

Learner Profile

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Title: Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer

Office: South Sudan

Nationality: Ugandan

Why did you register for Rosetta Stone?

One of my core responsibilities as a Reporting Officer is documenting the organization's work. A significant hurdle I faced when I had just arrived was the inability to directly interface with the people whose stories I was writing because of the language barrier. Whereas most of the refugees and host community spoke Arabic, I was limited to English and a sputter of French. As such, I relied heavily on my translators. My desire to have front-seat access to the powerful life stories of refugees and their host community drove me to register for Rosetta Stone.

What do you like most about the program?

You are fully in; or you are out. Everything is in Arabic! I love that it is a complete immersion programme. This forces me to fully engage my faculties when I am doing my course work. In many ways, this full immersion is similar to what I face when I am in the refugee camps or with the host community.

How often do you access the program?

I try my best to put in a few minutes every day, but sometimes only manage a few days every week.

When do you typically use the program?

Since this programme is fully immersive, I have found that I apply myself best to the coursework during my prime time. And that is I typically in the morning.

Give an example of a time you have used what you have learnt with the program?

I use Arabic on a daily basis to interface with the refugees and host community whose stories I write.



How will your new language skills help you in the future?

As a Reporting Officer, language is the currency in which I trade. In many ways, my career advancement opportunities are limited to the scope of my language. For this reason, having an extra language under ones belt, especially one recognized as an official UN language, adds significant mileage to a Reporting Officer's career development.

What tips can you provide to your peers on how they can also take advantage of this opportunity?

Just do it!

If you had the opportunity would you recommend Rosetta Stone to a colleague?

Would I?!! I single-handedly influenced four other UNVs in the South Sudan operation to sign up for Rosetta Stone. Where I come from, they say sharing is caring.