**Bayan Asifa Interview**

**Date: January 4th 2021**

**Interviewer**: So I'm recording now. So, so the first question is, so what are some of the format's of your current classes that you're taking? So last semester and the upcoming semester?

**Bayan**: They've all been online, asynchronous online. Except for EDS 300, which was like the only live class. Okay, I'm taking five classes. So four were asynchronous one was live.

**Interviewer**: Okay, cool. And our next question, what form of classes would you rather you have? And why?

**Bayan**: I would honestly rather have live classes that would be synchronous, right now synchronous, okay, so I'm gonna say, because just because there was like in EDS 300, there was a lot of interaction with the prof, there was a lot of, like, I got to know people online, like through the zoom. But then when you're just listening to a podcast, or just a lecture on your own, it's hard to focus, you just feel disengaged. And it's just boring, literally.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, I understand. So does that also include like, in person, so would you rather be in person instead? Or would you do like the online format?

**Bayan**: Oh, I thought you just meant like, as in like the pandemic part? No. in person for sure.

**Interviewer**: Okay. Yeah. Sorry. I should have specified.

**Bayan**: Oh, no, no, it's okay. Okay. So yeah, definitely person. So you get that, like, face to face interaction, you get to see people just, it's easier to get help to when you're around people, classmates and stuff, not 100% in person. Yeah, yes. 100%.

**Interviewer**: All right. Um, you kind of already answered this, but like, how many courses are you currently taking? And would it be the same as if, classes were in person? So, would you take the same load if classes were in person?

**Bayan**: Um, I actually, it's actually funny. It was the opposite. I usually take four classes. But then now that it was online, I was like, let me take five. I thought it would be easier. But then it wasn't. So when I'm back in person, I would go back to taking like, four. So it was harder online. Yes.

**Interviewer**: Yeah. Okay, so this is quite a broad question. But like within the last like, nine months of online learning, how would you say your overall academic experience has been with this shift to online?

**Bayan**: It has been difficult to focus, difficult to just be motivated to even listen to a lecture. It seems like we're not really learning. We're just trying to pass the test or finish the assignment. Like there's no engagement with the content or with the prof in any way. Huh? Yeah. But if you need any more like detail, let me know. Like, I know how much detail you know,

**Interviewer**: this is good. This is good. This is good. Okay. Yeah. Okay. And then. So if you feel comfortable sharing, so how has this transition to remote learning had an effect on your mental health? And if so, tell me how it has.

**Bayan**: Honestly, on mental health, I think everyone can agree that you're just in your room, like, you wake up, you go to bed, and then you wake up on your desk. There's no interaction whatsoever with anyone, you'll feel basically really tired from sitting all day on the same chair. It just makes you feel isolated. It makes you it just makes you wish you could go back to a class and just see people and talk to the prof. So it has brought down my mental health. Like it deteriorated it in a way.

**Interviewer**: Sorry to hear about that. Not good. Not good.

**Interviewer**: And so since the pandemic started, have you felt that your motivation to do well academically has changed?

**Bayan**: And to be honest, oh, sorry. If so just let me know how. Oh, um, well as a motivation not really because I feel like I was actually more motivated this year because I'm now in third year and then like, you know, like senior years they look at like, if you're applying to grad school, they would look at your marks. So no if anything, I actually feel like I care more about my marks in my classes this year. So far motivated.

**Interviewer**: Okay, that's good. All right. So the second part is like personal background. So just like just directly about you, not really about academics and stuff. So what is your ethnic background?

**Bayan**: I am from the Middle East.

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

**Bayan**: Female

**Bayan**: And how would you classify your socio economic background?

**Bayan**: Middle class, middle class?

**Interviewer**: Right. And next question. Are you currently employed?

**Bayan**: Yes.

**Interviewer**: Okay. And how many hours a week do you work?

**Bayan**: about 10.

**Interviewer**: Okay. And did you receive any type of like government, like financial assistance this year in terms of like, OSAP, CERB, CESB? Like stuff like that?

**Bayan**: OSAP, CERB

**Interviewer**: And what is your current living situation? Like, who do you live with?

**Bayan**: I live with my parents. My brother, my mom and dad.

**Interviewer**: Right. So in terms of your learning, your living situation? Do you have access to a quiet study space?

**Bayan**: No, no. It's a small house and you can hear everything.

**Interviewer:** Right. And do you have access to adequate technological resources to assist with your learning? So that's in terms of like high speed internet, computer?

**Bayan**: That Yes. Okay.

**Interviewer:** Great. So also, as a member of your household, what are you required to do around your house? Like, what are you required to like help out?

**Bayan**: Actually, I do. Other cleaning the vacuuming? as well as now grocery shopping, basically cleaning the house.

**Interviewer**: have you or someone close to you been diagnosed with COVID-19?

**Bayan**: No, no.

**Interviewer**: And my question, are there any type of like circumstances, anything like personal financial or anything in your family? That has had an effect on your experience with online learning?

**Bayan:** Um, I wouldn't say it's just okay. I will just say this hope I'm not the counsellor. Basically, my mom got laid off. So she's home. And my brother is home. So there has just been a lot of noise and going up and down and stuff. Like it's just hard to focus, but then I don't know if that's not actually that good. Okay. So, yeah, less concentration. Mm hmm.

**Interviewer:** All right. So, this is actually more of like a pre pandemic question.

**Interviewer**: what mode of transportation did you use to get to campus before learning? And how long would it take you to get there?

**Bayan**: On the Miway bus and it would take 40 minutes

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

**Bayan**: Maximum four or five?

**Interviewer**: All right. How did you utilise the campus resources for your academics? So did you use anything like laptop rental academic resources, library help, study spaces, stuff like that?

**Bayan**: So since I'm the type of student that just goes to cross and goes home, the only thing that I really used was the quiet space in the library sometimes. But then most of the time, I'm just studying at home, or the Erin Mills library over there.

**Interviewer:** All right. And last section. So like in this part, I'm gonna be asking if you, since you started on, like learning, have you used any of the available resources from UTM for support? So that includes like financial resources, academic support, Career Centre, IEC stuff like that? Have you used any of that?

**Bayan**: academic advising. Because I wanted to drop a class. I begged him after that deadline. And he said, No. So that was one and then the IEC for exchange? Yes, yeah.

**Interviewer**: Okay, and did you find these resources helpful for you?

**Bayan**: 100%, but then the academic advising, probably. But like, I just felt like I had to drop that one class. And then he didn't, like we didn't allow us. I just had to do late withdrawal. But yeah,it would be a bit more helpful.

**Interviewer**: Okay, next question. So, do you think that, um, professors are doing enough to be accommodating for you and other students?

**Bayan**: Honestly, yes. Like I, I didn't really see anything that was like, okay, for example, Ilan. He had a life class, he would chat. He would, he made it so like engaging. But then with other professors who didn't have like a class, I still think they did like a really good job. Like, they would answer emails really fast. They will hold like office hours and stay longer after office hours to answer any questions. So yeah, I didn't think any prof was doing less.

**Interviewer**: Mm hmm. That's good. Okay. Yeah.

**Interviewer**: Um, and the last question is, um, so do you think UTM overall, is doing enough to accommodate its students?

**Bayan**: As an online?

**Interviewer:** Like, are they doing enough to help students in the like, in this time, basically?

**Bayan**: I don't really think they've done anything different this year, though. So I don't know if that would make it that they're doing more. So, I would say no, because I don't think they did anything that was different. Or, like, for example, remember last year when they did like unlimited credit, no credit. Mm hmm. So I just feel like they could have done that this year for maybe one class or two classes, at least, to just help some people. But then I didn't see anything that was helpful. Not really, like if they had that, like maybe credit no credit or one class at least it would have helped. So no, I wouldn't say during the pandemic, not really, not really see. didn't really see anything new.

**Interviewer:** Okay, so besides the credit, no credit does or anything else you think they should do?

**Bayan**: I was gonna say, but this is what I was gonna say. Maybe they could extend the drop the deadline. Also comment on the fact that they gave us a three week break. I think that was that's like a good. Yeah, that's a good thing that they did. But other than that, I just okay, they could have just done more with the credit/no credit.

**Bayan**: I don't know if this counts, because this depends on the profit and the cost, but have more live classes? Like would that be a thing? Okay, like, I know, that depends, but I just feel like if some profs had them live, why would they not? Like why would other props that have them live? Like some of them were pre recorded from like, the summer, and they just kind of posted them from the beginning of all of them. And they were like, okay, the course is yours, like you do it at your own pace at your own timeline. So I just feel like that wasn't helpful to some people, because a lot of people procrastinate, and they don't like they need someone to tell them at this time at this day. So a lot of people fall behind in, like, never even listened to the lectures. So that wasn't helpful. For the profs who did it from the profs with it.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, that makes sense.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>