**Olga Interview**

**Date: January 4th, 2021**

**Interviewer**: So what are some of the format's of your current classes. What are the format's of your classes last semester and this upcoming semester? So is it like synchronous or asynchronous, both in person?

**Olga**: Well most of my classes were online but I had one course that was a synchronous. One tie we attended person on time it's online. No as in synchronous as in like a like, it's odd, it's online but like no pre recorded lectures or material or anything so it's all like a live lecture where everyone attends at the same time.

**Interviewer**: All right. And so what format of classes would you would you have preferred, and why? So like seeing synchronous asynchronous both or in person.

**Olga**: Um, I think I would prefer live lectures because I feel like if they simply uploaded all the slides without us having to attend I think I would slack off a little bit more, I would have no reason to follow up or do anything.

**Interviewer**: Okay. And next. So how many courses are you taking currently? so like next semester, how many classes, are you taking. And would it be the same amount if classes were in person?

**Olga**: So that's question. Um, well, yeah I mean I'm taking like 3.5 credits this semester

**Interviewer**: Okay. And yeah So would it be the same if you if classes were in person? So, be the same route.

**Olga**: I guess it would be the same it wouldn't really make a difference.

**Interviewer**: Okay. So, within the last nine months. How would you say your overall academic experience has been with the shift to remote learning?

**Olga**: I don't think I was completely affected by online learning. I think I was able to get things done on time, or I would have loved to attend lectures in person because I feel like this is a part of the experience especially when it's a very interesting course. So, yeah, that sounds I feel like I'm missing out but overall I'm not entirely bothered.

**Interviewer**: And if you feel comfortable sharing and has this transition to remote learning had an effect, you know like positive or negative on your mental health, and if so, let me know how it has.

**Olga**: Well, I don't know I don't recall experiencing any positive or negative effect from online learning, I mean, I already have mental health issues but the online learning didn't really have an effect.

**Interviewer**: Okay, And then number six. So, since the pandemic started, or like since we've shifted to online learning. Have you felt that your motivation to do well academically has changed any at all?

**Olga**: well I mean I don't really have much motivation both in person and online, but regardless, I feel like the only thing I noticed is that when it comes to online testing I don't feel motivated I don't feel that I have the energy to study everything word for word when I can just sneak off and do something else, you know. So yeah, that's definitely one thing I find it very difficult to take things seriously and to just do things.

**Interviewer:** All right, so next section. So it's like personal background.

**Interviewer**: So, what would you like, how would you describe your ethnic background.

**Olga**: Middle Eastern.

**Interviewer**: And what's your gender identity.

**Olga**: I'm female.

**Interviewer**: And how would you classify your socio economic background.

**Olga**: I think we're, we're pretty fine with it, we're not too too, like too filthy rich but we're not poor either we're like the middle class at least.

**Interviewer**: Okay And are you currently employed?

**Olga**: Well, no, I don't have a paid job. Unfortunately, I mean I'm doing something but I don't get paid for it.

**Interviewer**: And so did you receive any government financial assistance this year in terms of like, OSAP, or CERB, or the student benefit?

Olga: Yeah, I received the emergency students benefits. And also, not only also. It also UofT offered to give out money so they gave me some money too.

**Interviewer**: Next one. So, what is your current living situation so like, who do you live with?

**Olga**: with my mom and brother.

**Interviewer**: And in your living situation. Do you have. Would you like do you have access to a quiet learning space where you're able to do your work without any distractions.

**Olga**: Yeah.

**Interviewer:** And do you have access to adequate technological resources to assist with your learning. So, things like high speed internet computer.

**Olga**: Yes.

**Interviewer**: So as a member of your household, what are like what are some things that are required of you to like help out around the house?

**Olga**: well yeah some of my responsibilities is just to go out to grocery shopping. It's been like that for a while. Because I'm one of the only members of the household who's kind of healthy enough to go out. Yeah, so I'm responsible a lot for shopping. And other times at home I, you know like, I assist in cleaning. I clean up my own room. Dusting, picking up certain thing,s running errands. Yeah, that's pretty much it.

**Interviewer**: And so have you or someone close to you or bring you like your family been diagnosed with COVID-19?

**Olga**: No, no.

**Interviewer**: That's good.

Interviewer: And so are there, in general, Is there any specific circumstances, whether it be family or financial or personal that have had an effect on your experience with online learning.

**Olga**: Nothing has affected my experience.

**Interviewer**: Okay. Um, so, these next questions are like pre pandemic questions.

**Interviewer**: So what mode of transportation did you use to get to campus before the shift to remote learning. And how long did it take you?

**Olga**: I took the bus, most of the time. And I guess it would take me 30 to 40 minutes to actually get to campus.

**Interviewer**: Okay. And how many hours did you spend each week on campus.

**Olga**: It really depends, sometimes. Some days would get cut short. So honestly I cannot answer that question, but I don't think I, I would say at least 10 hours. 10 hours at least that's my guess.

**Interviewer**: Okay, that's good, that's fine. And did you use any campus resources for your academic so that includes things like a laptop rental, academic resources, Library Help, study spaces like that?

**Olga**: Yeah, I use it's like the public computers, I would always go to the library and work there. Sometimes I would use study spaces.

**Interviewer**: And were you employed before the pandemic?

**Olga**: No

**Interviewer:** Ok, So, have you. This is like within the last like nine months so when we shifted to remote learning. So, within this time have you used any of the available resources from UTM for support. So this like this includes like financial resources, academic support, the Career Centre, IEC, anything like that?

**Olga**: UTAPS the financial support.

**Interviewer**: And so you would, would you consider that helpful to you?

**Olga**: Yeah, definitely that's helpful.

**Interviewer**: And next question is, do you think that your, your professors are doing enough to be accommodating for you and other students.

**Olga**: Yeah, I think they're doing a good job.

**Interviewer**: And so what are some of the ways, what are some things that they've done so far?

**Olga**: Well for one of my courses I found that really helpful that they would upload the lecture slides right after the live lecture, because sometimes I just don't have the capacity to focus so I found it really helpful that they posted it. Also what I found really helpful as well was like for one of our final exams instead of us trying to study everything word for word they just put up the final exam questions. 24 hours before the exam, just so we can prepare our responses and I thought that really saved me. I also found really helpful like, for, for the course we're taking of SOC 439. I found it really helpful that the professor meets up with us. Every now and then just to see how we're doing. I think I really needed that for you know just writing, because I don't, I normally don't reach out for help when I'm doing writing assignments and I feel like I could have done better if I did reach out for help. So, the fact that she's doing that is really helping me.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, I found it really nice of her like it really helped me with my work and stuff so yeah I guess also helps, we have a small class too so, yeah.

**Olga**: Yeah. She also sends resources in person. Yeah, she says like articles and stuff like this is really helpful. So, yeah, I've never had that level of interaction with a professor.

**Interviewer**: All right, and I get the end the last question. So do you think UTM overall is doing enough to accommodate its students.

**Olga:** Well, I think, from my perspective, I think they're doing fine. They're doing good.

**Interviewer**: Is there anything that you would like to see them do that there they're not doing already though, that you think also would be helpful.

**Olga**: I don't know, I don't think I have anything to say on that.

**Interviewer**: Okay, yeah, no worries. All right. Um, yes you pretty much it. Yeah, that's it that's all the questions I have.

Transcribed by https://otter.ai