



Clémence and Maël at NASA Space School

Elaine: I'm with two very talented students at College Saint-Charles in Saint-Brieuc and they are going to introduce themselves and tell you why we are interested in talking to them. Over to you.

Clémence: Good afternoon everybody. My name is Clémence Le Vay and I am six... seventeen years old and I am a student in junior high school, um, in economic and social sciences at Saint-Charles La Providence.

Elaine: And you?

Maël: Hi, good afternoon. I am Maël Renault and I am from Saint-Charles too and I am in scientific, uh, for five grade, or seventh grade, and too I went to NASA last summer with Clémence.

Elaine: So why did you, first of all you Clémence, why did you, um, apply to be part of the NASA space school project?

Clémence: Well, uh, first of all space is used by all other countries which requires agreements, and understanding. Astronauts are the ambassadors of their own country and they also share and demonstrate those skills and abilities. International cooperation has been a guiding the philosophy for NASA and it has never been more important than it is today. So, international cooperation is the key for successful space exploration and development. The United Space School, um, was an enjoyable experience to understand the strength of NASA. Then, uh, one of my ultimate ambitions was to enhance my, um, my spac..., spatial knowledge about spatial innovations because I really enjoyed reading articles on this topic. And, uh, finally the United Space School has definitely strengthened my, uh, linguistic skills, and particularly my capacity to talk about um, scientific subjects.

Elaine: Excellent. Right, well, what wonderful motivation for you. And you Maël?

Maël: Well, first of all I think I am, because I am simply fascinated by science, by mathematics and particularly by space, and, uh, I heard about this project in Saint-Charles because I am here since I'm, I'm ten, I think. So, I saw it in the papers and the newspapers and something, all the students who went to NASA and I was like, um, ah, it's, it was like a dream for me to be part of the project. So when I learned that I was selected for this project I was so amazed.

Elaine: Over the moon, perhaps. Literally, almost.



Maël: So, yeah, um, I think it was, uh, also for me a sort of way to discover my professional and, um, my job, a sort of topic where I want to work, where I want to work actually.

Elaine: What did you have to do, uh, Clémence to be accepted?

Clémence: Well, we both had to do the same thing so do you want to explain it?

Maël: Yes, of course. Uh, well, first of all we had to do a letter of motivation both in French and English, and then we have to do, we had to do a curriculum vitae on what we did, and so. You want to explain the, the second part?

Clémence: And also, the second part was that we had to do some assignments on math, mathematics, um, like economics, the economic part of NASA.

Maël: And law, to study the space law, for example.

Elaine: It's very rigorous. Could you describe a typical day there?

Clémence: Well, we would get up at around 6:30.

Maël: Yes, something like that

Clémence: A.M., like in the morning.

Maël: Depends on the family.

Clémence: Yes, and we were in different families there and so we would take our breakfast and then go to the university so um, it was the University of, um, Houston. And so we would just, um, gather all together and start the day with a little speech of the, of the man who was the director of the program and then we would like basically just work on our project, because we were in different teams, so Maël and I were in the Gold Team so we were, um, doing work on, um, space laws. And also the economic part of the project on Mars, and do you want to explain what we did there?

Maël: To summarise our goal was to manage all the things that was on the ground of th... of the Earth. There was different teams well, we are the ground, there was a team to who cares about the launch, there was a team who cares about the, I don't have the words, on the... where you when you land on Mars.

Elaine: Right. It's the landing I would think, the disembarkation.

Maël: Yes, that's good, that is right and our team cares about the... all the team, the astronaut team and something and something, so we were, we had



special goals. We know what we want to do and what we had to do and that was very, very strict and yeah, it was a....

Elaine: A long day.

Maël: A long day.

Elaine: So you slept well.

Maël: Yeah, that's right.

Clémence: Not so many hours but and after kind of school, we would, um, just visit, um, Houston and the museums in the city and of course the Johnson Space Center. We spent an entire day there.

Elaine: The other students, uh, who were on this course, where did they come from?

Maël: Uh all over the world. First, all the countries of the Commonwealth, and because we have a, a strai... very straight links between the Great Britain and the USA about the national program, and then, uh, France, Germany, or even Russia and, uh, from countries of the South America also.

Elaine: Was everything, was everything that you did was it in English, did you have to use English?

Clémence: Yes, we did and all the assignments too, different from what we did at school of course but, and the first time we just met everybody else they were just talking like fluent English because they came from countries where English was the mother tongue so it was, we had to adapt ourselves to when we arrived there.

Elaine: You had to tune in to it.

Clémence: Yeah, kind of.

Elaine: You have to tune in, don't you, and....

Clémence: It was extremely interesting just to work together because the NASA project is like teamwork is everything so we had to, um, share our ideas, to compare opinions and to combine efforts to have a final project.

Maël: Yeah.

Elaine: How do you think this experience that you've had, this amazing experience, will be useful in your future?



Clémence: Well, personally, um, this, the United Space School, allowed me to consider from a wide angle international affairs and it is a vested area, a vested interest that I have deepened for years in order to work in French diplomacy, and I do believe, um, I am sure it will constitute a great springboard for my future ambitions, for my future projects.

Elaine: Well of course it will, I am sure the fact that you've.... what do you plan to do?

Maël: Well, I think that first I learned a lot by myself, because we did a...I know now how can I work and I can be a part of a team. I want to work in that topic and, um, yeah, I think it's my new occupation now.

Elaine: What was particularly special, would you say, about your time. When you came back, what did you want to say to people?

Clémence: I guess the first thing was the culture fair, because, um, it took place on the first day of when we were there, and so every single country had to prepare both, um, a meal that represented their country and also like a dance, or song or a joke, um, that yeah, was just embodied, um, their country and so it was extremely like, deeply interesting and fascinating to see all those countries, um, together, like just a, a big melting pot altogether and to, to discover them like in just one day like, we were in, like, a world tour in one day.

Elaine: Amazing.

Maël: It's our goal because we are going to space, we don't want to be very split. We want a, a good, uh, union in order to make the final conquest of space.

Elaine: You, Maël, what did you bring back as a particular memory?

Maël: Ah, I think that, um, the most important thing that I will not forget that is I met very passionate astronauts there. He was so passionate about space, about what he did that I was like, I want to be like this man. I want to make my life like him and have a work where, where everything you do is the dream every day.

Elaine: A truly inspirational person.

Maël: Yeah.

Elaine: Absolutely. Well, I think you should be immensely proud of yourselves and pat yourself on the back as we say, and I wish you the very, very best of luck in the future and I can only say that your command of English is excellent. And just hang onto that and work at it because that will take you in the world today so far.

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Clémence: OK, thank you for seeing us.

Maël: Thank you very much.