

A Meeting with Mr. Simpson

On Tuesday November 27 the two ECE1 and ECE2 preparatory classes of François Couperin met Scott Simpson. Mr Simpson comes from Texas, he's an American diplomat who's working at the US embassy in Paris.

Before he was a diplomat, Mr. Simpson was an engineer in an Information Technology company in the USA, he used to innovate in the IT sector but the fact that all these innovations were always obsolete after a few years led him to change his path. In order to become a diplomat, he passed a test which is quite straightforward as it consists in taking a written exam and an oral interview to evaluate your capacity to work in a group. After that there is also a medical record to see if you can work in difficult conditions. Quite simple ostensibly but only a few elected can get the job at the end.



Thanks to his job, he has been able to work for a lot of countries for his embassy, so he travelled a lot from Australia to North-America passing by Libya, Afghanistan etc... And now he's in France and he seems to like it.

In fact, he has worked for 3 different presidents, George Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump. For him on a day to day level, things haven't really changed. The difference between the 3 presidencies is the fact that nowadays a simple tweet from the president might be an official declaration.

However, even if he works for the US president Scott doesn't really have a political function, he is more like a representative of the US government in France. He deals with cultural exchanges and other things that US citizens that are in France might come across.

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According to Mr. Simpson, the main qualities that you need if you want to become a good diplomat are some communication skills in order to say exactly what you mean, some adaptation skills to be able to adapt during crisis situations and in the different group you might work with, and a lot of loyalty because you need to be mindful about the constitution. Indeed, Scott took an oath when he became a diplomat, he swore allegiance to the US Constitution and he can't break his vow.