

Student Voices transcripts: Eunbi (2020) & Eunbi and Vy (2019)

[Eunbi – Interview 2020](#)

[Eunbi & Vy – Interview 2019](#)

Eunbi – Interview 2020

Eunbi 0:00

My name is Eunbi Kim. I am studying at MA Narrative Environments in Central Saint Martin and I am completing my course this year.

Academic Support 0:14

We met didn't we last year? (yes) and had a conversation then. You were with Vy. So it's really great for you to be back again, and really interested this time in finding out how it's been learning on-line. So, maybe you could just give a brief outline of what's happened since we last spoke, which is a year ago now.

Eunbi 0:37

My course is pretty much focused on physical experiences in physical spaces. So, like, changing it into on-line education is for me, it's a bit limiting our studies. As second year students we were about to host our individual exhibitions. And it was a little bit shame that we had to halt every project and every exhibitions. But we kind of transfer it into digital experiences and we were trying to figure out just what we can do within this situation.

Academic Support 1:19

What was it like for those first few weeks with lockdown and suddenly realising things are going to be different?

Eunbi 1:27

At first, I was kind of having some depression because it was really difficult for me changing every schedule. You know, like, every day I wake up, and then I go to school... that was my previous schedule. But now I'm just waking up and you know, I just don't need to change my pajamas. I cannot see how the days and the night changes. It was really depressed for me. Every situation was quite difficult for me to cope with. But it became okay. I mean, I get used to this life and I found some ways to find my routine back, just doing the same behaviour, like taking a shower every morning and like having some same routines with before. It helped me a lot.

Academic Support 2:21

Are you sharing a living space or are you living on your own?

Eunbi 2:24

I'm sharing my living space with yeah one flatmate and he's working. And it's quite good because he has very defined routine, like nine to six, and I kind of follow him and it's helping. And every morning every 9am I try to share my daily routine with my classmates like what we are going to do for today and what we are going to do for this week and it's kind of helping each of us giving some motivations. The challenging thing was, I think the mental difficulties. I needed to halt to my project that I was working on. And it happened so fast, everyone back then was confused. And because we couldn't get answers, you know, from professors from the schools, we couldn't set up our future schedule. So that was the most difficulties that I faced, like this instability for my after graduation life.

Academic Support 3:36

And looking back on your time, the last 12 weeks, how's it been learning on-line? What have you done that you would never otherwise do? And what have you really missed out on?

Eunbi 3:47

The best opportunity from the on-line education I think that we can be connected with international designers because when we are having our courses, we only can invite those people from London-based designers and now we can just invite anyone in the world. And it can be quite useful because every country, every people, and they have different perspectives on this situation and the further steps. And it was quite good, you know, like this, erasing these barriers of the location. I think that was the best part. And also we can utilise the marketing, and channels like Instagram, we're trying to do more on-line sharings, that's also a good opportunity that we can take advantage of.

Academic Support 4:42

And what about the downsides? What are the things that you found really difficult?

Eunbi 4:48

Even though there are lots of opportunities on digital spaces because of the characteristic of the course itself, we are learning the physical spaces, we are learning physical people's connection and emotions, we want to see them in person. And we want to just make a community. But in on-line spaces, it's quite limited. That's, that's such a shame. But I think after the COVID because we are starting to opening the shop again, with a new regulation. So maybe our practices can be changed in a new way. And I'm expecting to resume my project because I'm graduating anyway. After the graduation, before I enter a company, during that time, I just want to finish it by my own and try it under the new regulation.

Academic Support 5:52

So it feels to me like you're adapting to the situation?

Eunbi 5:57

Yeah, yeah. I think I need to do that.

Academic Support 6:00

How did you come to that decision?

Eunbi 6:03

At the beginning, it was like a vacation, you know but it's because the time just flies and I cannot just stop everything for three, four months, I really needed to find a new way to adapt myself to this situation. And I think that's the reason that I came up with this decision. Just going back to my country and resume my project again, under the new situations regulations.

One of the difficult thing that people said about on-line education is because of the connection problem. And those like sound system and those video system and the speed of the internet, it really affects the quality of education and we ended up turning off all the audios and videos excepting the presenter. But it also brought another problem which is presenter feels like disconnected you know, like they're feeling like they're just presenting something to the world not to the student. So like we have started to upload our photos on our students profile like we are trying to adjust to ourselves to this new on-line education just little by little.

Academic Support 7:32

So has that been a good community spirit amongst the students supporting each other?

Eunbi 7:40

I think this on-line education kind of weakens the student community because we cannot see each other and is quite different and difficult.

Academic Support 7:52

So, if this was going to happen more, part of the education will be on-line and part will be face-to-face. Any suggestions that you would make to a potential student for the units that are on-line to make things better?

Eunbi 8:10

That's quite difficult. I think, well, just trying to keep in touch with classmates and all we are not seeing each other. Like we are often having this on-line party just having beers. And having digital party, I don't like these kind of things kind of help to be connected, even though we are not seeing each other. Like regular checkups is also good, morning checkups, or weekly checkups, those kinds of things. Like sharing our problems in our lives and problems around our studying and sharing those kind of things are helping In my mental health, as well as also the productivity of my work.

Academic Support 9:09

Did you experience loneliness, which is one of the things that students have mentioned and how did you cope with that?

Eunbi 9:16

Yeah, I felt that quite strongly at the beginning. But by sharing my schedule with my flatmate and sharing my things with my families and friends and also with my boyfriend. Even though he said this after meeting him it was really helpful. And also, because now we can meet each other and go to a picnic, it helps.

Academic Support:

Have you learned anything new in terms of the digital environment and making it work for you? Because your course was very much material, wasn't it? And this has just not been. Has it advanced your understanding or your skills or your knowledge at all?

Eunbi 10:07

My background was designer. So, I think I am utilising my previous experiences for this new experiences design. But students are trying to learn new software and new knowledge is from this on-line education platforms. And I think it's kind of helping because like many industries are shifting their strategy from physical experiences into visitor experiences. So knowing and understanding visitor area, I think it's helpful for designers to have that thing ourselves in for a new... new normal.

Academic Support 10:54

Yes, great word. Are you quite organised? With your time?

Eunbi 11:02

In terms of work, I'm organised, in terms of life I'm not organised. For work, I set up schedules daily, weekly, and try to achieve that. And also because I really have to submit our work three times, like every month we have something to submit. So it kind of forced me to work productively. Yeah, setting up goals. Yeah, time organising time is quite important, I think, especially in this situation.

Academic Support 11:43 And what's your next step?

Eunbi 11:47

I probably go back to Korea, and I will finish my halted project from there. I am preparing for an art installation. So I'm gonna do that. I hopefully apply for some festivals, like design festival or design biennale next year and I have a contract with my company in Korea, from September. With all this that I've learned from here I want to adapt my work a little bit, and that's going to be my next step.

Academic Support 12:27

Well, I wish you every success. Thank you so much for coming back and talking again, under such different circumstances.

Eunbi 12:37 Thank you so much.

Eunbi & Vy – Interview 2019

Vy 0:00

My name is Vy Tran. I'm from Belgium, and I have a background in engineering and arts. So I have finished my masters in engineering in Belgium. And then I did my thesis in the Netherlands where I started also a PhD for a couple of months. So, my path is a bit complicated. I left my job in the Netherlands, because I always wanted to study arts in I did a foundation year in our to design in Amsterdam. And after that, basically, destiny that brought me here. By chance I had met three people from my class before joining the course. And yeah, by talking to them, by learning more about the course, I realised that possibility of joining the course, and that it actually really fitted what I wanted to do later. It's very multidisciplinary, it's opening a lot of doors, and it really fitted with my... with my complicated background basically. So yeah...

Eunbi 0:54

My name is Eunbi Kim, and I came from South Korea, and my BA was Graphic Communication Design. And after my graduation, I had been working in the IT industry for six years. So, I want it to come to another, go to another country... like... European country and study.

Vy 1:15

But did you visit other European cities actually, before coming here?

Eunbi 1:19

Um... only London, only London, because I was in the company which is very, very, like, very office. And I needed some kind of artistic atmosphere.

Vy 1:36

Yeah, I see.

Academic Support 1:38

What do you wish that you'd known before arriving here?

Eunbi 1:45

Know that you should do it yourself, like know that there's a lot of pushing to do by yourself. Because this is such a multidisciplinary course ... also means that it's a lot of people who have knowledge that you don't, but that you also have knowledge that they don't have. So the courses will maybe already cover grounds that you have already seen or go in places that you have never heard about before. That kind of means that well... there's books to be read, there's conversations to be had, there's more to be learned, aside from the course. It can feel really overwhelming at some point, like you can feel really lost. I mean, at least I felt really does at some point, but I think in the end, there's always, there is really a lot to learn here. I can't really say what I would have wanted to know before aside from knowing that the thing that they describe on paper.. but it never is. And you always have to know that you need to push, kind of.

Eunbi 2:42

And, before I come here, my most concern was the after the graduation, what I, what I can do after the graduation. What alumni are doing after this course graduate. But I wasn't able to find many information about that.

Vy 3:01

Could you find some?

Eunbi 3:04

Yes, I've found some, like ... like, who is working in the Idea? Yeah, I found some, but it wasn't easy. But I really liked the curriculum. And the purpose of this course, yes. So that's why I chose this.

Vy 3:26

It took me a while to adjust. Because people have their different methods, they have their different tools as well. I have noticed a lot of people using InDesign for doing PowerPoints, and I didn't know we could do that. Or you really like keeping notes in a certain way, like in a very visual way, that I'd never used before. And I don't know like, other terms, I can't even remember, swatches of colours?

Eunbi 3:54

I can imagine the quite the opposite..the engineer and the designers, the mindsets are quite different, totally different, I think. How does it feel about the collaboration?

Vy 4:06

At the moment in my group is doing fine, because I think in the end, we all have like kind of the same temper. And we are all quite patient and we take time to talk to each other. But I have to admit that in my last term, it was a bit more tricky because I was still not used to creative process in the others were already used to it. So the pace of mine was really different. And by the time I already caught up with one idea, they already moved on to something else. So that was quite hard.

Eunbi 4:36

I can understand

Vy 4:37

How's it going for you?

Eunbi 4:39

For me, I'm kind of similar. Because for the first unit, it was very hard for me because I had to adapt to the new life in London, as well as the collaboration with new kinds of students who came from all the different backgrounds. Also, we have kind of very different culture between Western and the Asian, in terms of collaborating. So I went through a very hard time, I think, but it's getting better for every one of us, I think.

Vy 5:13

Yeah, I think so. Actually, I know some of our classmates who talk to second year students, and the second year students also warned those friends that the first year was quite hard. It was, I think for a lot of people, it's a lot of tears, it's a lot of doubts, because we were like, kind of exhausted of going through so many changes at once. Because like you said, it's a new city and new courses, really like new things. And I think if you push through it like this term is a lot of work but on the other hand, it feels like a relief actually. Because it's really satisfying to work on this project.

Eunbi 5:51

Yes, me too, it's the same for me. And I changed my mindset a lot. Because I think most Asian students, they are familiar with passive style of education. But in here, we have to do everything by ourselves that we need to be very proactive to get more. And I have a hard time to change my mindset from passive to proactive. But I think it's positive changes for myself.

Vy 6:26

It's true that this way of teaching is also very active in my eyes, because coming from my very academic background of technical studies where we're just listening or mostly not listening at the back of an auditorium, and then just reading my books in passing the exams. This is something that is really hands on. It's not one brief for a whole, like class of students, it's like a different group, and everybody has their different ideas, different approach. And there's not a better approach than the other end it's really... yeah it's really proactive. It's very straining, I think, it's kind of tiring to have to push all the time. But I think it's okay in the end.

Eunbi 7:08 Yeah.

Vy 7:11

Well, definitely communication is important, like letting others know that you're not always at your best and so on, because I'm pretty sure that everybody's in the same boat in the end, even though we're maybe not all coping the same way as others. I think everybody has issues, for sure, with stress and loneliness. Also, the winter in London is definitely hard. Because we spend a lot of time underground, taking the tube and transporting. Otherwise we spend time indoors. And even when we are outside and like when like the day is short, the weather is bad. There's always clouds. But yeah, for that, my personal tutor has been quite a lot of help for me with that. So yeah, I think remembering that we are not alone feeling those things, is quite important. That we can seek support in friends or something too.

Eunbi 8:15

Yes, friends is very important. And for me because my mother tongue is Korean, I sometimes feel like worn out about using English all the time. So, I personally prefer to talk to Korean friends at least once a week, to talk about how I feel about the class. By communicating in my mother tongue language with those Korean friends is very helpful for me, personally.

Vy 8:46

And do you sometimes talk about those issues with people of your group who might be going through the same things that you're working and living the same life basically, of working on the project ...and you know, maybe the stress?

Eunbi 8:59

My team members? Yes, not everything. But somehow I'm trying to get connected with those people. Because it's not only about the project but also we need to have a connection between... a personal connection between us.

Vy 9:17

Yeah, for sure, for sure. Yeah, in my group, I've also tried talking about this a bit. And then we all decided to get some rest at some point. But yeah, as you say, it's very important to have like a connection between ourselves to like, make something good and have a good idea for the project, basically.

Eunbi 9:37

I'm thinking of sharing, how do you say it... the international food night, or movie night or something. It might be really great.

Vy 9:47

We did a champagne night, that was nice, but our champagne is cheaper than yours. Yeah, going through those things together, sort of makes that bond, I guess, that you have when you go through stressful stuff together. But it's going to happen this year. And I think next year, we don't have a lot of good projects anymore, that's kind of sad. But yeah, I think you've been working for longer than me, though, for a few years, or something.

Eunbi 10:18

Yeah, 6 years in just one company, it's very hard. And especially because I had to do this same things, same small jobs, over and over. I need some kind of fresh air and for now, going to the school instead of going to the office every day, every morning, it makes me feel much better.

Vy 10:41

Yeah, I can imagine.

Eunbi 10:43

Yeah, and by doing this, I think I am able to....how can I say?

Vy 10:54

New perspectives?

Eunbi 10:55

New perspective, and yes, think about some changes about my future career.

Vy 11:01

Yeah, it's true. Like, it definitely opens up new doors, it's a new career path, basically, that we're on. And it's. it's both scary and refreshing. Yeah.

Eunbi 11:14

Very scared, about changing, but even though I go back to the same company after this graduation, I think, the perspective, how I see everything that I face, in my life, gonna be changed. Yes, because before coming here, I had never co-worked with architect quite different.

Vy 11:37

I've never worked with designers before.

Eunbi 11:

Yeah, and also at the same time is very insightful. Listening to their philosophies, way of seeing the issues is quite different.

Vy 11:52

Like in my group, we have somebody who specialised in brand image. So, at first it had been a bit challenging working together because like he has a lot of work experience, but on the other hand is a lot of really important stuff that I never thought about, like brand values and brand identity and related little things that always kind of escapes my eye, but to him make sense in that we need to incorporate in a project to make it stronger, like really learning from those people is great.

Eunbi 12:24

I think he works more than 10 years,

Vy 12:26

I think so, he looks so young though.

Eunbi 12:28

Yeah, haha. I just realised that I am quite highly commercialised person. All my perspective is quite consider a lot about money flows, and market size and customers. I never thought about social engaging projects and those activist mindset. So it's quite nice, knowing those things.

Vy 12:59

Yeah, for sure, I've have never actually had to think about how a project or an action of mine would reflect the capitalistic society. So yeah, it's really great.

Eunbi 13:12 Yes

Vy 13:15

Yeah, I am a person of doubt. So I've been the opposite maybe of not having critical thinking, I have a too much critical thinking. And I sort of doubt a lot of stuff. And maybe that's the thing also that I would have liked to know before joining the course that it's also okay to have doubts and not certainties about stuff. Because there is a lot of people in art school who are really like, sure as hell about their opinions... and they're right, and they're okay too... and I'm okay too for not believing that.