



ArcticTerns

Worldschooling Newsletter

Derisha, about her educational journey

The educational part while Worldschooling can be done in many different ways. From formal school education to unschooling and anything in between. Derisha Leeflang is doing Universal Learner Courses from Arizona State University. A program that is very popular by Worldschooling teens. In this newsletter she tells about her experience with ASU and her educational journey in general.

Every Worldshooler has a story to tell

Every traveling family has a unique background, experience or knowledge, that they can share with other to expand and inspire.

In our newsletter we offer a platform to all the different stories that are out there.

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- Derisha Leeflang, about her educational journey
- See you later Bansko!

Derisha Leeflang, about her educational journey

Can you introduce yourself and your travels?

I'm Derisha, I'm 16 years old, and I've been traveling since I was 4. I travel with my mother, my brother, and my cat. We've visited a lot of countries, mainly visiting Mexico, Europe, and South America, and out of everywhere we've gone, I'd say my favourite place is Mexico. I would love to visit Asia too, but that's for future plans :). I've gotten to know a lot of other worldschoolers too, and have made some amazing friends because of it.

How do you do schooling?

I've been taking courses at ASU (Arizona State University) since I was 12. ASU really works for me, since I can do the courses whenever and wherever I want. Most courses have weekly deadlines, where you have to complete your readings, assignments, and quizzes before the deadline, but within the week you're free to work whenever. There's no video chat classes either, which makes it perfect for when you're across the world in a completely different timezone :). Some courses are even completely self paced, where there's no weekly deadlines, you just finish the coursework whenever you want. The flexibility isn't just in when you do the coursework. You can choose whichever courses you're interested in and however many you want. I love that, because that means that when our hubs are going on, I can choose to focus more on the hubs by taking on less courses. You can even choose whether or not you want to put a course on your transcript after you've taken it. So if I'm not happy with the result of a course, I can choose not to put it on my transcript, and maybe even redo it.



Besides the flexibility, which is of course great for worldschooling, my personal favourite thing about ASU is the variety of courses it has. I'm not taking the courses for a particular degree, but purely out of my own interest. Right now, for example, I'm taking a trilogy of project management courses, since I'm really interested in that especially with what I do for Worldschoooling Bansko & Netherlands. There's such an big array of courses, that if I want to do all that interest me I'd for sure still be going for a year.

I also learn a lot, in my opinion even more than through my courses, through organizing Worldschoooling Bansko & Worldschoooling Netherlands together with my mom. When I was 12 we started up Worldschoooling Bansko for the first year, after losing all our social life that we had in Mexico because of the pandemic. Since the start I've been involved in all the aspects of starting up something like that. The marketing, accounting, law, organising of activities, website building, contact with other businesses, and difficult questions or decisions, I've all been involved with. Even since the beginning I've been working on it full time, which has really given me so much

knowledge about all aspects of creating, managing, and growing a business. I feel like my experience with Worldschoooling Bansko & Worldschoooling Netherlands, while not always sunshine and rainbows, has really given me an excitement to continue this path in the future, and I don't think any textbook or any course could match what this whole experience has given me.



How did you receive education when you were younger?

Growing up, I've always just told my mom what I wanted to learn, and my mom would find the courses for me to

learn it. I didn't really follow a straight course in what I wanted to learn either, there were periods where I only wanted to do math, where I would sprint through a years worth of math in a very short period of time, others where I refused to do any kind of math, and sometimes I would focus a lot on drawing and art. I've also been very interested in business from a young age. Even when I was 2 I had a pancake "restaurant" where I would hire my aunt (paid in pancakes) to cook pancakes for my family for a fee. And as I've gotten older this drive for business has only grown thanks to the support my mom has given towards it, at any opportunity trying to help me learn more about it. The worldschooling itself also taught me a lot, visiting museums wherever we would go, and the experience of visiting different countries by itself too. Learning so many different cultures, different ways of looking at things, just having your worldview be expanded like that, especially from a young age, is enough of a learning experience in itself if you ask me.

What is your plan for the future?

In short, I'm not sure yet. Business has always interested me, and after now learning so much from running our hubs it's undeniable I'll be going down that path, the specifics just aren't clear to me yet. Depending on which direction I'll want to go, I'll either be able to use my ASU credits to smoothly enter a university, or to get a highschool degree through an umbrellaschool. Regardless, I've still got time to figure out where exactly I want to go with my life :).

What is **your** story? Share it with the Worldscool world.

See you later Bansko!

The streets of Bansko are empty. The restaurants, the shops, the bars, they are all closed. I am having trouble finding some food and decide to hop by the local supermarket and fill myself up with snacks instead. Bansko breathes the energy of satisfaction. We did an amazing job, so much busyness going on, now it is time for a break. Yes, it feels satisfying. And yes, it feels like we are done with Bansko for this season, and ready for our next adventure.

My apartment is as empty as the streets of Bansko. Not the energy of satisfaction though. More chaos and stress. Suitcases everywhere, stack of stuff that will go, will stay, or need to be organised. And papers, a lot of papers. Papers with important information on it that should have been taken care of a long time ago, and that are now about to receive the attention that they deserve. Soon.

For now it is fine. Everything we could do before leaving, we did. Everything that we couldn't do, we will do as soon as possible. Getting Worldscooling Bansko 2025 online was one of the things that we did not make before leaving. We will continue to work on it and will get it online within a few weeks. After we will be putting Worldscooling Netherlands online soon. We know people are waiting for the information, ready to sign up, and we do take that seriously and will come with the information as soon as we can.

For now, the excitement about our new location is slowly setting in. Playa del Carmen Mexico it will be. A place where we have spend a lot of time in the past and that is a second home to our family. I am so ready for the sun,

and seeing back old friends, eating good Mexican food, walking at the beach with Mexican music on the background. Yup, we have a hard life :-)

We are going to enjoy the sun, while working hard to get everything online. And who knows what else we will be up to in Mexico!



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Mr de beerenbrouckstraat 25A, Dongen
Netherlands

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