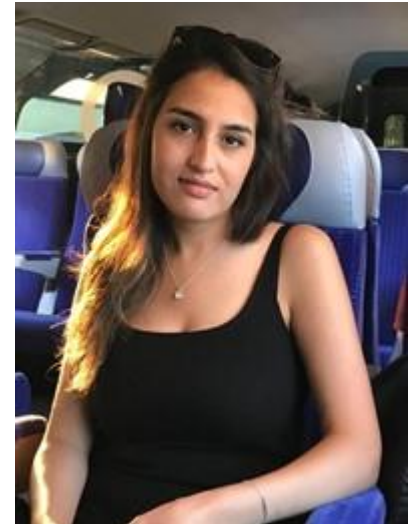


Ronahi Said

Bachelor Studies as Early Childhood Education Specialist, Mälardalens University of Västerås, Sweden

After starting my studies in “Language and Communication” at the University of Västerås, I realised that although I had completed C1 in Swedish a year before, the level of the academic language was still too much of a challenge for me. Due to this fact and the level of my writing capacities, I felt like my comrades could probably work more efficiently in group works without me.

With a certain level of frustration, I took the decision in January 2021 to terminate this course. This was not an easy decision to make because I had always considered the fact that I had been able to go to university back in Syria a privilege which I wanted to hold on to under any circumstances.



At the same time, the Swedish government changed the regulations for refugees in terms of residency, which directly affects me. I am therefore still threatened by a possible rejection of my asylum application in Sweden. My residency permit expired in December 2021, and it will now take some time until I know whether my future status will again be semi-permanent only or if I can count on being allowed to stay for good. It is well known that the chances of being granted the right to stay improves massively if one stands on one's own two feet financially.

These various aspects have led me to look for a Bachelor program that will allow me to graduate and get a job in a short time. During my search, I came across a suitable program called “early childhood education specialist” which I started in April 2021. My motivation was and still is that I love children and like to work with them. I used to volunteer with refugee children during my time in Greece and really enjoyed it.

I'm very happy with my decision. I am progressing, which is very important to me, and I feel much more confident. I am in the right place and I'm even starting to think about doing higher studies after finishing.

I'm blessed and thankful for being supported by SAO and all its amazing members. I will do my very best to make them and myself proud being able to stand on my own feet.