

PhD Vlog Week 4: Hossam El-Zalabany Transcript

TIME	SPEAKER	AUDIO
00:00:04	Hossam El-Zalabany	Hello and welcome to the last video in this video blog. I'd like to start the video and tell you what I already done this week. This week I had to attend a conference which I told you in the last week that I [inaudible 00:00:19] and it was very good one to attend. So I had some minutes to you from this conference.
00:00:41		So the first theme has been ended right now and the conference have something like the lunch break. I had a very good impression about the conference of today and I networked with some people who are many interested in the same issues and topics which I am interested in too. The good thing that there is another session which is related to something I'm very interested in which would be the smart contents online and so on and how to preserve the smart content.
00:01:11		I think that I'm going to attend this session also. I think it's hard to sit down and wait until this session begins. That's because I have a very bad headache. So I think I'm going to grab some coffee and come back but also one thing that most of the sessions are in Deutsch and yeah, I can understand something's but luckily the session which I'm waiting to attend is in English and this is very good but
00:01:41		it's very good thing to try your language and to see if you are able to understand things or not and I'm waiting also the conference proceedings – maybe reading will be easier than just hearing but anyway, to have the impression of how people are presenting things in this conference, this is very helpful thing and very helpful tips you may use later if you going to make some kind of presentation for another conference or something like that.
00:02:16		Because this is the last video, I'd like to give you some impressions about what I'm already facing since I came to here, to Berlin almost one year ago. Actually I started my journey by taking a language course. I studied the German

		language for six month and talking about learning a German language, this is very important thing I think. I'm studying in English, I'm writing in English and I'm reading also in
00:02:46		English but maybe I have some kind of interviews with German students so I need some German, not very advanced of language level but I need to know German. Actually not special case for me but if you are willing to come to Germany, I think it would be a very good idea if you learn German. People here in the streets normally speak German. A lot of them, especially in Berlin, speak English and you might find some people speak Arabic, Spanish and other languages
00:03:16		Berlin is very international, but I think if you need to be able to read any email or mail comes for you from, for example, our government or authority or something like that – mailing which comes to via the post and you need to know German and if you want to be able to ask anybody in the street anytime for a question, you will certainly need also to be... to
00:03:46		have a minimum knowledge in German language. It will be a very good idea to be able to share this culture with people and to get deeper relation with everyone around you, you need to learn German. So it would be my first advice to you – learn German as long as you willing to stay here and to study here in Germany – even if you are not studying in German language. The other
00:04:16		challenge that I faced since I came was the accommodation and the place to stay. I was lucky because the first six months it was included in the scholarship and they provided for us an accommodation to stay but when I went to the normal market for apartments and etc., it was not that easy to get a flat. Actually most of the students are going to the solution of having a room in a VG. VG is [inaudible 00:04:44] and that
00:04:46		means that many people can share the same apartment and each one have his own room and they share the other facilities of this

		apartment and they share for sure the rent and the bills which comes like the internet and electricity and heating and so on and I think and I believe this is also a very good idea but for me as a person who is not alone, I was planning to bring my wife with me. So I needed to have my
00:05:16		own apartment and to find the flat, you have a lot of opportunities but to find a central one and a good flat, it was a challenge. So I just searched for a while for almost like four months and Berlin, yes it is affordable but the problem that a lot of people would be also searching for a flat. It was a challenge for me until I found my beloved flat and I'm happy with that but
00:05:46		to you, if you would like to find a flat which is comfortable and it's suitable for you and your family for example, you need to start that as early as possible and you might be more luckier than me. This week also I received an email from the DAAD. DAAD stands for Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst which can be translated to English the German
00:06:16		Academic Exchange Service. This is the organisation which I get the fund from. Actually I came here according to a funding programme. It's shared between the Egyptian government and the DAAD and it shared in the costs and so on but it's managed by DAAD. So I have to submit some reports for the DAAD every year telling them I'm okay in my research and I am following my research
00:06:46		schedule and time plan and I have to get a report from my supervisor also telling that I'm okay and that I'm working according to the plan and I have some kind of activities during this two semesters. I have to do it every year before the second semester ends, normally in the middle of November. So I'm already working on that since like one month ago and I think I'll be able to send my reports as early as possible.
00:07:16		This... Their alliance is very important for grant student and talking about granting, I think it's an essential thing if you are thinking about coming and studying your PHD. So the first step

		for you, I think you have to search for a grant and there are many possibilities here in Germany. The good news that German cities normally is very adaptable for students so you don't have to pay thousands of euros as we told for tuition fees, you
00:07:46		get a very reduced transportation tickets and for example, the Universities also allows people to have some kind of accommodation and facilities so you don't have to pay a fortune for living in Germany but you need to be focused on your research in most of cases. So do find a grant or funding, this is a very important step and you have to start it
00:08:16		as early as possible if you planning to come to Germany. There are many opportunities to have fund here in Germany. One of them to have a fund free week from your own country if your University or your institution which you are working for enables you to do that or you can search on the DAAD database, there are a lot of websites which allows you to search for funding opportunities also and the last thing that you might be lucky enough
00:08:46		and qualified enough to have a research position in a German University. Many of German Universities just announced that they have a PHD position for you. In this case you have to carry on your research and it would be apart form a bigger research project and so on. I was very excited to come here to start my PHD journey and it's around one year ago since I took the
00:09:16		decision and I came here and I think things sometimes got okay, things sometimes not that much good but I think the overall rate is very nice. Germany is a very nice place and I'm very thankful because I have this opportunity. I hope you also gain your opportunity one day and be able to start your PHD journey. It was
00:09:46		nice to be here with you through this video blog.

END OF TRANSCRIPT