

Commencement Speech by Nykyta Polituchyi, MA Graduate

Your Magnificence the Rector, Dear University Authorities, our parents, families and friends and all who supported us all this time, even those who just posted test questions on FB. We thank you very much. We owe it to you that we can be here today.

We can say that we are all travellers and our journey is called life. At the beginning of the journey, we are given a suitcase that we have with us all the time. In that suitcase, we collect our experiences, memories, knowledge and achievements. As we continue our journey, we decide what to pack and what should be better left out, so that we can travel more comfortably. Some prefer to pack more things, which makes them feel safer; others opt for the minimalist version, assuming they do not need much luggage. Each of us has to choose for themselves, but I believe that choosing the SGH Warsaw School of Economics was the right thing to do.

Think about your first day at the University, where you first came to the campus with an empty suitcase, which you would later fill with knowledge, experiences, meetings with wonderful people and other baggage. Me, on my first day, I ran like crazy from building G to C to S and back, desperate to find my class on Introduction to Business IT. I bumped into some other people who had the same problem as me. Together, we solved it. 'Two heads are better than one'. That was the first thing I could put into my suitcase.

The next challenge came, when I saw the result of my first test in the middle of the first term and thought that perhaps, rather than with a suitcase full of knowledge and experience, I would go back home with the regular suitcase I kept in my dorm room. But I managed to pass on and learned a new lesson: 'You must never give up. Sometimes, you just have to keep pushing'.

I could go on telling my story, but the beauty of these studies is that I do not have to do this, because everyone has their story to tell. We have different experiences: different courses, different teachers, different people, different attitudes to life and studies. But I think we all agree it was worth it. What is good about the SGH is that the University teaches us valuable knowledge and more than that. Exactly. More than that. Apart from knowledge, think about all the people you have met here, the wonderful moments you have lived here, all the challenges you have overcome, the important lessons you have learned or maybe even the love of your life that you have met here. Yes. Exactly. All this happened here, among the walls of our Alma Mater.

Now, with a suitcase full of the unforgettable experiences from this stage of our lives, we move on to the world that holds for us countless possibilities, new challenges and unusual moments. And, more importantly, our luggage still has and should always have room for new discoveries. We should remember that, no matter what road we take in life, we should always be happy, because happiness starts not here but here.