

Interview

Would you introduce yourself?

Sure!

My name is Lara, I am 43 years old and I come from Brasil.

I was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, that's a pretty big city and well known.

What was the reason for leaving your country?

The reason was quite simple. After finishing school, I decided to study mechanical engineering and back then it was still very difficult for girls to find an internship in this area.

So every company would say they just accept boys.

For me it was really difficult and it gave me, of course, a lot of trouble and so I decided to go to Germany.

I thought, I either go to Germany or Japan and then it worked out with Germany.

Do you know how long ago it was?

Yes. The first time I came to Germany for an internship was in 1999, so 18 years ago.

How did you live with the decision to leave Brasil?

I was extremely excited and very happy. I wanted to leave, because I was kind of disappointed, because in Brasil we still have the mentality that girls or women cannot work as engineers or with a technical profession, so all I wanted was to leave.

I was absolutely happy and I came to Germany exactly on the 28th of November and it was already really cold and that was tough to live with, but it was great.

I was totally happy about it.

Do you feel like home here?

I do. I do feel like home, I did my internship, then I went back to Brasil.

Then I lived in the United States for four years and then I came back to Germany and I can definitely say now Germany is my home.

Brasil as well, Rio, definitely, but I got married here, I got two children, so definitely I feel home.

How did your family react, when you told them that you will go to Germany?

They reacted very badly. They had mixed feelings.

It would be the first time, a family member was leaving the country for a very long time, because I had a contract for six months to work.

My mother went mad, she freaked out and now its still very difficult.
We miss each other a lot, but its part of it.
I think, if I were in Brasil we would have other problems.

Do your children speak Portuguese? What languages do they speak?

Their father is German, so I speak German with him and one day of the week, we speak English with each other, so that we don't lose our English.

Its really important to me.

I speak Portuguese with my children at home. When I am around other people, who I know, don't speak Portuguese, I don't speak Portuguese. I speak German.

Thank you for the interview!