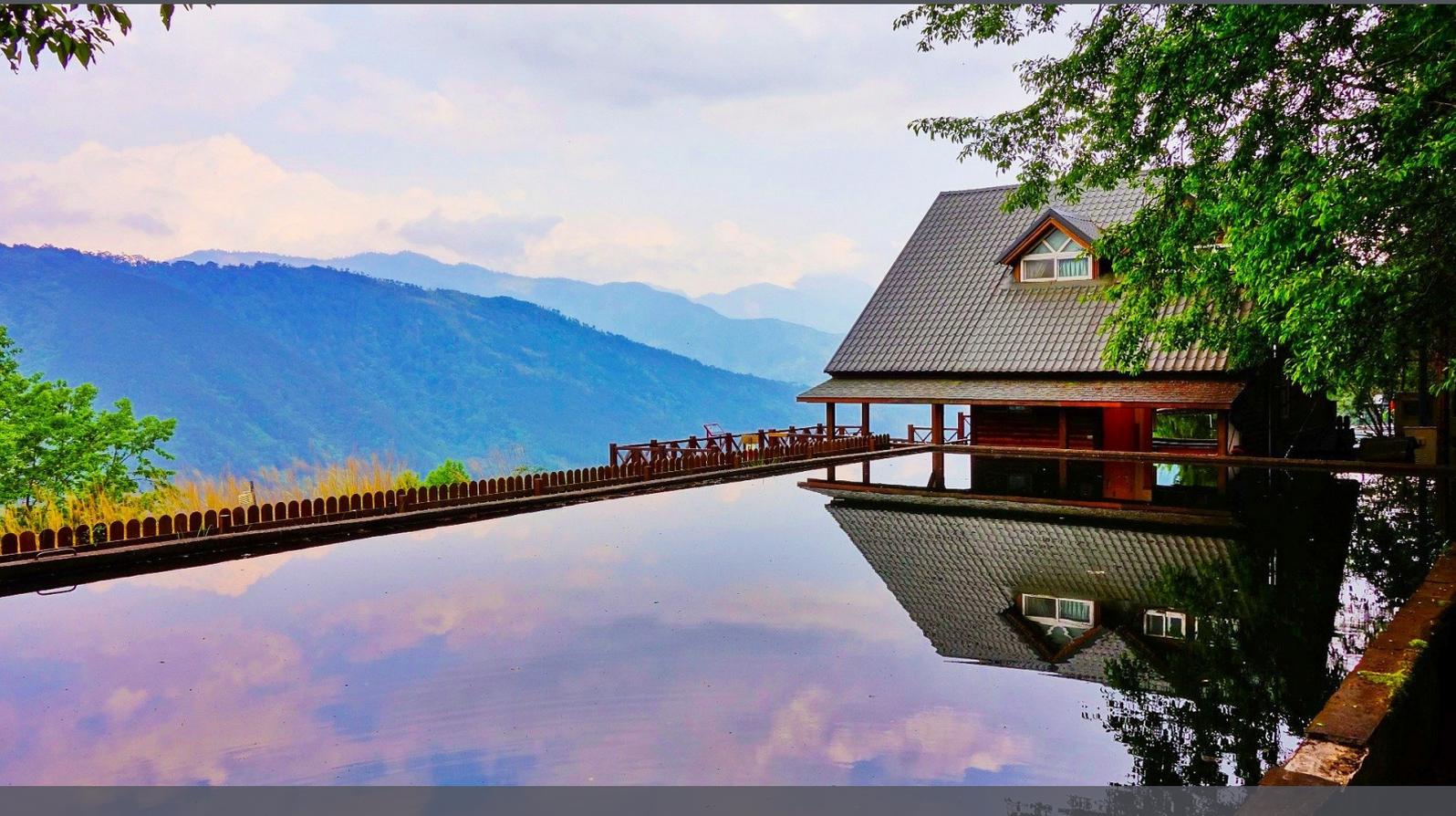


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THE HOTELIER'S HUB

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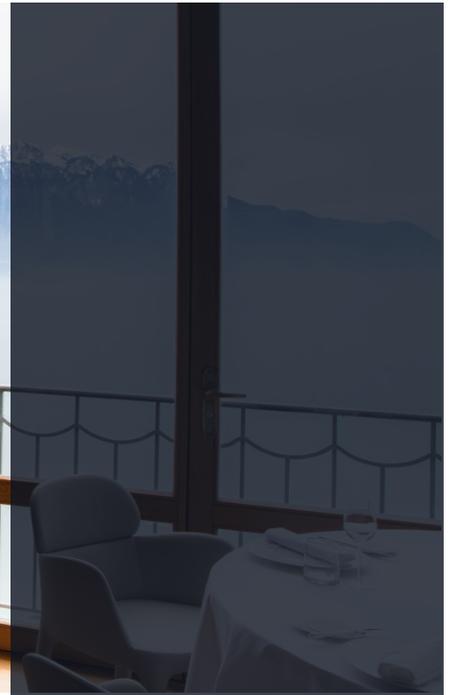
GLION WAS PERFECT FIT FOR ME

Interview by Dawid Thom

Antonios Filippou Papadopoulos,

Antonios is a 20-year old student at the Glion Institute of Higher Education. He previously did internships at the St. Regis Amman, Amman Marriott, Dead Sea Marriott and Grand Hyatt Amman.

Personally, he is living in Jordan with his Polish/Greek parents. His father worked in the industry and has inspired him to learn more about it and eventually end up working in it himself.



You are a second year student at Glion Institute of Higher Education – one of the best hospitality universities in the world. Could you please tell us how it is to be a student of such a special place?

Being a student here at Glion Institute of Higher Education is truly a very special feeling for me and my peers. At Glion we are surrounded by some of the best lecturers of hospitality that guide us with their many years of experience. The campus in Glion is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and the program is very specific to hospitality, which in my opinion, is not seen in many universities in the world.

What is so unique about this program?

What is so unique about this program in my opinion is that these classes aren't offered in many educational institutions in the world. I have only seen and heard of 3-4 schools with this level of facilities, faculty, and classes.

What was your motivation to apply to Glion?

My motivation to apply was the name it has within the industry of hospitality. I have been hearing about this school since I was in Grade 7. In Grade 10 the recruiter of Glion came to visit, informing me of the opportunity to go

and see the school during the summer camp. After spending 7 days in the Glion campus I realized that this school was a perfect fit for me.

Was your acceptance to Glion like a dream come true?

I was definitely excited when finding out about my acceptance at Glion. Due to Glion opening up applications early I got to find out my acceptance way before I started my first semester which was fantastic in terms of stress reduction.

What makes Glion Institute of Higher Education so unique?

Glion Institute of Higher Education is truly a special place due to the opportunities presented to you that not many other universities do for this industry. In our first semester we were all together in the beautiful campus of Glion. We are going to be able to do 2 semesters of 6 months for working experience relating to our studies. Later on we get to choose a specialization of either catering, finance and development, entrepreneurship, and the standard hotel management route. Not your typical bachelor program for university.

What does the recruitment process look like? What do you have to do to apply?

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The recruitment process starts with you sending out your application with a letter of recommendation, a short essay about yourself and future plans, and your grades. Within 48 hours from the application period you will have an interview with a representative from Glion to see if the school is a good fit for you as it's a quite specific program. If all is well from those two stages, you will get your acceptance letter with more details prior to your arrival.

I suppose you might have friends at Uni from all around the world. Am I right? How was the first day? Maybe you've met anyone from Poland?

One of the fantastic things about this university is the diversity seen around the campus, so yes, I have friends from all around the world thanks to Glion. I remember that on my first day I've made quite a few friends (a few of which were actually from Poland) that I've kept in contact with until now.

What are the university values in your opinion? What would you look for in students who apply to Glion?

The university values outside of the classroom, in my opinion, is being kind and social with everyone; we're an extremely small community at Glion so expect to know and get along with all of your classmates. Inside the classroom personal grooming, hygiene, attitude, and the energy you put forth

are all looked at by the school as it gets us ready for the future in the industry.

Do you see any changes when you look at yourself? Do you think that school can "shape" a person and make you a better version of yourself?

I think that for sure I am a different person than I was in my first semester. I'm also sure that when I look back and reflect on my 3rd semester in the future I will be saying the same thing. I strongly believe that educational institutions can help 'shape' a person with good habits, as it did for me. At the end of the day though, it's all up to yourself.

What is the most challenging aspect in studying at your university?

I think the beauty of going to a hospitality school like Glion is that a lot of our classes are more interesting than challenging. What was a bit difficult was the adjustment of having no uniform and grooming needed all of my life, and then coming to Glion which requires us to clean shave, and be dressed up in suits and ties for all our classes.

How does your "regular" studying schedule look like?

My regular studying schedule at Glion was quite dynamic in the first semester



as we changed our classes almost every week. In the third semester, on which I am in now, we generally have three to six hours of classes a day, consisting of 1-2 different subjects like marketing and accounting and a language of your choice twice a week. The program at Glion isn't too intense in terms of the hours you spend in class, but there's a lot of content you learn in that time, so it's easy to fall behind.

Is there any specific subject that you will use in your professional life?

I will be definitely using all of the classes in my professional life in the future, but one subject I truly enjoyed and can use in my personal and professional life is Universe of Wine, which was taught by Paolo Basso - a ASI Best Sommelier of the World competition winner.

What should be long-term career goals for youngsters who start a career in the hospitality industry?

I think what's so great about studying about the hospitality industry is that you can go into so many different markets and industries as a result. My best advice that I've received from my father and that I can tell others is - don't plan too long term, you really have no idea what you will end up doing specifically in such a diverse market. Instead, make small goals to set up your career based on the aspects of the business that you like; it's perfectly normal that not everyone will like something like finance, while others will love it.

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