

Proust Questionnaire



Name: Maria Athanasiou

Age: 36

Hometown: Paphos, Cyprus

Current City: Fribourg, Switzerland

Current Employer: Bureau Pierre Tercier

Education: Warwick University, UK (LLB), Georgetown University Law Center, US (LLM), Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies / University of Geneva, Switzerland (MIDS).

How did you get involved in international arbitration? I took a course in international arbitration during my LLM at Georgetown University and I was then fortunate to get an internship at the arbitration group of Wilmer Hale in London.

What is your favourite virtue? “Φιλότητα” / Filotimo (the closest definition is “honourable”).

What are your favourite qualities in another person? Honesty and understanding.

What is your chief characteristic? Perseverance.

What is your main fault? Impatient.

What is your favourite occupation? Cooking or baking chef.

What is your idea of happiness? Cooking and being with family and friends around a table for hours.

What is your idea of misery? Negativity and giving up.

If not yourself, who would you be? Someone in a different era. I love period films and series.

Where would you like to live? Anywhere it feels home. Home is what you feel not where you are.

Who is your favourite prose author? Jane Austen.

Who is your favourite hero/heroine in fiction? Jo March from Little Women. A complex character full of dreams who realizes that the purpose in life is found when having realistic goals and living humbly.

Who is your hero in real life? My family. For their strength, endless support and love.

What historical person do you most dislike? The megalomaniacs and narcissists.

What is your favourite name? Elizabeth.

What do you hate the most? Supporting ideas, people, beliefs and trends, only because it is popular or cool.

What is your natural talent? Baking and cooking!

What is your favourite arbitration-related decision? An award that is concise and limited to the points needed to render a final decision, that comprises simple and precise language, and that avoids legal jargon.

Who is your favourite arbitrator? Someone who is courageous enough to be unconventional when needed, well prepared and attentive to the case and the parties of course, and who leaves his or her own biases at home.

Who is your mentor? I have been very fortunate and grateful to have had many mentors since the beginning of my professional career, such as Prof. Pierre Tercier, Prof. Albert Jan van den Berg, Niuscha Bassiri, Prof. Maxi Scherer, Steven Finizio and Gary Born.

What is your motto? Everything in moderation, including moderation.

What do you hope to contribute to Young ICCA as co-chair? I would hope to contribute to the further growth of Young ICCA. I would pursue that with the expansion of its current projects and ensure that there is active dialogue and collaboration between the less and more experienced so that the former can actively benefit from the latter (for example, *via* regular contact between Young ICCA and ICCA members and the pursuit of joint projects). I would also work towards expanding the platform for its members to network, develop their presentation and advocacy skills and discuss current topics in arbitration, such as *via* the establishment of annual meetings, retreats and preparation of arbitration-related video tutorials.