REINA TENORIO

Country of origin: **The Philippines**

Programme: **Master Transportation Sciences, specialisation: Traffic Safety ICP scholarship student**

Graduated: **2020**

Reina Tenorio is a graduated master student of Transportation Sciences of Hasselt University. She was enrolled in the traffic safety master program and currently is working as a road engineer in the Philippines. Let's hear about her experience at Hasselt University and listen to her advice to future students.

What is your occupation?
Well, I am from the Philippines. I moved to Belgium for my studies of the master of Transportation Sciences, specialisation traffic safety. After graduation in 2020, I applied for a job here in the Philippines. I am a road engineer in the Philippines, but we also have some projects in Denmark.

What were the main reasons that influenced you to choose for Hasselt University?
I am really fascinated with the transportation system and Hasselt University has a great program. I chose Hasselt University because in the list of universities it is the one which provides students with a scholarship.

What are the most memorable things from your study experience?
I think the lifestyle in Belgium, especially in Hasselt. In the Philippines, people do not use the bicycles as a soft mobility mode. Here in Hasselt the bicycles are considered as a separated infrastructure.
Moreover, the teaching staff were nice and communicative. You could ask a question and they always answered it anytime.
Also, I can remember the active lifestyle in Belgium, which was very fascinating.

Which knowledge, taught at Hasselt University do you consider as the most important in your life?
I think the MaaS (Mobility as a Service) concept for mobility planners. Here in the Philippines, we are trying to apply this concept as well. I can also add that at Hasselt University, I had a chance to work with specialised mobility software which is very expensive for transport companies.

What does your workday look like?
Well, currently I am responsible for analyzing road features with the help of specialized mobility software (traffic microsimulation). I analyse the traffic flow and the width and length of roads to see whether there is enough space for that type of traffic volume of vehicles. As a road engineer, I set a number of questions: is the intersection effective? Do we need to increase the number of lanes to remove some traffic flows and reduce conflicts on the road?

Why did you choose your current job?
Before my master's degree, I already worked in an international company, which is also located in Belgium. I was responsible for working with roadways. That is why I wanted to have a job in the same field. I would like to extend my knowledge and work on international projects. Moreover, it was interesting to have an experience with software that was new to me. As a road engineer, you must always be aware of updates in transport software.

How has the taught knowledge at Hasselt University influenced your working experience?

Since my company knew that I had a master's degree in traffic safety, they asked me to work on some projects in the Philippines. Some mobility cases for developing countries which we studied during classes, special software we used at university and terminology we were taught, help me to solve current tasks at work.

What kind of advice you can give to future student?

I would recommend to spend your time in Hasselt in the most productive way. For instance, try to learn new things, not only about the study but also about culture, student job, etc.

One thing I strongly recommend is to work with your group mates when working on joint projects. Sometimes it could be very challenging to work together because of different backgrounds and different levels of knowledge. You need to be very patient and step up because otherwise the task won't be done.

If you could go back in time, what advice would you give yourself?

Well, travel more. Do not focus only on academic purposes, but also on culture and other features. If you are already in Europe, it is cheap to travel, so travel more.