

Graduation Speech – Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

By Julia Krein Rocha

I was asked to talk a little bit about our student life this year. I have never done this before, but I will do my best.

Today marks the end of our master year, of a fun year, and of a hard year. But it's particularly important as today is our last day all together.

It feels like yesterday that I arrived in to Barcelona. I can still remember the first days here. Meeting people from so diverse countries. Everyone with such different backgrounds and experiences, but we all had one thing in common: we all shared the same goal – finding our way in the Barcelona, finding our path, looking for fun, for an adventure, for personal discovery, and especially for academic growth. A new step of our lives was to begin.

We were full of hopes about the sun, the beach, the nice bars, all the new interesting people we would meet. And it is funny how it took only one single day of math classes for all those hopes to faint away! And they were not even real classes, they were “reviews”! (Not for me!)

And then the marathon started: days in the library, problem sets, exams, and for some of us, commuting to Bellaterra (every morning!).

But we have definitely had our moments of fun. The ski trip was incredible, (and I am still amazed how no one got injured, totally against the statistics), then there was the castle party, many birthdays and all the little get-togethers as people formed their own groups of friends.

And that, I think, is the nicest part, the friends we made. Because I am absolutely sure that I will forget how to log-linearize a budget constraint, but I won't forget the friends I made here. Especially because for me, and I'm sure many of you it is thanks to those friends that I am here today.

It is thanks to our friends that we managed to stay in the library until so late, thanks to them that we passed our exams, that we found the strength to keep on going, to not to give up. Because a lot of things that we have learned we had to figure it out on our own. One of our professors from Macro once told us, that we learn far more from our classmates than from teachers. And he is right. Of course our professors have been indispensable! (I am not saying that they couldn't make things a bit easier, though)

But I am sure that all of us have had professors over the last year who have helped us to shape the way we think and stay excited about what we're studying.

I don't know what everyone here will do next year, some are going on to do a PhD., some will continue with the 2nd year master, others already have a job lined up somewhere. But for those that are still waiting for job replies, I would like to say don't

give up! We have a crisis waiting for us, (lucky us!) but we will find our way. Our future is bright, and this year has shown that everyone can persevere and achieve their goals - to pursue your dreams!

Finally, as I'm here, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved in the GSE – the sponsors who help support the programs, the professors who help us learn and all the GSE staff who have organised and supported us throughout the year.

And lastly of course thank you to all of my fellow students-

We should be proud of ourselves! We have a Master of Science! We made it everybody! Congratulations!!!

Than you very much