

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU WORK HARD

By Negar Oveysi

My name is Negar and I was born in 1985 in northwest Iran. I lived in Bookan until I was four years old. Due to my father's business my family and I moved to Mahabad, which is one hour away from Bookan. I grew up in Mahabad and I began my studies there until I finished high school. I am able to communicate fluently in four other languages such as Kurdish, Farsi, Azeri and Turkish besides English. I was a university student and I studied Information Technology for two years in my hometown but unfortunately I couldn't continue my studies there, so I moved to Canada in 2008.

When I immigrated to Canada, I couldn't communicate in English at all. I lived in Calgary, Alberta for a few months, but due to the cold climate I moved to Vancouver, British Columbia. I started studying English at Vancouver Community College in 2009 as a beginner in the ELSA Department (English Language Services for Adults). I studied there until I finished ELSA Level 4. I continued my studies in the ESL Department (English as a Second Language) as an upper intermediate student until I finished the upper advanced level. Later on I moved to the CPE Department (College Preparatory English) as an 059 student and then 098 and 099, which are the advanced courses for studying in a postsecondary institution.

I had lots of challenges during my studies. Every day I spent several hours studying at the college and a few hours at home. Sometimes I lost my hope of continuing studying English, but I never gave up. The most challenging part of studying for everyone in our class, including me, was writing. However, by practicing more and getting help from the teachers I found that writing was fun. I used my imagination to write about almost everything especially the narrative subjects. I spent lots of time reading because I realized that when I read more, I can actually write much better. I tried hard to memorize the new vocabulary, which helped me to write more solid and logical writing. I created some method in order to memorize the vocabulary. To illustrate, I spent ten minutes each day to study the new words and I tried to write them in order to learn how to spell them, which helped me to write them in an appropriate way when I had writing exams.

I successfully graduated from the CPE Department and right now I am taking some upgrading courses such as Mathematics, Biology and Physics. I always had a plan for my studies. I created a daily schedule for myself to be an organized person and know when to do something. I spent at least half an hour each day listening to the news. I read newspapers each day and I went to the library and borrowed short stories and like children I read one of them each night.

Finally, after graduating from the CPE Department I was chosen to receive an award and scholarship for my achievements. One of my future plans is to continue my studies in Health Sciences and Human Services Department at Vancouver Community College in order to become a dentist.

I believe that nothing is impossible and everyone can achieve their dream by working hard and being positive. Some people told me that it is very boring to go to college and learn nothing except English. In a way I thought that they were right, but I looked at it positively. For instance, I told myself that it would be boring now, but someday it will be very useful and help me in several ways. Right now I am so glad that I can communicate, read and write in English fluently.