Vincent Mella

Interviewed by Tamara Michel, EHL Bachelor Student, Class of 2027

GRADUATED IN 2025

Switzerland

FINANCE & REAL ESTATE AT KPMG



WHAT IF YOUR DEGREE DIDN'T DEFINE YOUR CAREER?

"You don't have to know exactly where you want to go. Rather than choosing your first job for its prestige, focus on what you can learn and the experience you can gain. Trying different things is how you discover what suits you."

A Business Foundation for a Career Beyond Hospitality

Career paths do not always follow a straight line. For Vincent, EHL Hospitality Business School offered the opportunity to broaden his business management and finance knowledge, explore different professional environments and discover possibilities beyond hospitality. Along with his studies, he became deeply involved in student life, serving as President of the Student Council. Today, his experience shows how the EHL Bachelor of Science in International Hospitality Management combines business fundamentals, practical learning and transferable skills to prepare graduates for a variety of career paths.

Making the Most of the EHL Experience

"At EHL, I wanted to make the most of every opportunity, not just in the classroom, but as part of the student community."

For Vincent, the EHL experience was more than academic studies. As a class representative, student assistant and active member of several committees, he embraced every opportunity to support campus life. His involvement concluded in his election as President of the Student Council. Each role was an additional perspective on student life. As Student Council president, he was the link between students and school management, learning to bring together different viewpoints and help turn student's ideas into real initiatives.

EHL

Managing these commitments while conducting his studies required time management and task prioritisation for more than his own academic progress. These responsibilities strengthened his understanding of decision-making, collaboration and the importance of all working towards the same objective.

His commitment to the community was recognised with the EHL Spirit Award and the Student Council President Award. For him, this involvement was about contributing to a community that played such an important role in his own, personal development. *"Making the most of EHL means truly caring about the school, its students, its staff and its teachers, and giving back to the community what the community gave you."*

His journey shows how the EHL Bachelor encourages learning and personal growth both inside and outside the classroom. By taking initiatives, collaborating with others and participating in campus life, students are free to develop interpersonal skills that will support them at each stage of their careers.

"The value of the EHL Bachelor is that it gives you a solid business foundation while keeping different career paths open."

A Bachelor That Opens Doors Beyond Hospitality

Internships played an important role in helping Vincent explore his interests and discover how his education could translate into different professional environments.

His first internship at Mandarin Oriental in Dubai provided practical insight into hotel operations and helped him realise that he wanted to explore career paths beyond hospitality.

For his second internship, he chose KPMG Switzerland, exploring a different industry and an opportunity to develop his interest in finance. The role offered the chance to take on responsibilities, work with different teams and gain experience in a new professional environment. Having continued his career at KPMG, he has since built on this experience in the consulting sector.

"What I see as EHL's greatest strength is that you learn how to work with people from different backgrounds."

At first glance, going from hospitality to consulting might seem like a change in direction. However, even though industries differ, a lot of the skills needed to succeed in both extend beyond technical knowledge.

At KPMG, Vincent discovered a working environment where projects were brought together by teams, requiring him yet again to adapt to people's working style.

This way of working was not entirely new to him. At EHL, group projects taught him to collaborate with people who brought different perspectives, while the school's international environment helped him become comfortable working with people from different backgrounds.

Combined with a strong foundation in business disciplines, like financial and economic analysis, these experiences gave him a foundation he could count on in an industry different from hospitality.

His journey illustrates the diversity of the programme. By combining business fundamentals with hands-on learning and an international perspective, the Bachelor gives students a foundation they can build on across a range of industries.

Exploring Different Paths and Embracing New Opportunities

For Vincent, choosing a first job should be seen as the beginning of a learning process, not a decision that will determine an entire career. Professional interests evolve with experience, and exploring different environments can help students and graduates discover what suits them best.

Even when starting at KPMG, Vincent remembers feeling hesitant, unsure of himself and even a little apprehensive about committing to a three-year programme. He wondered whether he was locking himself onto one path too early. Fortunately, a conversation with an EHL alumnus helped him put things into perspective and realize that he had plenty of time to gain a first experience, and to change direction later if it turned out not to be the best fit for him.

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This way of thinking reflects his own experience, moving beyond hospitality to explore finance. Rather than committing to one professional direction too early, he encourages students to use networking, internships and early career opportunities to gain exposure, build skills and discover new interests, which could potentially open doors to career paths that may have not been considered initially, and help them identify what truly is their fit.







