

After negotiating with my own thoughts and desires, I have decided to take the courses at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. It was a close negotiation, because the last time I was in a class was almost thirty years ago, and that school was a military one. I admit that on the first day, on the way to school, I felt awkward among so many young people and I wondered if I had made the best decision.

After meeting other colleagues and Sylvia Hoffmann, who knew how to be pleasant but also to impose herself in a polite way, I became more relaxed and curious. I was curious to see the difference between the academic teaching method in my country and the British one. I was pleased to find that the differences are minor, the only challenge I knew I had to face was translating, at certain moments, situations or phrases, from English into Romanian, inside my head and I have to admit that sometimes it was a challenge. It was a challenge because all my brain settings, school-related settings, were in a strong state of numbness. It is a reality that every activity must be done at the right time, because you have a different power of perception and concentration at the age of twenty as opposed to fifty. However, I never tried to find an excuse not to go to class, even though I sometimes had a hard week at work. I must admit that the childish but pleasant way of some colleagues who are not used to the position of student, made my day more pleasant and I forgot about fatigue.

At the same time, the presentations of my colleagues and the exchanges of ideas between them and the teacher, outlined my own ideas and how to present them. I must say that I felt very comfortable when I had to be part of a working group. I was lucky to have four smart colleagues, with whom I interacted very well. Four colleagues who chose very well the topic to be presented and who shared very well the presentation parts of each. I had to make three presentations in front of my colleagues and the teacher, two individual ones and the third one being part of the working group. I did not feel comfortable during the first individual presentation, because I had to talk about myself, about three major achievements in my life, and I never liked to talk about myself. More than likely, the psychological education I received during my 12 years of military activity also contributed to this discomfort, an education whose basic rule is to "disclose as little information about oneself as possible". Another cause of discomfort was the disinterest of some colleagues in my presentation, but I quickly got over it.

The second individual presentation went much better, as it was aimed at a specific topic, "application for the desired job", and I used very well the five minutes allotted for the presentation. An interesting and enjoyable moment was the group presentation, and even though I was on an incomplete team, with two of my colleagues missing due to Covid, the team did a good job. The presentation went very well, the evaluator was pleasantly impressed by what was prepared and presented by the team I was part of, which gave me a state of satisfaction.

And so, without realising it, I became the student who went on another winter school vacation... thirty years after graduating from school! LOL!

As a final reflection, I can say that I do not regret for a moment that I enrolled in this course, firstly because I was able to bring back to life long-dormant academic knowledge, and secondly because I was able to make a comparison between two education systems.

I hope I will have the strength to continue for another two years, to prove to myself that I can if I want to.