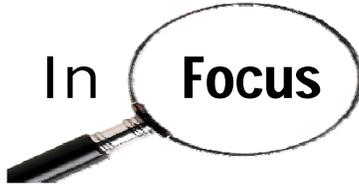


Candidates



Zeyad Elsaadi

Industry: Information Technology
Job Title: Partner and Senior Consultant
Organization: Protak Consulting Group
Career Experience: 8 years

Zeyad, when you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I always wanted to train to be a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer (RCMP) when I was younger, the reason for this choice was driven by many factors. My ambition for this career derived from my passion to want to help people & ensure that Canadians felt safe in their everyday environments. I admired that the RCMP organization had a very strong culture with proud members, and I wanted to be a part of this type of organization. Finally, at that age, the idea of relocating across Canada every few years was of a major interest to me- partially because I wanted to move away from Cornwall, Ontario and never go back!

Choosing to complete an Executive MBA is a big consideration. What would you say was the turning point for choosing the Telfer Executive MBA Program?

I did spend a few years researching the various options of MBA programs, including the online options. I found that the Telfer Executive MBA was geared towards my learning style. The Program brings mid to senior level individuals together into one room with the objective to collaborate, learn and deliver 'real-life' projects in a high-intensity environment. Although my initial goal was to get the 'letters' after my name, my view has completely changed once I realized through my research the tools and methodologies the Telfer Executive MBA Program emphasizes within the curriculum. I have been in the Ottawa consulting industry for over eight years, and I have met many senior executives in both the private sector as well as government who have successfully completed this Program, from which I have received great reviews and feedback on their experience and return on investment from the Program.

Zeyad, what qualities do you admire in a mentor? Do you have someone you consider a strong mentor in your own life?

I admire a leader's abilities on several qualities: to drive the organizational vision, motivation, open communication, commitment and inspiration. With that said, the soft skills are essential, including their ability to engage in humour and face humility. I have had several mentors who have helped me throughout my career. Although I never knew him personally, Steve Jobs, the former CEO of Apple, I consider an indirect mentor in my life. His ability to launch a product long before the marketplace even knew they required the product still astonishes me. If I can achieve 10% of his leadership skills in my lifetime, I will be a satisfied man.