

SUCCESS STORY

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I made my decision about my future profession when I was studying at secondary school. I was thinking about working in IT. Then, I decided to study at a vocational school, focussing on computers. In that period, computers were not popular and there was no computer education at vocational schools. Then, I decided to study electronics which was the only similar programme to IT. Day by day, I started loving electronics more and I feeling myself belong to this profession.

When I graduated from high school, I started to think that university education was unnecessary for me. Besides, some economic problems encouraged me to start the working life quickly.

I found a job and passed the exam at Anadolu University EMYO where I was hired as a technician. Accordingly, I improved my IT skills at the working place.

STUDYING A DEGREE IN DISTANCE EDUCATION SYSTEM



The place where I work was a university. I was thinking about the prestige of having a university degree and I was encouraged by people around me very much to go for a university degree. Then, in 1993, I decided to study at Anadolu University Open Education Faculty which was offering a university education while students can actively continue their professional life. I chose studying an undergraduate degree at Department of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations at Economics Faculty. After four years, I had a graduate degree which was something I was proud of. However, the degree did not have a direct contribution to my own job.

In order to advance in my profession, to upgrade my title and increase my salary, I had to study something related to electronics.

STUDYING AT A TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

In 2002, people who were graduated from technical high schools had an opportunity to start for an associate degree in their field without any entrance exam. I could study evening education but it would be hard for me to follow the courses in the evenings as I was working full time. Then, in 2009, I decided to start evening education for an associate degree for 2 years. I made some research on how the system works and applied for the programme which accepts students without an entrance exam. During my research, I found out that electronics could be studied by distance education as well. This sounded like a very entertaining, flexible and advantageous education programme for me.

My first choice was Sakarya University as the city was near Eskisehir and the university was one of the first institutions in this system. I was allocated to Electronic Technology Programme at Adapazarı Vocational School. When I received the acceptance letter, I was nervous and happy as if I received an undergraduate programme offer.

Meeting people who are in the same situation, supporting each other while preparing assignments and studying for exams, studying courses online, going to Sakarya for final exams were all great experiences. Moreover, making new friends at the student hotel, experiencing being a student at the canteen, campus garden and exam halls were amazing experiences too. It was definitely worth for all stress and tiredness. I was working hard and becoming successful. Sakarya became one of the cities I like very much. Still, I sometimes go to Sapanca for travelling.

As it had been quite long time ago that I gave up studying, I was a bit anxious at the beginning concerning how to find time to study, how to learn the course topics that I forgot long time ago. However, being awarded by honour degrees made me so happy as it was the result of my hardworking.

Would it be hard to study a technical programme like electronic technology, and would it bring in something for a student? I was thinking about these questions at the beginning but I forgot about it when I started the programme. The courses were the same like formal education curriculum. All topics were shared on the internet weekly and students were responsible of all topics before the exams. Preparing the assignments which were about each different course and sitting for midterm exams on the internet were very good preparations for the final exams. Besides, the time I spent at my office was accepted as a compulsory training which made things easier for me.

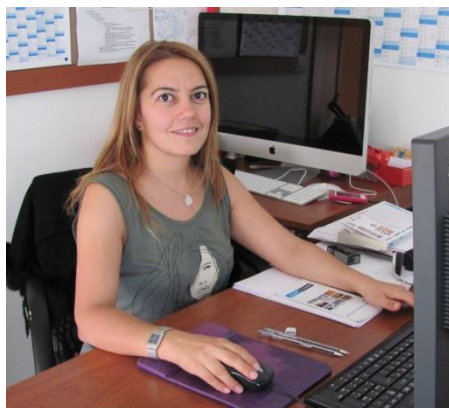
THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF DISTANCE EDUCATION FOR ME

Studying distance education is more expensive than formal education. If I did not have a job, it would be quite hard to pay for it. Graduating from the programme provided me a better status at the office and brought some financial advantages.

MY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE

Now I would like to study an upper programme here or abroad provided that it does not make me tired and it is not expensive.

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Hülya EKER was graduated from Eskişehir Yunusemre Technical High School. She worked as a technician at Anadolu University Eskişehir Vocational School between 1993 and 2000. She has been working as a technician at Anadolu University Communication Sciences Faculty since 2000. She graduated from Anadolu University Department of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations at Economics Faculty in 1997. Lastly, she completed Electronic Technology Programme at Adapazarı Vocational School at Sakarya University.

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