Hello and welcome back to our Suffolk Spotlight series. Uh, my name is Pierce Golden and I'm the Assistant Director of graduate admission here at Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. Today we're thrilled to turn the spotlight onto our incredible community of international students at Suffolk, and I'm joined by a panel of current students who will share their experiences and advice on studying in a new country, adapting to a new culture, and making the most of your university experience, whether you're a current international student or a prospective one.

We hope that today's discussion will provide you with valuable insights, practical tips, and a deeper understanding of what it's like to study in the US as well as what it's like to be part of the Suffolk University community here in downtown Boston. So thank you very much for watching, and we look forward to a very engaging and informative conversation.

So let's kick things off with, uh, self introductions. Celine, uh, why don't we start with you?

Yes, gladly. Hello everyone. Um, as Pierce just said, my name is Celine. I'm originally from Zurich in Switzerland, and I'm here at Suffolk University study. In my second semester, I'm enrolled in the M B A slash Ms, MSBA dual degree.

So msba a program is the Business Analytics Master here at Suffolk, and I'll pass it on to Ian.

Cool, thanks, Aline. Hi, uh, my name's Ian Co. Uh, I'm from Canada. I mean, I'm from Toronto, and, uh, I'm actually back here right now dialing in remotely. So it's just, it's good to see you guys all and, um, I'm in the M P A program.

Uh, I'm in my, I just finished my second semester and, uh, yeah. Yeah, SO'S been a really good, it's been a really good school. And, uh, I'm gonna pass it off to, uh, Al. Alex.

Yes. Hello everyone. My name is Alexander. I'm, I just finished my second semester in the MSF program. I'm studying finance. Uh, I left with one more semester. Uh, I'm originally from Minsk, Belarus, and I'm happy to be here to share my insights with you. Thank you. Uh, 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 M 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,
03:16 when you were considering a graduate program and also considering a
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.
That was the reason why I picked Suffolk. And also, of course, the customer service. I mean, uh, I always keep in touch with the university, uh, during all the entire process. I mean, since I start like requesting information and then during the application.

So Suffolk was always, uh, communicating with me, always letting me know, okay, uh, Carlos, you have to do this, you have to do this. That's something that I didn't find in other universities.

Very good. I'd love to hear that. And Alex would, would you share your experiences about, you know, why you chose Boston and then ultimately how did you choose Suffolk?

Yeah, sure. So basically I wanted, uh, to do finance industry and to get experience in this, uh, uh, area. And I know that United States is, uh, one of the top countries to do this. And uh, uh, basically to be honest, I started my research from, uh, from cities.

So I found that the Boston is relatively safe city comparing to other others in the US and uh, it's also one of the top cities in the world to study to be as a student.

There are a lot of good schools here around. So I chose to go to Boston and then I found Suffolk University, it has a business school and I found a good finance program here, uh, with, uh, interesting courses. And there is a, uh, good relation, uh, to certificate I want to pursue in the future. Uh, like to get more knowledge in finance.

So I just get enrolled into Suffolk University and, uh, it was a good event for me.

So I just moved here to study finance. New York is near as well, so yeah, it's very close. Uh, only really four and hour, four hour, four and a half hour drive or so. Yeah. Alright, so, uh, let's talk about moving the logistics of that and finding housing cuz that can be a challenge, right? As an international student, even as a domestic student, you know, I experienced it myself moving to Boston.

So I'd like to hear just generally, um, how the experience was like, you know, finding off-campus housing since Suffolk does not have on-campus housing for graduate students. Um, Celine, let's hear what your experience was like to find, uh, an apartment.

Yeah. Um, I was actually pretty fortunate, so my story is rather easy.

I'm interested to hear what, um, the others will say. Um, but I came here with my husband and what we did is we looked at Google Maps and 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,
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-
13:52 person tours,
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
14:08 to help point students in the right direction. Um, and uh, you
14:13 but ultimately it is, you know,
14:15 it's just part of the experience moving to a new place, moving to
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
14:40 classroom, what your classes are like, what your professors are
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
15:06 Can you share a little bit about, um, yeah, your schedule, your
15:11 and also what your professors are like because you're nearing, you
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,
I mean like, like all the master's program, it will demanding a lot of time. You have to dedicate enough time to study. Um, so yeah, it's, it's, it's something that, that, that you have to consider when you are pursuing a master. And in terms of the professor, I really like the customer service I can say, uh, of the professors because they're always like open to to teaching. So they, they are not like, uh, they have like a specific methodology well, a, that I really like. Cause they're always trying to help me. They're, they're always open to help you to, in terms of if you didn't understand a specific topic, they will take their time to explain you. So that's something that I really like.

Very good. Yes. Um, and Celine, uh, how about your experience, uh, in the classroom? Yeah, um, I actually remember my first couple of weeks in I was a little surprised. Um, I think the school system here is very different to the European context. So the two main things that I really think are different is that Suffolk has a lot more assignments in projects to use and presentations in group exercises, or whatever it might be throughout the course of the semester. And then less big, um, final exams than we would have in Europe. So, um, that was a big, um, difference. But I kind of really like it because I feel like, um, the learning process is a little more, um, friendly I'd say. And you have the entire semester to get a, like, um, work on your performance or get the goals that you wanna have. And then the other thing I was surprised by is how personable suff is or how personable, um, their programs are. So a lot of in-class discussions, um, teachers calling on your name, um, contribution grades, which is, again, I was graded on contribution for a long time, and so that was very different to what I anticipated. But again, I really like it. I think it's easy to get to know the people within your class and it's easy, um, as Carlos was saying, to get some like, um, I don't know, like personal feedback on stuff or ask questions, uh, to a professor if you have any. Right. Absolutely. And I think the students and the faculty have that ability, have that luxury of really supporting each other, um, because of the class sizes. Mm-hmm. Um, 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, I,
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,
but um, yeah, 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.
22:52 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,
that's basically like the changes that I see here. Um, yeah. And of course sharing something that I would like to add is that, I mean, as an international student, you are, you are studying with all international math and this, uh, this, something that I really like is that you are mixing all of these cultures, so you are sharing experience with people from India, people from Europe. So that's something that I think it's, it's, something nice because you can, you can understand their culture, you can know a little bit more about them, about those countries. Yeah. So Absolutely, yeah, it's a very diverse community both on campus and you step into the city and it's also very diverse, just given our incredible international population of, of students and, and professionals from all over. So yeah. Celine, um, what would you like in terms of students who might be worried about, um, culture shock or adjustment issues, just getting acquainted and acclimated to a new community in terms of, you know, academics and social aspects. Um, do you have any personal advice that you could offer, you know, based on how you managed it, uh, integrating into a new place? Yeah. Um, ob, well, obviously my advice is not gonna apply to everyone, but, um, I think what really worked for me is to be honest, I would've probably mentioned a few of the cultural differences that others said. Um, I don't think that Boston would be my personal place where I wanna say for the rest of my life. Um, but I really appreciate being here in my twenties. And so I think Boston offers a great, like, range of opportunities and people to meet and some chances to grow, um, both academic career wise or just with personal relationships, I guess. And so I think really trying to embrace this as a, like a learning phase or a phase full of opportunities and trying to like view it as a growth chance rather than like just difficulties per se. And then the other thing I think that is difficult whenever you go into New City is that you might not have the in-depth relationships that you came from. So families far away, um, 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, 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 transitionary 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 Suffix 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 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
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
33:12 have done during
33:16 your program, any project, anything that you have done during your program,
33:18 that's some recommendations that you can take from the career
33:23 center and you'll
33:28 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,
33:32 certainly a cultural difference of what you've just described. Um, absolutely.
And, um, Celine, I understand that you had an internship, what was it, over the summer?

Yes, that's correct. Yeah. So, um, I would underline what Carlos says. Um, I use Suffolk, um, as well to kind of refine my CV or the cover letters I was writing. Um, I will say maybe that was my experience, but I do feel like the job market is quite tough and, um, well, depending on what you're looking for and being an international student doesn't necessarily make it any easier. Um, here what I did find, so I, well, the one internship that I ended up getting was through a network event as well. So I would say that like whenever you have a chance to connect with someone that might be able to give you a job at one point, or at least is working in an industry that you're interested in, um, that's probably the, the safest bet you'll get until the ending a position.

Absolutely. Oh, one last thing I was gonna mention, um, Suffolk also offers graduate fellowships, so that's something that you can do during, like, um, during the course of your semester, which is helpful to, um, do something on the side.

Yes, absolutely. And that, I think that's a good segue because Alex, I, I know that you work on campus. Um, can you share a little bit about how, how you went about that process?

I'm doing graduate fellowship in register's office. Um, it was, so I just basically found it on the website of Suffolk University, this opportunity. And I emailed my resume, my cover letter, and then I just get interview. Um, but after, after interview, they, I got rejected. Uh, and uh, in a couple days I meet my manager who interviewed me in the elevator and I just decided to ask one more time, maybe you have opportunity, help some somewhere else. And they invited me, like in the office and gave me a offer because they, uh, realized that they need, uh, one more guy to help. Uh, yes. So I'm working on campus. I'm happy that I could do it. Um, but I'm still looking for like a, a full-time position after graduation or internship or something to get experience in the us. So, yeah. That's Great, Alex. Yeah, you're very persistent. Um, that's a very good trait to have. Good for you, man. Yeah. Awesome.
Well, so that brings us to the end of our spotlight. Um, I want to thank you all very much for sharing all of your really valuable insights, uh, and advice, on what it's like to be, you know, an international student studying in Boston and studying at Suffolk. So I sincerely hope that today's discussion has been, uh, informative and and helpful to all of our viewers. Whether you are a current international student navigating a new culture, uh, or a perspective one, considering studying in the us, uh, we hope that you've gained really valuable insights and practical tips to help make the most of your grad school experience. Remember that studying abroad can be very challenging, but it also offers some incredible opportunities for growth personally, academically, and most importantly professionally. We wish you all the best, uh, in your academic pursuits and hope that you'll consider Suffolk University for your graduate studies. Thank you so much for joining us.