Alumni Interview

Klimentina Chapovska



IMB

33th Generation

How would you briefly describe your career path and what do you do today?
My career path has been quite diverse. Even though I was always organizing something new in high school, my love for physics and math took the lead, and I decided to study electrical engineering, focusing on automation and robotics. But that didn't stop me, I kept running events, tutoring and helping other students. Through that I realized that the people side of business is where I want to focus. That is what brought me to IMB, where I chose the Technology Management module so I could connect my technical background with business. Today, I've discovered a completely new field for myself and started working with AI, and I've stayed open to new opportunities and everything there is still to learn.

What initially motivated you to choose IMB for your studies?
After three years of engineering and many hours in the lab, I was curious about what happens inside a company beyond the engineering side. I wanted to learn the core of economics and business, from balance sheets and corporate finance to marketing and pitching a startup. What made IMB stand out was the chance to apply all of that in real projects, learn from guest speakers and international professors, and meet people from very different backgrounds and industries.

How did your studies at IMB contribute to your professional development (knowledge, skills, mindset)?
IMB gave me a solid foundation in economics and business, but even more, it changed the way I think. In engineering, there is usually one right answer but in business, it almost always starts with "it depends." Working in different teams under tight deadlines, I learned to rely on others, adapt quickly, and sometimes turn a fresh interview into a presentation in just one hour. Moments like that made me much more mature and left me confident that I can handle whatever comes next.

Which course, professor or project at IMB had the greatest impact on you?
Within the Technology Management module, the course that had the biggest impact on me was Modelling and Advanced Data Analytics, because it introduced me to the world of AI. It showed me how much is possible today, and that you no longer need to be a programmer to build something real. Just as valuable were the guest speakers from different industries, especially founders who shared how they built their startups from scratch.

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What key competencies gained during your studies do you use most in your current role?
The competency I use most is the habit of learning on my own. The programme moves so fast that you constantly have to pick up new tools and topics by yourself. It also definitely improved my time management, with several projects and deadlines running at once, I learned to prioritize tasks and focus on what matters most at that moment. Equally important is working with data and turning raw numbers into insights that people can actually act on.

What was the most challenging part of your transition from university to the labour market?
I thought I would finish IMB knowing exactly what I want. Instead, the programme opened so many doors that I found myself in a bit of a dilemma about which one is the right one. What helped me was realizing that there is no single right choice, because every option teaches you something you carry into the next one.

What advice would you give to IMB students who are just beginning their careers?
Say yes more often than feels comfortable. Trust yourself too, because everyone around you is also figuring things out as they go, so don't let doubt hold you back. And make the most of the programme, because it offers far more than what's on the timetable, from events to the people sitting right next to you.

How important were networking and connections built during your studies for your career?
Very important, but not in the way I expected. Before, networking sounded like something formal, business cards and small talk at events. At IMB I realized it's really about the relationships you build over a year of working side by side, and about people who are happy to help when you reach out. Sometimes it's a professor connecting you with a company, sometimes alumni answering your messages, and sometimes a classmate sending you an opportunity you didn't even know you needed.

Which part of your IMB experience do you appreciate more today than you did as a student?
Technically, I'm still a student, but even compared to my first weeks at IMB, I see some things differently. Back then, I was focused on getting everything done on time. Now I realize that what I'll remember most are the moments in between, the late nights before a deadline, the coffee breaks, and the feeling of going through something intense together.

If you had to describe IMB in one sentence, what would you say?
A small programme with a whole world inside it.