

Registration number of school: 7 5 7

Country: LU

Student's database number: 2 0 3 3

Language pair: SV &gt; EN

Student's initials: HNAY

Student's birth year: 1 9 9 9

I'm waiting in a little phone shop in Panama City, my damp queue ticket in hand. It's lunch-time and thirty five degrees outside. I hope my sister gets here before it's my turn, because I have no clue how to say mobile internet in Spanish.

Three days later I was in the rainforest translating, with wifi working just as well as anything back home in Sweden. If it hadn't been for the monkeys in the tree next to our hut, the coconut rice I ate for lunch and the humming-bird in our hibiscus bush, it would almost have been like being back in the office in Stockholm. The same clients, the same afternoon coffee break and friendly chit-chat, and the same terminological obstacles. But how could I end up there?

After graduating I moved to Lyon to

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2033

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Student's birth year:

1999

learn French. While there I shared a flat with Luis, a translator from Spain, and I was fascinated by the freedom and the variety he enjoyed in his work; one day he'd be translating adverts for some Spanish company, while the next it might be a text about agricultural machinery. When I got back to Sweden I signed up for University with one clear goal in mind: I was also going to become a translator.

The Erasmus-programme gave me the opportunity to go on an exchange year in Brussels. An internship I did over the summer in the EU-commission's translation department showed me just how important the EU's translators are in the democratic process; regulations, press releases and information packets are translated to all the EU's languages which gives us all the opportunity to take part in what happens in Brussels. In the

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cantine I heard more languages than I had time to count and in my head a new dream began to take shape - one day I want to work here.

I got a job with a translation company based in Finland. In Helsinki one of my colleagues was a freelance translator. Every year he'd set off with nothing but a rucksack to work from a new part of the World. "Wow", I said, "can you really do that?". Ville laughed. "Of course you can, you just have to dare to!", he said. Before I knew it I was on a flight to Panama, ready to put my rusty Spanish to the test.

It was in the rainforest in Panama that I got an email from Luxembourg. I had been summoned for an interview at the EU-commission! I had done the EU's test for contracted translators, but I knew that the competition

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was tough. However the interview went well and a new job beckoned amongst green hills and medieval castles in Luxembourg.

Five years after my internship I'm back at the EU. Time and time again my knowledge of languages has opened doors to new countries, friends and jobs - who knows where it'll lead me next?