

SHAKE THE FUTURE.



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2010-2015



**1. Why did you choose to do a double degree abroad?**

I had a multicultural background that I wanted to leverage through an international education and exposure.

**2. Why Columbia, USA? How different was the education system?**

Columbia is one of the best universities in the world; and Centrale Nantes has a strong relationship and long history with the Engineering School at Columbia University. Centrale Nantes was offering us a unique opportunity that I took.

The education system is very different from Centrale's: It is heavily focused on self-learning and personal efforts. Additionally, the alumni network is key when it comes to job seeking.

**3. And life on campus?**

On campus life is thrilling. I had the chance to live in the International House a few blocks from the Campus. It was a lifetime experience!

**4. How much did the degree cost? How did you cope with this expense?**

The degree is expensive: it ranges between \$50K and \$70K, depending on time and number of credits.

I had worked before and managed to save some money. The difference is usually paid through loans or family financial support.

**5. Do you think it was a fruitful investment?**

It was definitely worth it! The Columbia diploma coupled with the French Diplôme d'Ingénieur opened a significant number of doors all over the world.

**6. What do you do now? What are your plans?**

I currently work in healthcare consulting in NYC, as Business Consulting Associate -

ZS Associates. I plan to stay in the service sector for the next couple of years. ZS Associates is a global consulting firm with a focus in healthcare and biotech. We provide our clients with advisory services to guide them in making strategic and operational decisions.

**7. Do you think your experience at Columbia University helped you get this position?**

It is really challenging, almost impossible to find a job in the US without an American diploma. My Double Diploma was the only reason I could get that job.

**8. What would you say to students who are thinking about studying abroad? Any advice?**

It is a great opportunity. It's a significant investment and taking a loan might not always be easy/possible. The US is not the only option though, I would definitely recommend an international experience independently of the country you are considering.

**9. Finally, can you tell me one of your best memories at Columbia?**

I met lifetime friends that come from all over the world. I know I can travel anywhere now and will always be able to reach out to someone from that country – pretty exciting !

**10. Is there anything else you would like to add?**

I really appreciate that Centrale Nantes acknowledges and encourages students to follow their projects. It was key in my case to be able to take a gap year plus apply to a Double Diploma. I thus encourage Centrale students to make the most of this opportunity.