



Meet Sahar Yarjani, MA candidate in International Human Rights

Undergrad Institution/major: IMC (International Management Center) Fachhochschule Krems, Austria; Business Administration

Language Skills: Farsi, German, Spanish, Italian

Tell us about yourself:

I was born in Iran, but I have been living in Austria since 1998. I went to an American High School there. I lived in Vienna all that time, but my university was in a city an hour away called Krems, and basically I studied anything to do with business and management. We had to learn two other languages, so I learned Spanish and Italian. I focused on tourism and the ledger industry and we even looked into sex tourism and child sex tourism, which is now one of my courses here, so it does relate. Having that business background was really good, because even if I work at an NGO or found an NGO later you need to know how to manage, market, know accounting, and know statistics.

What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?

I applied to a bunch of other places for Women's Rights or Conflict Resolution and my brother-in-law was doing his PhD at Korbel and he told me it was an amazing university and that it was really good for these kinds of subjects. It's one of the best in the country for human rights. At the end I was thinking I would rather study International Human Rights, the whole general scope at a really good university and then I could just focus on women's rights. Because when I got here I could pick my own concentrations and decide what I want to focus on. Also, looking at the professors and what they've done was very encouraging. I see them in the field where I want to be, they've worked where I want to work.

Career Goals:

I'm not exactly sure what I want to do afterwards, but in the fields of Amnesty, Human Rights Watch etc. I really like Human Rights Watch because they focus on the 'off-the radar' places. Like everyone knows about Libya right now, but they don't know what's happening in Guinea. They really take their time and find out what's happening in the world. I am going to do a concentration on the Middle East, because of my background, and also I'm interested in Security.

Favorite Classes/Professors:

Genocide. [Art Gilbert](#) is an amazing professor. I mean it's genocide, the facts are horrible, but he still somehow incorporates humor into the class which I find amazing, and he really knows what he's talking about, which I really like. It's a three hour long lecture, but the whole time he's saying something that is worth something.

It's great because we have professors like [Dr. Hashemi](#) who focus on the Middle East and then we can always talk to them and ask them what courses to take. And as I'm interested in working with Amnesty or Human Rights Watch later, it is really great to have course on genocide, and knowing what has happened till now, or a course on slavery, and getting all the data. I think we have very knowledgeable professors that know what they're doing.