

Spotlight on BTEC Travel & Tourism



Student **Laman Gasimova** studied **BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Travel and Tourism at the Dubai English Speaking College (DESC)** and will soon progress to further study at university. In 2019, she achieved a **Silver Award in the BTEC Awards for her subject**.

We spoke to Laman about her BTEC journey, and also to Finn Page, Head of the Travel and Tourism Studies department at DESC.



Q | Mr. Page, BTEC qualifications are renowned for their practical, career-focused elements. Can you tell us about the practical aspects of the BTEC Travel and Tourism course at DESC?

A | BTEC presents many opportunities for students to experience the real-world application of their subject. In the BTEC Travel and Tourism course, students have recently heard from industry experts such as the Minister of Space Tourism, the leader of Dubai Tourism Institute, and experts from EXPO 2020. They take part in trips to establishments such as Raffles Hotel, Dubai Desert Conservation Resort, IKEA, and the QE2.

Students also undertake a minimum of two weeks' work experience at companies including Virgin and the 5 star resort of Le Meridien. Some students worked at Emirates airline, following new cabin crew and going with them through their induction program.

The aim is to provide students with a greater awareness and an acknowledgement of the skills needed in the world beyond education and the ever-changing work environment.

Q | Laman, what have you enjoyed most about your BTEC course?

A | Since starting the BTEC Travel and Tourism course I have had a real thirst for learning about the tourism sector and have thrived by learning more about different countries and cultures. I have loved the opportunities to explore the world, observe people of different nationalities, to research and identify new trends and factors (both positive or negative), and how they impact the travel and tourism industry.

Q | What are you doing now and what does the future hold?

A | I am currently finishing my studies at DESC Dubai, and preparing for university. I hope to combine my A Level Business Studies with my love and knowledge of travel and tourism.

In the future, I am planning to apply for a baccalaureate degree in International Business Studies, either in the UK or mainland Europe, where I plan to continue developing my knowledge and experience of the travel and tourism industry in the hope that I can work in this industry after my degree.

Q | What advice do you have for other young people considering a career in travel and tourism?

A | Believe in yourself and work hard. Have a dream, make it an ambition and work towards achieving it. Keep an open mind, both in terms of what you read and learn, but also the subjects and qualifications you take. Don't underestimate the power of a BTEC, especially one as diverse as travel and tourism.



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