

Kariem Said (30)

STUDY YEAR: 2012-2013

IS: Manager New Business @ PostNL

HOME: Amsterdam

HOUSEHOLD: In a relationship

DREAM JOB AS KID: Pilot

RIDE: Peugeot 208



I was always fascinated by innovations, so when it came down to choosing a master: SIM was an easy choice to make. It was a real fun time in which I learned a lot. During my bachelor I already studied in Israel for a semester and had a great time. So I decided that for my Master Thesis I would move there again and do an internship at my uncle's company. Israel strongly differs from the Netherlands in many ways: its citizens have completely different views and ways of doing.

Although I had visited Israel many times during the holidays when visiting the family of my father's side, living there on my own and working there was one big learning school. My advice: If you have the chance to go on an adventure, go for it! Well continuing the story, after I finished my masters I was thinking about what to do: Should I stay and build a life in Israel or go back to the Netherlands? I decided to first go back to the Netherlands for 3 months to make up my mind.

Once back home, I started to look around and found a couple of interesting traineeships, so I applied for a couple programs. I had an immediate click with [PostNL](#), and I was happy to accept the offer to start in their Young Executive Programme. I had several operational roles from team leader of the mailmen to regional manager for our mail units in the Northern part of the Netherlands. It differed strongly from the things I studied, but I had lots of fun doing it and it felt good.

One day after coming back from a holiday I went through my mail and saw a letter from our director in which a mailman shared an idea to give the mailmen a social role in the community by picking up and sending signals of remarkable or troublesome situations. She asked if I would like to do this project: "Yes, I would love to do it!" It was a great project in which 40 mailmen participated. I asked our director if it would be possible to expand these kinds of services to more mailmen and try to develop more new business opportunities using our network. She liked the idea, so I started to develop this idea with a colleague. One thing led to another and now 1.5 years later we have our own department with 8 people developing new business opportunities (for the interested reader: click [here](#)).

It's not always easy to develop and implement new business opportunities and a lot comes down on perseverance, trying lots of small things, failing fast, learning and trying to make good ideas bigger step by step. But it is the most fun job I had so far! With the choices I have made during my brief career it seems that whenever I followed my feelings and did what feels right that the best things happened. So again my advice: just go for it!

Want to contact me? Use my [LinkedIn](#).

Liesbeth Luimes (26)

STUDY YEAR: 2012-2013

IS: Sourcing Consultant IT @ Brunel

HOME: Utrecht

HOUSEHOLD: Living together

DREAM JOB: a job at UN | United Nations

RIDE: Toyota Auris & nice 'opoe' bike



Let's start off with a cheesy note. If you would have asked me when I started SIM where I would end up in a few years, I'm really sure my answer wouldn't have been: I will be working for a really big secondment agency in a commercial role. As a person, I tend to make personal decisions on my gut feeling, and so far, my gut feeling has brought me to interesting places. If I would get sentimental, I could say that it all started when I was 13 years old and decided that I wanted to study in Groningen. Or the moment that in complete decision paralysis about which master to choose, I chose for SIM. I motivated my study choice to my family and friends by saying: "I really like the energy and open attitude of the professors and students there".

Out of many things the master brought me, the one thing that stands out is my thesis at [Philips Lighting](#) about social sustainability. A field that I am still very passionate about. The experience provided me with insight into the workings of a big Dutch corporate. After finishing my master, I realized that my fellow students did something smart by being busy building a network of recruiters and priming the pathway to their dream jobs, *during* their masters. I had done none of that. That's where a bit of decision paralysis set in again... At that time, it was impossible to find a job as a starter in the field I wrote my thesis about, and next to that, I was (and still am) interested in so many other fields! I was hoping that my gut feeling would soon point me in a direction.

That's exactly what happened when I talked to [Randstad](#). At Randstad I worked at Inhouse Agencies helping companies with their recruitment, planning and HR. What I in particular liked about this way of working is that you build a strong relationship with your client, which in turn can lead to a real partnership. Quite soon after my start at Randstad, [Brunel](#) approached me for a job that specialized in IT secondment. This appealed to me even more so, mostly because the field of IT is rapidly changing and introduces so many innovations in the current day and age. That's why I decided to make the switch. In addition to "learning the job", I also acquired a lot of knowledge about IT. I went from jokingly saying, "But IT that's only developers and websites, right?" to understanding the relevant developments in IT and understanding the pros and cons of these developments. In my job it's quintessential to be a curious person, that you are eager to find out how people work, how companies work, and how their processes, applications, tooling, methodology all intertwine. In a sense, it's studying SIM in practice! So far, I have had the great chance to experience "working" life at three big leading Dutch corporates (Philips, Randstad, and Brunel), and I'm pretty confident that there are pretty great things still to come!

In case you want to know more, you can contact me via [LinkedIn](#).