

INTERVIEW WITH SIGNE THIIM EBBESEN

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**BA AND MA IN ENGLISH
MINOR IN JOURNALISM**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? AND WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE FINISHING UNI?

I was lucky enough to get offered the first job I applied for after handing in my thesis, which means I'm currently working in Barcelona as a Computational Linguist. Linguistics has since the start been the "leg" that I've been the most interested in while studying English, so when I came across M47 Labs who were looking to recruit a Danish linguist in Barcelona, I simply had to go for it! The job consists of improving a cutting-edge Personal Voice Assistant software that is used by millions of people worldwide. This means I'm responsible for helping the Voice Assistant understand and speak Danish by focusing on the phonetics and phonology. As someone who's been very passionate about phonetics since the 1st semester of the BA, I couldn't be more excited about what I'm doing.

HOW HAS YOUR TIME AT UNI PREPARED YOU FOR YOUR CURRENT JOB?

This is one of those jobs where I actually feel like it's very clear what knowledge and which competencies I'm using from the degree in my job. I'm not allowed to share many details about the specifics of my job (non-disclosure agreements and all that), but it's very much about the phonetics and phonology of Danish. Even though I've been used to transcribing English, I've still acquired a broad enough understanding of IPA conventions that I'm able to transcribe Danish as well. I also use my knowledge of other linguistic-related fields in my day-to-day tasks.



WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU LEARNED DURING YOUR TIME AT UNI?

To just go for it! I've always been an overthinker, and I'm not good with change, but my time at uni has definitely taught me that good things often come from stepping out of your comfort zone. I learned this, for example, by going on exchange in England, which was one of the best experiences I've ever had. I felt at home straight away, and I had so much fun stepping out of that comfort zone - as is the case right now in Barcelona.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY FROM YOUR TIME AT THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT?

It has to be the Friday bars, Yule Ball and just all the friends I made from studying English. The social life at the English Department is truly the best, and I believe I've made friends for life during those five years. Fantastic teachers and being able to be super nerdy and passionate about linguistics is, of course, not to be forgotten either!

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE?

I'm quite happy and content with where I'm at as of right now, but being abroad has once again just made me wonder which destination is next. Especially if I want to continue working as a linguist. But I'm open to anything and I enjoy just taking it day by day, so who knows? Maybe I'll be back in Denmark in 5 months, maybe I'll be someplace else.