

Transcript – Coogcast, Episode 2: The Transfer Experience at UH featuring Pascal and Delaney

[Theme music begins]

Lauren: Welcome to the University of Houston Office of Admissions official Coogcast. Where we talk all things admissions, student life, paying for college, and much more. I'm your host, Lauren, a student here at UH.

[Theme music fades out]

Lauren: We have a special guest host on today's episode, so let me start by introducing my fellow UH ambassador and transfer student Pascal. Welcome.

Pascal: Hi everyone!

Lauren: We're here with our new friend, Delaney, a UH transfer student, ballet and yoga teacher and self-proclaimed Slytherin.

Delaney: *(laughs)* Hi, I'm so excited to be here today!

Lauren: Yeah, we're so excited to have you. So, before we get into the whole transfer process, I must ask you about your passion for Disney; how did you get into it? Especially because I personally have never been to any of the Disney parks. It's one of my goals after I graduate and have a little money after working. How did you get involved with Disney?

Delaney: So, it started at my previous university. I actually decided to take an internship with Walt Disney World. I was working in entertainment at Disney World in the Disney College Program, which a lot of college students do, and that actually turned into a full-time job for about three years. So, I was working there for a while, and I always loved it before, but it wasn't until my internship and my full-time job that I really grew a passion for it, and still to this day, I absolutely love it even though I'm no longer working there.

Lauren: Since we're on the topic, who is your favorite Disney princess or character? Who is that one go-to that you see at the park every single time?

Delaney: Well since I worked in entertainment, and I was around characters all the time, they are all super special to me, but honestly, my favorite princess is Rapunzel I love her story of following her dreams and going out and seeing the world, and then Inside

Out is my favorite movie ever, with Joy and Sadness, because I absolutely love their story; it's really inspiring and it's a great story about, you know, emotions and mental health.

Lauren: I agree! I love that. I love Rapunzel, too. It was refreshing. Pascal, do you have a favorite Disney character?

Pascal: *(laughs)* You know, not right off the top of my head, but I guess Pascal, the little chameleon would be mine.

Lauren: Aw.

Delaney: *(laughs)*

Lauren: Alright, so Delaney, you've shared a lot [on social media] about not just your life, but your experiences navigating college, student debt and having to change plans, and I think a lot of people can relate to that. Do you think you could talk a bit about that and how you came to U of H?"

Delaney: Yeah, so for me, once I was done working for Disney, I just decided that I loved my experience at my previous university, but it was not feasible for me to move back to another state, and out-of-state school is very expensive, so I really didn't want to leave this area again, so I looked into UH, and honestly I was wondering: why did I not look into this before when I first graduated from high school in 2014? I had a lot of friends that went there, but it never really crossed my mind; I think I was very set on the school that I chose. So, I did a little bit of research, you know, I found a program that really resonated with me; it's totally different from what I studied previously. It was all very last minute. I applied a week before the deadline, and then I got accepted and got some very good financial aid, luckily, and now I'm here and I absolutely love it. I do wish I would have thought about it earlier, but I'm happy to be here now.

Lauren: Yeah! And we're happy to have you! And I feel that. I feel like a lot of people relates to wanting to go outside our hometown. We want to experience something outside our hometown, and don't look at colleges in our hometown because of that. Pascal, I know you have a transfer process experience, so do you want to talk about that, too?

Pascal: Yeah, sure. So, I actually transferred in the Fall of 2019. I honestly didn't have much of a list for universities to apply to after community college just because UH is the only university that offers Industrial Design, so my decision was made up for me. I applied to out-of-states schools, but I ended up choosing UH because I went to Cougar Preview Day, which, I'm not sure if you went to that Delaney? It was sort of an orientation for transfer students, and I went on a campus tour with other Industrial Design students at the College of Architecture and that is what really sold me. The conversations I had with them about the study abroad opportunities they

had, like one of the ambassadors giving the tour had gone to Asia, and she was talking about her experience and I could just picture myself going and traveling abroad, which was supposed to happen last year, but because of COVID it didn't end up happening. But I saw that someone else was doing it, so I could see myself doing it, too; so the process was pretty easy.

Lauren: Well, that's good. Not that y'all have very similar stories . . . Y'all come from different backgrounds, Delaney your reasons for coming here were a lot different than Pascal, Pascal, you're from New York (*laughs*) it's completely different, but somehow y'all were able to find what you were looking for at UH. But going into the idea of college and whether it will pay off; I feel like a lot of people come to college with that mindset of: is the college major I choose going to pay off? Am I going to finish in time? If I do, will I graduate with thousands of dollars in debt only to make \$30,000 a year? It becomes this big struggle. I mean, I feel that too, I'm only a junior, but I gotta already start thinking about jobs. A lot of times starting salaries are in the \$30-\$50 thousands, and if people have a ton of college debt, it can be hard to balance the two. What I really appreciate about U of H is that it consistently ranks as a best value college. We always talk about this when we do admissions presentations how the average debt that a student comes out with in college with U of H is a lot lower than the national average. I always point to that, and on top of that, the amount that somebody makes as a starting salary coming out of UH is higher than the national average. So, that's really nice to know. Something that I really appreciate. When you're a U of H [alum] you get the best bang for your buck.

Pascal: Yeah, yeah I totally agree with that. For me, saving money was definitely important because after the two years of community college, my major is four to five years, so I have to stay in school for an additional four years, and that's a lot of money, so I think UH was definitely the right choice for me in terms of saving money. A lot of people don't know that UH has a lot of scholarship opportunities. So, I definitely encourage transfer students especially to look into those and see if they can apply. Delaney, for you, can you talk about your major and sort of what you're hoping to do with your degree?

Delaney: Yeah, and I just wanted to add on what you guys were talking about really quickly too; I just wanted to say that when I came here, I was very pleasantly surprised at the amount of financial aid help and scholarships that UH has and the amount of help that my specific college has already given me. It was very different than my previous university, so again, I would recommend anybody thinking of transferring here, um, everyone has been just amazingly helpful. To answer your question, I am studying Communications Studies with a focus in film and media and I'm actually in the process of adding my minor in Interdisciplinary Arts. So, I was studying theatre performance previously, but after taking five years off school, I kind of decided it wasn't for me anymore. I still love the arts. I didn't have a super specific idea when I

started, but already with the classes I'm taking, I've discovered that I really love Public Relations, you know, whether that is going back to Disney maybe in the future, working for a large company like that with arts, and entertainment and media because it ties the things together that I still enjoy; I love communication studies because it's such a broad major and there are just endless job opportunities and that's what I'm finding, so I'm really excited about what graduating from UH will bring me.

Lauren: I want to touch on something that you mentioned about how whenever you restarted the whole college process again and you were unsure what you wanted to do, but as you did your classes but you kind of figured it out. I feel like a lot of students understand that feeling very well, and a lot of student coming into college are nervous about. . . So I'm glad that you were didn't stray away from it just because it wasn't in your initial plan, but you went with what you really love. That is what is important about college. Not only are you exploring new things, but you also pursue things that you really love. Before we sign off for today, what advice would ya'll have for transfer students? I guess, Delaney, you can go first and then Pascal?

Delaney: I think my advice is -- it sounds kind of vague, but don't be scared. Be open to what a new school brings you. I was nervous coming in as someone who is older, I was nervous to be older, to be new, to not know anything about this school, but like I said, everybody here has been very helpful, very welcoming, and it truly feels like all the staff and professors want me to succeed, and while I hope that most colleges and universities are that way, I think UH is definitely special. It just feels different, and it feels good. Anybody that is thinking about transferring here and is just nervous or unsure, don't be afraid, take that leap and I promise it will be worth it.

Lauren: That was good advice; I like that. I know you said it might be vague, but you hit it right on the head. Pascal, do you have any advice?

Pascal: Yeah, um (*laughs*) I have a lot of advice. I'll try to concentrate on something Delaney said. I do agree that we have a lot of great support at UH through professors, and faculty and staff, but I think one piece of advice I would give is advice I would have liked coming in is to just be patient with yourself. Delaney kind of touched on this. Stay open to new opportunities, like if you find something that you are little bit more passionate about, don't be afraid to pivot to a new major or pick up a minor just to explore something you might be passionate about. We're still learning; just because we're transfer students doesn't mean we're on a clock. A lot of my classmates are younger than me and that can make you feel some type of way, and sometimes they look to me like – *do you know how to do this?* I don't know, I'm a freshman like y'all. As a non-traditional student, just don't be discouraged by sort of where you are because it's really not a race. Just focus on getting your skills where they need to be and just explore different things.

Lauren: That was really good advice! Wow, you two are on it. *(laughs)* That was awesome advice! Well, Delaney thank you so much for joining us and thank you, Pascal, for being our awesome guest host on this episode of The Coogcast, and I'll see y'all on campus; I'm looking forward to it!

Delaney: Yeah, thank you so much!

Pascal: Yeah, can't wait. Yep, awesome, thank you so much Lauren.

[Theme music picks up]

Lauren: You can find out more about transferring to UH and your financial aid options by checking out our website uh.edu/admissions. If you've recently been admitted to U of H or are a current student, did you know you can get matched with U of H and outside scholarships that can fit you and your interests? Head over to Scholarship Universe and MyUH portal to check it out. I'll see y'all in the next episode and Co Coogs!

[Theme music ends]