

## Report

Having decided to pursue a career change and start a career path in Human Resources, I applied for a Masters in International HR Management with Queen Mary University in 2017/8. During my Masters, not only did I become familiar with the fundamentals of the profession but I also engaged in stimulating conversations and research projects with regards to contemporary issues faced by HR professionals internationally. Part of my academic tasks was to produce a 12,000 words dissertation which would be based on my original research. Coming from a small, relatively conservative and patriarchal society, I decided to qualitatively explore the effect of motherhood in women's career progression within high-demanding industries in Cyprus. Due to the nature of my research, a face-to-face meeting with the interested participants was the best option; hence, my trip to Cyprus was a must. Being a full-time student with limited financial resources, it was great to know that the university offered financial support to Masters students regarding their dissertation research; I, therefore, applied and received a bursary of £250 which I used to book my return flights to Cyprus and to also buy a recording device for my interviews. My fieldwork lasted two weeks during which I conducted 13 interviews with employed mothers within the Financial and Professional Services while in my 'free' time, I was transcribing verbatim the content of each conversation. My overall experience was beyond exciting and rewarding and gave me an insight into the challenges and hard-work that qualitative researchers need to put in place in order to produce good quality of research. I would, therefore, like to thank the Expedition Fund team who approved my application for this bursary and I hope that more and more students will be benefited from such initiatives in the future.