



“I’m living a **football fanatic’s** dream!”

- AYSHA RIDZUAN, 23



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I have been a football fan since I was 10 and when I was in school, I used to think it would be so cool to be on TV and **talk about football all day** like they did on ESPN. At the time, I thought it would be nothing more than a dream so I didn’t dwell on it.

After graduating with a Mass Communications diploma, I saw an opening at ESPN Star Sports (now known as Fox Sports) and that they were looking for an editor for their new Malay website. I decided to give it a shot and **I received a call for them a week after I applied.** I was so excited! I have been watching ESPN for football all this while and just the thought of attending an interview with them was beyond my wildest dreams. They asked me to send two writing samples and the next thing I knew was I was on my way to their office in Singapore for an interview with them.

I remembered being really, really nervous but I love writing and to be **writing for ESPN would be a dream come true.** The interviewer, who would later

be my boss, didn’t give me a hard time. It went pretty well and **they offered me the job** the very day they interviewed me. That was the best day of my life.

On 24th August 2011, I began working life. It was a huge leap for me to be away from my family and **staying abroad in Singapore for the first time.** I was also alone and I had to find a place to stay myself, get to work by bus and train and slowly had to adapt the new working environment in another country.

Things were going so fast for me but it was good. Three months into the job I had the chance to interview Man United legend, Gary Neville. I was **super nervous but I’m glad I didn’t screw it up.** Later in the year, I got to meet a few other football stars like Fabio Cannavaro that I never thought I would’ve in a million years.

The next year was the best year I ever had, though it was also the busiest. I was following the Malaysia U23 team to Jakarta, Vietnam, Myanmar and this year I’ve been to Australia, Slovakia, Austria and Czech Republic – all for work. Next month marks my two years at my job. I’ve been to many football matches, **done many interviews and learned a lot** from fellow journalists but I’m not done yet, especially since I still haven’t met my idol, David Beckham. I crave for more and I wish to achieve so much more in this male-dominated industry.

I feel so blessed to be doing something I love and it honestly doesn’t even feel like a job sometimes. I hope my story will **inspire girls who have similar interests** as I do to go the distance. There will always be other ways to be involved in sports. You just need to find something that fits you. Remember, never underestimate girl power!