

Alina Britan: Your choice for future job: Ukraine or abroad?

To my mind on the threshold of the dazzling adult world every young person sets goals and then tries to reach them. And often it might be a challenge to make a decision that will influence your whole life. I still remember the moment when I was standing in the front of the list, among the dozens of surnames I glanced my own, the second look, yes there was no doubt – I have become a happy student. Months of purposeful and intensive work were rewarded. Huge books that I seem to know by heart could be returned to the library. Then there was time to get used to new people and routine, time has passed so quickly and now I am the second year university student. I am told that time will elapse as one moment and I know it will, that is why I set worthy goals and right now try to reach them.

To tell you the truth, I think about my future very often and the question of where to work after university: in Ukraine or abroad, is in the list of primary importance. I realise that if we juxtapose work abroad and in Ukraine, we can see a wide gap as work abroad may seem more prestigious. Migration is a permanent feature of human history, a recurrent response to threats and opportunities which present themselves to individuals, communities and sometimes entire nations. Many Ukrainians tend to believe that they can find a better life abroad.

According to researches extra migration is a real plight for Ukraine, in the context of low salaries and unemployment within Ukraine, labor migration became a mass phenomenon at the end of the 1990s and the process seems to continue till today. Although estimates vary, approximately five to seven million Ukrainian citizens are currently working abroad, most of them illegally, in construction, service, housekeeping, and agriculture industries.

But as for me – I do not think that work abroad is the solution, on the contrary it may cause not only problems in the relations between people, and lack of understanding in parted families, but also economic recession.

Experts believe that the huge labor emigration now poses a serious threat to Ukraine's future economic development. The fact that millions of our skilled compatriots are abroad will start having an adverse effect on our country's economic growth rate in the next two or three years. Throughout the regions investors are already complaining of a shortage of skilled labor, perhaps the main thing that attracts investors to Ukraine.

International organisations provide money and set up a number of programmes for Ukraine aimed at increasing economic potential and growth. For example, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a US\$ 154.5 million loan for the Second Export Development Project, which would support export and real sector growth in Ukraine by providing medium and long-term working capital and investment finance to Ukrainian private exporting enterprises.

To my mind, such help is useful, but the results would be better if there were an impulse inside Ukraine. Certainly, we can continue to provide other rich countries with clever scientists, hard-working workers and diligent students; but what would be saved for next generations? Ukraine is now a developing country that need new generation of clever and purposeful people ready to improve the situation. My motto is: "Be the change you want to see in the world". That is why I want to work in Ukraine after university, I would accept an opportunity to work abroad only for specified time in order to gain experience and enlarge knowledge in the field of my job.

I like to communicate with various people and learn something new. Besides my speciality means negotiations with people from different countries. In a little more than three years I shall work as a specialist of "International economic relations" so right now we study subjects about international relations, business; special attention is paid to financial and law systems in different countries of the world, international organizations and their institutions; and among my favourite subjects are

“Diplomatic protocol and etiquette” and “Diplomatic and consular services”. Due to them I have learned and I am sure I shall know even more about different cultures and ways of life and behaviour in different countries. These differences could be classified according to many aspects, some may seem nebulous or even odd for foreigners but are absolutely normal for the indigenous population. And behaviour which is polite in one culture may be rude and highly offensive in another. Even the same gesture can have different meanings in different countries. In my opinion cumulative knowledge and experience gained during the time of education will help me to work successfully in Ukraine and my work with foreign partners would change their opinion of Ukraine for the better.

I believe I shall find a worthy work after University in Ukraine and it will be required, but I can not be sure about that if I plan to work abroad. It is known that Ukrainian diplomas are not accepted neither in European countries nor in the USA. Ukraine has joined the Bologna process, so after graduation I’ll receive a diploma which is accepted in Europe. But I am well aware of the fact that it will take decades for Ukrainian Universities to gain the reputation Western Universities have already got. So at the labour force market even being bright I won’t be in the equal condition with the alumni of the old European Universities.

As I have mentioned work abroad means being far from family and rare meetings, but family is one of the most important values in my life. Even if my family is with me, new country means new language, if it is easy for me it might be a challenge for my parents. And one more thing: work abroad represents new culture. To know cultural features of some country and negotiate with its inhabitants is quite different thing that to live in this country.

There are merits and demerits in work abroad. I have considered these facts and make a decision to work in Ukraine. This is my choice and I hope it is right.