

# MY POSTGRADUATE EXPERIENCE

MAGALIE MASAMBA



# Who is Magalie Masamba?

- ▶ Citizen of the world
- ▶ Independent consultant and corporate lawyer specialised in international trade and investment promotion and risk mitigation in emerging markets
- ▶ Articles of clerkship (Bowman Gilfillan)
- ▶ LLM in International Trade and Investment Law (University of Pretoria)
- ▶ LLB (Walter Sisulu University)
- ▶ Lover of Africa and all things African (including African based postgraduate studies)



# Decisions, Decisions!!!

- ▶ The first step...asking myself the “BIG SIX QUESTIONS”:
  1. Is a postgraduate degree worth it?
  2. Is a postgraduate degree for me?
  3. What should I study?
  4. Where should I study?
  5. How will I fund my studies?
  6. Full-time v part-time studies?



Applications, applications, applications



Transitioning from the work environment  
to full time studies.

Making a big life change  
is pretty scary.

But, know what's even  
scarier?

Regret.

# My University of Pretoria experience

- ▶ Life and studying in Pretoria
- ▶ Lecturing style and content
- ▶ How practical were the courses?
- ▶ Visiting South African institutions and firms
- ▶ Who were my classmates?
- ▶ Networking opportunities
- ▶ The social life (yes this is important too!!)



Is doing an exchange semester  
abroad a good option?



# My University of Amsterdam experience

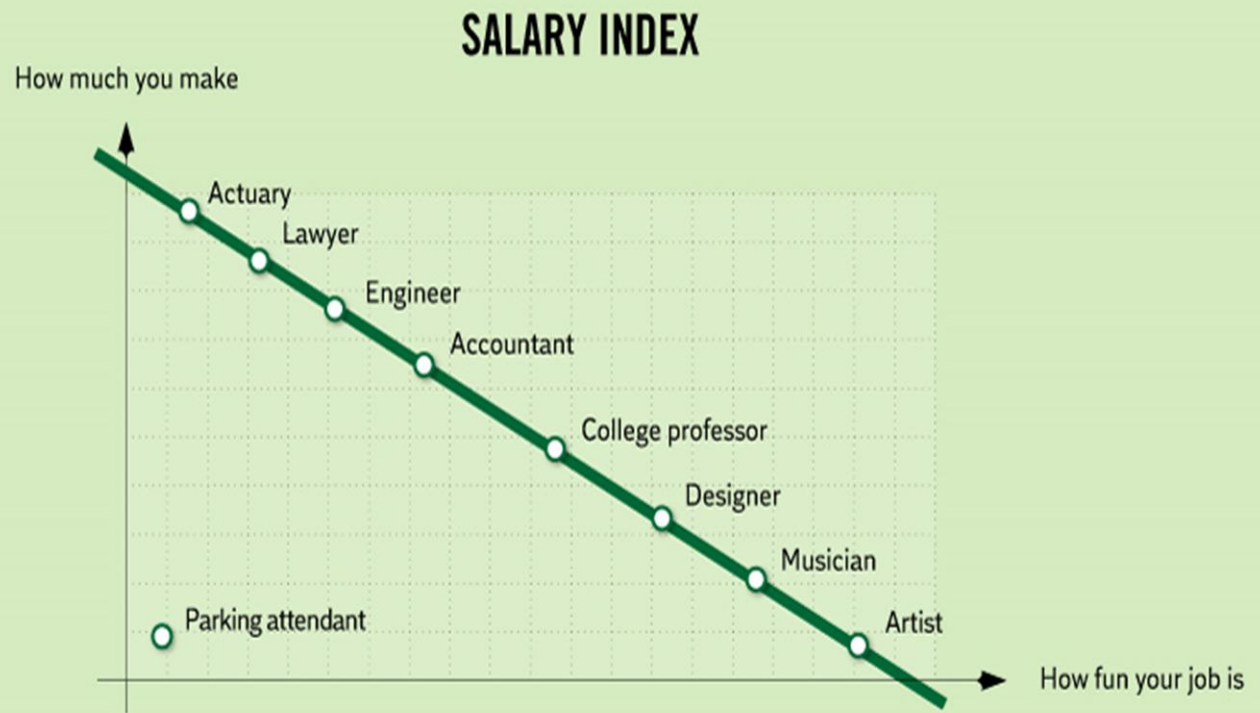
- ▶ Life and studying in Amsterdam v Pretoria
- ▶ Lecturing style and content
- ▶ How practical were the course?
- ▶ Visiting international and European institutions
- ▶ Who were my classmates?
- ▶ Networking opportunities
- ▶ The social life (yes this is important too!!)



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



# Life after my LLM: expectations v reality



Thank You!  
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