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**iGeneration Scholarship recipient 2014**

**[BA in International Business](#)**

I want to be honest, so I have to mention that I had never heard about the University of Limerick before attending the presentation organised by iGeneration. The only Irish university I knew about was Trinity College. The same evening, I went on the net and visited the web page of the University of Limerick and since that day I knew that it was the place where I would like to go to study.

First of all, one thing that I loved the most when reading about UL was the amazing and very beautiful campus, of which I can happily say that I am part of now. When I saw the video showing all of the campus, it was an obvious choice for me that I wanted to study at UL. The second reason for choosing UL was the International Business course it offers to students. I really feel that this is the programme designed for my needs. I love to make choices and learn what interests me the most, not what somebody else thinks I should learn. So the flexibility of the programme which allows you to build your own education throughout 4 years at the university was one of the key factors for choosing UL. There is no such programme in Georgia! The third reason why I chose UL is the cooperative education programme and the vast opportunities to study abroad which is a compulsory component of my programme. I personally strongly believe that the work experience and study abroad experience that I will obtain during the 3rd year of my study will be crucial for my future successful career. The fact that UL provides these opportunities to students was very important when choosing to study here. Another important reason was the high employment rate enjoyed by graduates of the university every year which is far above the national average. This meant for me that UL has the formula to help its students become the professionals that are needed in today's market. I wanted to see how this education system works and benefit from it myself. The very last but very important point is, of course, the iGeneration Foundation. Without it I couldn't even have dreamed about studying at UL, because I couldn't have afforded the costs which are very high for my family as is the case with most Georgian families. So knowing that there was the chance that my studies at UL could be financed was another factor that helped me to make the decision.

The journey to UL was full of filling out applications, getting the required forms and documents, passing the TOEFL test and all those kind of stressful things. Then I received the email from UL saying that I was accepted and it meant that it was time for the interview with the iGeneration Board. Actually, in my case, there were two interviews that were quite stressful because of the time intervals between them and waiting for the results. Finally the very rewarding outcome became reality - I became a fully funded student of the University of Limerick and I knew that I really wanted that!

I have had a lot of experiences at UL already! The academic process is quite different with a lot of academic rules and procedures that I have never been familiar with before. At the same time, there is a lot of reading that needs to be completed for each module, so time management and planning your study is very important to be successful. It is quite challenging to get going in a new academic system but at the same time I can see that the system is built in a way to benefit students so that they have a bright future and I will try to dedicate as much time as possible to my studies.

Another very important aspect of university life for me is the extracurricular activities that I participate in. One that I would like to highlight is the Debating Union of the University of Limerick. Debating is one of my hobbies and passions. I just love doing it and cannot imagine my life without it. I joined the society and within weeks the dream that I've been dreaming of for the last 5 years came true - I am going to the World Universities Debating Championship 2015 organised this year in Kuala Lumpur! Also in November I will attend inter-varsities in Cambridge and Oxford which was one of the things I always really wanted to do as a debater! So to sum up to this point it should be said that the University of Limerick really provides students with ample opportunities to have very interesting lives outside of academics - all the clubs and societies are just amazing and I am very happy to be part of the UL experience!

The last new experience worth mentioning is the independent living. I have never experienced it before. It is quite challenging for me to cook, clean and do all those things that need to be done around the house which my mom used to do for me. At the same time it is a very important experience because I am becoming an independent person capable of surviving on my own.

My future plans at present are as follows: I really want to get the most from my time spent at UL, both for my academic and personal developments. It is also very important for me to get a very good placement abroad during the 3rd year of my programme e.g. in Far East Asia (Singapore or Hong Kong) or in the US and continue that fantastic academic experience with a challenging cooperative education placement in an interesting company that could benefit me a lot in my future career. After graduating I want to take a 2-3 year academic break and dedicate my time to start building a successful career. I would then love to do a Master Degree. This is how I see it now, but it may change, of course!

I think that the iGeneration Scholarship will play a crucial role in achieving my future goals in life, without it I simply wouldn't have been able to come and study at UL. Without the iGeneration Scholarship it would have been impossible to make some of my dreams a reality or to fulfil my plan for the future. All of those things would have been impossible for me to achieve if I had stayed in Georgia and didn't get all the support from this wonderful scholarship programme. I am sure I will have to thank its founders many more times in the future for giving me this fantastic chance!