

A world map with a light gray background. The United States is highlighted in a solid orange color. Poland is highlighted in a solid green color. Three thin purple curved lines originate from the eastern coast of the United States and point towards Poland, suggesting a geographical or thematic connection between the two countries.

FROM THE UNITED STATES TO POLAND

Zahraa Dabaja

Vladyslav Rybak



The Students- International

Vladyslav Rybak is a student at the International University of Logistics and Transport in Wroclaw, Poland. He is currently a Freshman Majoring in Logistics. Vladyslav currently lives in Wroclaw, Poland during the schooling season and returns back to his home Minsk, Belarus. He hopes to one day visit the United States if permitted and wishes to pursue a career in logistics. Vladyslav enjoys E-Sports, Sports, and hiking. He speaks 5 different languages-including English, Russian, and Polish which he learned on his own!



The Students- USA

Zahraa Dabaja is a senior at Wayne State University Student majoring in Supply Chain Management who currently lives in Dearborn, Michigan a city about 10 minutes from Detroit. She is originally from Bint Jbeil, Lebanon. Her hobbies includes basketball, painting and reading.

Describe your educational experience. What are the key milestones? What teaching and learning methods are used?

Vladyslav (Belarus)

As a freshman in University I do not have any big experiences to share yet, however, I am able to say something about education in Polish universities. The main principle of our educational method is to encourage students learn material primarily by themselves in order to develop the most important skill in logistics: skill of self-development. Of course, we have normal classes with lecturers, we do different practical exercises, but the main task of lecturer is not make us learn by heart all the material, but help us solve the problem if we can not do it by ourselves. This way students develop self-responsibility that is important in logistics, especially when you have problems with supplies, timetable, procurement e.t.c.

Zahraa (USA)

My educational experience has been interesting. I dabbled in many different majors before finally landing in the Wayne State Mike Ilitch School of Business. I have a background in the medical field and even got into Physical Therapy school before switching to business because it was what I wanted for myself and my life. At the Mike Ilitch School of Business, I was able to get a lot of exposure from the projects we have done in our class with companies like Fiat Chrysler and Ford as well as having guest speakers come into our lectures from companies all around the world.

Analysis:

No matter where you go, your educational experience is what you make it. Regardless of staying home for college or traveling to a completely different country, you have the resources within your institute to excel and opportunities at every corner. Vladyslav mentioned he had to learn Polish before moving to Poland to begin his education. He learned the language on websites created for people seeking to learn new languages. I was so impressed because although I've always wanted to learn an additional language, I would have never thought to or even try to learn it on my own. It made me feel blessed to live in a country with so many options and opportunities spread across and to be so close to my home while still attending school.

Vladyslav described their learning methods to be a lot like the way this specific course Global Supply Chain 5620 is set up as well as all of the supply chain courses I have taken thus far. Our professors force us to think far and use tactics that you would not need to solve problems in other classes. All the GSC courses have taught me how to think farther than I need to.

What attitudes/mindsets exist in your country (people, politics) regarding globalization and trade?

Vladyslav (Belarus)

The situation about globalization and trade in Poland becomes better and better annually. According to European statistics Poland has the 5th place in rating of the most developing countries in Europe. This is due to Polish economy. We are included in European Union, so we have strong relationships between other countries in terms of trades and material support, but our advantage to other European Union countries is that we have our own currency (named as Zloty). So, as a fact, we have the same percentage of GDP, import and export like in Europe, but the value of Zloty is less in comparison with EURO. It makes prices for products significantly less than in Europe. That is why almost all European countries, a lot of middle west countries, a lot of Asian countries are desiring to have good trade relationships with Poland. It contributes to Polish economy and makes it a sustainable country.

Zahraa (USA)

Globalization is not completely evil but also not completely good. My country's attitude and mindset regarding globalization and trade is pretty open. We outsource to keep up with demand and keep costs low which is why it is a very good thing. It could also be a bad thing when it comes to trade during difficult times such as the Covid-19 pandemic or when you put into perspective how many jobs we send to other countries. Overall though, it has been positive here in the United States.

Analysis:

The United States currently holds a Free Trade Agreement with 20 different countries which sounded similar to Vladyslav's explanation of how trade is conducted in Poland as well upon the European countries.

What leadership/management/communication practices are most popular in your country? What are taught in schools and used by companies?

Vladyslav (Belarus)

I consider that in management practice, Polish people use different managerial skills in order to control work process appropriately. Technical, communication, decision making are the most popular managerial skills in management branch. What about communication? So, in order to achieve the best productivity and time efficiency from employee side, our managers use good communicative skills. We prefer to motivate people by giving bonuses for good work rather than punish them for not doing enough job volume. Our managers are open-minded, reliable and self-responsible. These qualities help them achieve goals in minimum time. If we talk about leadership, I can not say your specific type because in Poland we use so many diverse methods that depend on situation.

Zahraa (USA)

Emotional intelligence is a big leadership/management/communication practice that are most popular in my country. It is taught in schools and has been used in the companies I have worked at. They encourage self-awareness, self-regulation, staying motivated, show empathy, and use your social skills to in school and at work to achieve your personal goals and the goals of the company. Every person in a company and at the learning institution are essential to success because everyone in an institution has the same goal and if we are all communicating correctly emotionally and socially, we are able to achieve these goals.

Analysis:

When it comes to management practices across any company or part of the world, communication and management is key to a successful company. If you lead correctly; you will achieve the results in a timely manner. But at the end of the day it all depends on how.

What careers in global supply chain management are most popular in your country? What are taught in schools and used by companies?

Vladyslav (Belarus)

I think that the most popular careers in global supply chain in Poland are sourcing and purchasing logistician, procurement manager, demand planer and production warehouse manager. As I mentioned in previous answers that Poland has a lot of trades with different countries, therefore, this professions are in demand in Poland.

Zahraa (USA)

I believe the most popular career in global supply chain management in the United States that is really focused on in school and encouraged is manufacturing. Supply chains begin with the process of manufacturing and getting the end product into the hands into the customers. In schools we are taught low cost sourcing and I have seen it used in companies when looking at how to do things efficiently, at low cost, but at the best quality.

Analysis:

What I learned most from this project is that supply chain is universal. Every company in every industry in every part of the world requires these positions and are ultimately done very similar. Vladyslav was describing during our interview a position he had taken in a warehouse and told us about his goals and his required skills as well as the process. I am currently interning at DTE Energy and have worked in a warehouse as well. Although we work in two different countries and industries, we compared concerns and challenges that seem to be universal. You can get a job anywhere in the world with a supply chain degree as well as the skills you learn in your classes outside of supply chain oriented jobs which is very interesting.

How is technology impacting the profession and global supply chain industry in your country?

Vladyslav (Belarus)

Technology plays important role in global supply chain industry in Poland. We pay a lot of attention to development of new technologies because it helps Poland to save significant amount of money by using modern technique, implementing operational technologies, exploring new approaches to management methods e.t.c. As a fact, we have strong competition on polish markets, so that if companies would like to “survive” on market they must contribute money, patience and time into developing new methods and approaches.

Zahraa (USA)

Technology impacting the profession and global supply chain industry in my country has made it so much easier and fast to produce goods. Companies here are opting into 3D printing which is extremely efficient with time and with the product. We are learning how to use technology to up our production and help save time.

Analysis:

Technology is helping evolve the manufacturing world. The future is technology and I feel like within the supply chain industry, you can never go wrong with advancing your systems and the assembly.

Describe the approach taken by your government and country toward sustainability in the supply chain?

Vladyslav (Belarus)

From my point of view, government makes our supply chain business sustainable by doing two things. First, they keep good atmosphere for making businesses ,specifically, they take a few taxes per month for private businesses and give compromising credits for young start-ups in order to provide best services for citizens. Second thing is that they support trading business between countries by law supply. It means that they involve diverse laws in constitutions that allow having best trade environment.

Zahraa (USA)

The approach taken by our government and country toward sustainability in the supply chain is based on a simple principle- everything that we need is for our survival and wellbeing depends either directly or indirectly on our natural environment. To be sustainable you need to create and maintain conditions in which humans and nature can coexist to support the present and future generations without negatively affecting one another. The United States has eliminated the use of toxic chemicals to make sure products are nontoxic and are safe for everyone.

Analysis:

A sustainable supply chain is vital in countries and governments. In order to keep the us evolving we have to make sure we are contributing our part to keep the air, land, and water on Earth clean. Based on our conversation our governments could be doing a bigger part to contribute to it but it will take time. We also both talked about how sustainability is not a big part of what is taught in our universities. We both saw it essential to our supply chain but very little is taught on it. We need to take initiative to make sure we do our part.