:30 resources that the university have. For example, um, software has,
31:35 uh, kins, which is the AI platform, right?
31:38 Kins is basically a scan that basically will help you to create
your
31:43 resume and pass the ad.
31:46 The ad is the system that most of HR people here the United States
are using,
31:50 and the first step that you have in an application process.
31:55 So if you pass that step, uh, well you,
31:58 you will have more opportunities to get that job. So Keisha is,
32:02 is a resource that is free for international, for, for,
32:05 for people here in Africa. And, and,
32:07 and I think that it's an important resource than international
people should use
32:11 because it's, I mean, coming from a different country,
32:16 uh, you have, I dunno if this could be like a quarter or shop,
32:18 but basically it is, there's a changes because back to my country,
uh,
32:24 you, you don't use resumes, you use cvs,
32:27 and CVS are like three pages, four pages here in the United States.
32:31 Your resume should be only one page and you have to summarize all
your work
32:36 experience to use the correct words. Um, and yeah,
32:40 and that's something that I really like themselves.
32:42 Cause you have these kind of resources. You have, uh,
32:45 you have access to this also the career center, um,
32:50 advisors also, they, they help you in terms of, uh,
32:53 which strategy could be the best for you. Uh, if you, for example,
if,
32:58 if the application form ask you for, for basically a cover letter,
33:03 you have to submit a cover letter.
33:05 They are always advising you this kind of stuff. For example,
33:08 if you have the opportunity to share any documentation that you
have done during
33:12 your program, any project, anything that you have done during your
program,
33:16 use that. And that's some,
33:18 that's some recommendations that you can take from the career
center and you'll
33:23 see in at the moment that you're applying that those
recommendations are
33:27 valuable.
33:28 Thank you, Carlos. Yeah, absolutely. And I would say that that is,
uh,
33:32 certainly a cultural difference of what you've just described. Um,
absolutely.

33:38 And, um, Celine, I understand that you had an internship, what was it,
33:42 over the summer?
33:44 Yes, that's correct. Yeah. So, um, I would underline what Carlos says. Um,
33:49 I use Suffolk, um,
33:51 as well to kind of refine my CV or the cover letters I was writing.
33:56 Um, I will say maybe that was my experience,
33:58 but I do feel like the job market is quite tough and, um, well,
34:01 depending on what you're looking for and being an international student doesn't
34:04 necessarily make it any easier. Um, here what I did find, so I, well,
34:10 the one internship that I ended up getting was through a network event as well.
34:14 So I would say that like whenever you have a chance to connect with someone that
34:19 might be able to give you a job at one point,
34:21 or at least is working in an industry that you're interested in, um,
34:26 that's probably the, the safest bet you'll get until the ending a position.
34:30 Absolutely. Oh, one last thing I was gonna mention, um,
34:33 Suffolk also offers graduate fellowships,
34:35 so that's something that you can do during, like, um,
34:38 during the course of your semester, which is helpful to, um,
34:41 do something on the side.
34:42 Yes, absolutely. And that, I think that's a good segue because Alex, I,
34:46 I know that you work on campus. Um, can you share a little bit about how,
34:51 how you went about that process?
34:54 Yeah, sure. Uh, yes, I do work on campus.
34:56 I'm doing graduate fellowship in register's office. Um, it was,
35:01 there are plenty opportunities, uh, on campus,
35:04 so I just basically found it on the website of Suffolk University,
35:09 this opportunity. And I emailed my resume, my cover letter,
35:12 and then I just get interview. Um, but after, after interview, they,
35:17 I got rejected. Uh, and uh,
35:20 in a couple days I meet my manager who interviewed me in the elevator and I just
35:25 decided to ask one more time, maybe you have opportunity,
35:28 help some somewhere else. And they invited me,
35:31 like in the office and gave me a offer because they, uh,
35:34 realized that they need, uh, one more guy to help. Uh, yes.
35:39 So I'm working on campus. I'm happy that I could do it. Um,
35:43 but I'm still looking for like a,
35:47 a full-time position after graduation or internship or something to get
35:50 experience in the us. So, yeah. That's
35:53 Great, Alex. Yeah, you're very persistent. Um, that's a very good trait to have.
35:58 Good for you, man. Yeah. Awesome.

36:01 Well, so that brings us to the end of our spotlight.
36:06 Um, I want to thank you all very,
36:09 very much for sharing all of your really valuable insights, uh, and
advice,
36:14 uh, on what it's like to be, you know,
36:16 an international student studying in Boston and studying at
Suffolk.
36:20 So I sincerely hope that today's discussion has been, uh,
36:24 informative and and helpful to all of our viewers.
36:27 So whether you are a current international student navigating a new
culture, uh,
36:32 or a perspective one, considering studying in the us, uh,
36:36 we hope that you've gained really valuable insights and practical
tips to help
36:41 make the most of your grad school experience.
36:44 Remember that studying abroad can be very challenging,
36:47 but it also offers some incredible opportunities for growth
personally,
36:52 academically, and most importantly professionally. We wish you all
the best,
36:57 uh,
36:57 in your academic pursuits and hope that you'll consider Suffolk
University for
37:01 your graduate studies. Thank you so much for joining us.