

Intro: You are on with career talks presented by the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech a regular podcast featuring students, alumni, and friends of the school offering advice to help you succeed in your career endeavors.

Host: welcome to career talks a podcast service of the Academic Services Office of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech. We are here with Angelique Edwards. Angelique, can you introduce yourself, your name, major, where you are from?

Angelique: Yeah, Hi, I am Angelique Edwards and most call me Angel. I majored in international affairs and modern languages and now and I'm graduating this year and I'm also starting my master's in Cyber Security Policy through the Public Policy School which is also in the Ivan Allen College. and I'm from Johns Creek, Georgia. I moved around a lot when I was a little bit but that's where I'm from.

Host: Okay, so we're here to talk about your National Science Foundation CyberCorps Scholarship for Service. Can you tell us more about this program?

Angelique: Most definitely, the National Science Foundation CyberCorps Scholarship for service is basically a scholarship that recruits students that are interested in cybersecurity and also interested in going into the public sector and being in public service. They really want students that are interesting not only government work and liberal arts like like we are in the Ivan Allen College but also have the ability to do cybersecurity work because of something that's lacking right now in the government. So basically they support you through school and basically treat you like an employee and then you work for the government for two years after school doing cybersecurity related work.

Host: How did you learn about it and what motivated you to apply?

Angelique: My professor told me about it, Professor Seymour Goodman. I took his class International Affairs, Science and Technology and he just brought this to my attention towards the end this semester and really encouraged me to apply. I was honestly super nervous because like didn't have this big passion for computer science and things of that nature but he started to explain to me how cyber security specifically and especially like International Cyber Security Policy has really great implications for a lot of issues that I'm passionate about like human trafficking, drug trafficking, terrorism. Cyber space is one of the biggest domains for security issues right now. And my interest in international security is really strong so I became really interested in the fellowship when he started explaining these things to me. And then my momma also encouraged me to apply Often encouraged me to apply and then I applied.

Host: What was the application process like and can you walk us through the application steps

Angelique: Yeah, honestly the application process at least for me it wasn't too bad. I think the biggest thing about the fellowship is that first you have to go to a participating institution so

Georgia Tech is one, it's I think it's a little over twenty other universities are part of the fellowship program and honestly it's probably more than that so don't quote me. After you know your part of a participating institution the main thing I believe is as a professor that has a program that will vouch for you like Professor Goodman gave a really good word for me and after that I had to do a written application online and then send in my resume. But it was mainly because a word around the references is honestly the most important part. So you have to be there to for your professors to see your good work ethic and that you have these capabilities so receive the fellowship I believe.

Host: Thank you for sharing. What are some of the scholarship benefits and obligations?

Angelique: The fellowship comes with a lot of benefits actually. So basically, first it covers your tuition so for me it covers your tuition for up to two years. So for me, that the rest of my undergrad and that's my one master's program. So they're paying for my undergrad and master's and they give you a monthly stipend as like an employee to the government that is essentially working towards being a cyber security professional. So they're already paying us and on top of that you get money for travel, for networking opportunities, insurance and things of that nature as well. So it's really is a supporter program and they really want their students to exceed. The obligation is basically that the amount of time that you spend in the program is amount of time you have to serve the government afterwards. So I'm doing two years, so I have to serve the government for two years after school in some sort of cyber security related field. But it's really flexible, honestly, because you do executive branch, legislative, FRDC's. There's a lot of open opportunities definitely it's not it's not anything enclosed, it has honestly open lot of doors for me it hasn't really closed any.

Host: How did Georgia Tech or the Nunn School make you more competitive for the scholarship?

Angelique: Definitely, I don't think I would have been able to have an opportunity like this if I didn't come to Georgia Tech. The main reason why I wanted to come to Georgia Tech is because I so wanted that technical aspects to my education and honestly I had no idea how that would look like and going into my third year school I felt like I still wasn't getting even at Georgia Tech. Then this opportunity presented itself and like honestly for me the Lord is just faithful. But it's true, like now not only do I get to do the liberal arts that I love but I get that technical component that really will help me that only to be passionate about but also truly solve the problems I care about them. It honestly if it wasn't for Georgia Tech that wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs that wouldn't be possible either because I love international affairs and I love the way we run at Georgia Tech. If I was in Professor Goodman's class, if it wasn't about International Affairs, Science and Technology, I want to have this opportunity. I know I wouldn't have it without the school or without the Sam Nunn School

Host: Do you have any advice for students who are interested in applying for the scholarship?

Angelique: I do most definitely, first I just want to say I don't be discouraged because my only hesitancy was that I was really like nervous at first because I hadn't taken that many computer science classes. People are really here to help you and mentor you and there are other students like me that are going through that as well and you're more than capable. Sometimes I feel like as liberal arts students here we really have to have faith that we are you know just as capable and always as any other students at Georgia Tech. If you want to study something a different subject like cyber security for me, if you want to get a minor in engineering or something let you go ahead and do it like you're really brilliant too. So just don't be discouraged, don't let that keep you from applying. I know for me something else that made me nervous I first was thinking that doing a cybersecurity related thing will keep me from being able to do other things but honestly like technology is moving forward and being a part of those fields has done nothing but really help me have more opportunity has a hindered me and my passion for international security and travel and just like love for international affairs. If you have any interest, I really consider it like looking into it because it's really great honestly.

Host: Is there anything else you would like to add or any final words?

Angelique: Yeah, I mean again, I want to thank the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs for just being a wonderful department, the Ivan Allen College. I've had a lot of support systems while I've been here at Georgia Tech and I really value liberal arts at Tech a lot. I'm just really thankful for all the friends I've made as well and for Professor Goodman for nominating me and my friends and my family, and my wonderful church home. I wouldn't be able to do things like that like this if it wasn't if it was just me, so I am thankful.

Host: Well that concludes our interview. Thank you for sharing your insight and expertise with our audience today.

Angelique: Thanks

Outro: This has been career talks a podcast of the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech brought to you by the Nunn School academic services this and other podcast can be found on our website at www.inta.gatech.edu. Thank you for listening.