**Manuel Interview**

**Date: January 13th**

**Interviewer**: All right, we can begin. So first question. What is your programme of study?

**Manuel:** I'm doing a double majoring chromosome.

**Interviewer**: And you're in fourth year,

**Manuel**: fourth year yeah one second semester now.

**Interviewer**: Almost done. Yeah.

**Interviewer**: And your, are you international or domestic?

**Manuel**: domestic.

**Interviewer:** Right. So, what are some of the format's of your classes. So are they synchronous or asynchronous

**Manuel**: A mix that makes them both.

**Interviewer**: Right, so if it wasn't for the pandemic what form of classes would you rather have that includes synchronous or asynchronous both or in person.

**Manuel:** Both.

**Interviewer**: Okay, why is that

**Manuel**: I don't know, I think, going into school like personally for me is just like sometimes it's just not necessary like if it's just like a regular lecture like you know you could just do it over zoom if you really wanted to like harass me from having to get up and go you know what I'm saying I just do it from home. That would be nice and if you have like group meetings or like special guest lectures, you know, then you can go in and you know what I mean. Yeah, definitely. Like a regular lecture I feel like you could do it either synchronously or non synchronously or just post it like that would just help like so much.

**Interviewer**: So how many courses are you taking currently.

**Manuel**: Five.

**Interviewer**: And would it be the same as if classes were in person.

**Manuel**: Yeah.

**Interviewer**: So, since the move through remote learning how has both your GPA and focus in general been affected. Or have they even been affected. So start with your GPA.

**Manuel**: It's like, it actually kind of went up. To be honest, I don't know why. I guess I was paying more attention to that. like there's nothing else to do but school. I feel like that was a major thing so I kind of focus more on school is able to focus more I think. Also I feel like there was more flexibility given during the COVID period. You know, having classes online, being able to access a lecture after it was, you know, presented like that was helpful and stuff like that. Whereas in person like. It definitely helped to see the lecture and have classmates and all that, like, regardless of me being in lecture or like the social life aspect wasn't really a huge thing for me like I have a social life like outside of that so like school is just something that I need to get done so having an online was like, kind of helpful like I was able to focus more I feel.

**Interviewer**: Okay, now. Interesting. So, next question. If you feel comfortable sharing has the transition to remote learning had an effect on your mental health at all.

**Manuel**: Not really, no, no. Not that specifically, not that transition. I'd be like, the overall global situation yeah pandemic you know I mean, yeah. um, I mean the transition to remote learning for me was easy because I was able to buy a computer, you know I have a nice Mac. I'm pretty privileged, you know, I mean, like I buy my own stuff I work for everything that I have but yeah I'm just privileged that I'm able to live here in Canada especially you know I mean, definitely served, you know what I mean I stopped working and went on CERB like, you know, two grand a month you could buy yourself a nice laptop. But everything else. I mean, The one thing I will say compared to like right now that we just ended the vacation is like. There really is nothing to do so. The transition to remote learning was like in regular life, I have other things going on in my life so my focus and my stress is not really just focused on one thing which would be school. Whereas, if I wasn't in school. There's no stress in my life at all. Literally I mean like school stresses me out like, and having nothing else to do. It's like I'm getting out of bed and the only thing I think about is school because there's nothing else to do right yes yeah so they need to get done or I feel like, you know, so it's like added pressure almost in the remote learning. Because you're stuck in your house and you, that's the only thing you could open up your laptop and do really, that would be productive, or like that seems productive, even though you could do other productive things but you're kind of limited right now, you know, yeah. That's

**Interviewer**: So, since the pandemic started. Have you felt that your motivation to do well academically has changed at all.

**Manuel**: Personally, no no, I've always wanted to do the best I could. Doesn't matter what situation, you know.

**Interviewer**: Okay. All right, next is about your personal background. So how would you describe your ethnic background.

**Manuel**: Um, me and my whole family were born in Colombia I moved here. I moved here when I was six years old. I had to learn English you know I went through the whole period where I was like you know I was a little kid and those kids around me and I was speaking English I couldn't speak you know I just didn't know. Yeah. So that was hard, you know, but you go through that you see your family goes through my mom we did her whole career basically because none of it counted over here. Oh yeah, longer right so yeah

**Interviewer**: What does she do?

**Manuel**: respiratory therapist.

**Manuel**: He (My Dad) recently got a job like last year, working in that field. Finally, so it was really good.

**Interviewer**: So next question do you identify as male.

**Manuel**: Yeah.

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

**Manuel**: My socio economic background like lower middle class. That definitely struggling, as a whole family. But it's tough.

**Interviewer**: I'm not sure if you mentioned that you're not currently employed.

**Manuel**: No, I am.

**Manuel**: Well yeah, technically, see like I had two jobs before this so like I was working at a shoe store, and I was working at a pool company doing like all kinds of shit. And I'm still working for the pool company doing maintenance on like hot tubs now this winter so we closed all the pools down, and on maintenance on like autos but he's paying me cash right now. So I went on CERB with my other company. So that's what I'm basically what I'm doing but technically I'm unemployed. Technically, I'm still working.

**Interviewer:** So how many hours?

**Manuel:** Like once or twice a week like literally like 10 to like less than 15 hours maybe like 15 hours.

**Interviewer**: Okay, I would say, Yeah, that's great so you kind of answered this next one, but so you received CERB as well. Yeah. If you receive anything else like OSAP, or anything else?

**Manuel:** yeah OSAP

**Interviewer**: so you live with your family that as you mentioned before. Yeah. Okay. And when you in your house. Do you have access to like a quiet learning space like your own or like a shared one.

**Manuel**: And all of a private like it's, I guess he's pretty private no one's gonna walk into my room but everything in my house. So it's not really that quiet. Like my mom's on the phone right now I don't know if you're here but I think I can hear something in the room.

**Interviewer:** do you have like access to anything else like like high speed internet and everything.

**Manuel**: Yeah.

**Interviewer:** So as a member of your household. What are things that you were like required to do so. This includes like household duties errands babysitting giving rides etc.

**Manuel:** Yeah, let's say all those Yeah.

**Interviewer**: Okay.

**Interviewer**: And have you or someone close to you like in your immediate family been diagnosed with COVID?

**Manuel**: No, they actually. Both of my parents just got vaccinated, so I'm pretty happy.

**Interviewer**: So I guess this, this next question is a bit of like a broader question but do you have any circumstances, and whether it be family financial personal whatever that had any affect any at all on your experience with online learning?

**Manuel**: Not like it's either positive or negative at all. I think living here is definitely a certain circumstance. You know the government assistance everything. The wages like you know everything in general, if I was in my home country this wouldn't be possible, you know, I wouldn't have a Mac.

**Interviewer**: That’s good so, um, these next questions are pre pandemic question. So, what mode of transportation did you use to get to campus before everything shut down.

**Manuel**: My first two years I took the bus. And then I mean, I think beginning of third year I bought a car.

**Interviewer**: How long did it take you driving?

**Manuel**: like maybe like 20 minutes- 30 minutes.

**Interviewer**: So how many hours did you spread on campus each week.

**Manuel**: So, 13 hours. And I was in and out.

**Interviewer**: Um, how did you use to actually know did you use the campus resources for anything. Well I guess not because you said you're in and out. So, like, the library. Yeah, the library study spaces, stuff like that.

**Manuel**: Where you know like if I got there early and I had like a test you know I'll hop upstairs to the library for a sec, or something and then just walk in, says that no, you go back to here and there, pick up food.

**Interviewer**: And you did mention this so you were employed before the pandemic. And how many hours did you work before.

**Manuel**: So like during school I was probably doing like 30 hours working at the shoe store. In the summer I was doing like 50 hours a week.

**Interviewer**: Last section. So, since the beginning of like remote learning everything Have you used anything. Have you used any resources from ATM for support. So this includes financial resources academic support Career Centre IEC, anything like that.

**Manuel**: No.

**Interviewer**: And do you think that your professors are doing enough to be accommodating for you and other students. And if so, are like if you feel comfortable explain an instance where they have or have not been accommodating.

**Manuel**: In my last semester, which was the first semester I experienced I think they were pretty accommodating I can't lie. They made a lot of changes like push things back. So I think yeah they were pretty accommodating I think it's fine.

**Interviewer**: Okay. And the last question is a UTM overall is doing enough to accommodate students UTM overall

**Manuel:** Definitely not. There should be a reduced price for all this or something, all the services that we paid for, like the athletics everything like all that we're not using that, you know, so there should be some money given back in my opinion. So, they're not doing nothing for me right now.

**Interviewer**: Okay, so that's it for the questions I have for you I'm gonna stop recording.

Transcribed by https://otter.ai