



# ANDREA OLEKSYN- BRANDES

DIRECTOR OF  
CAREER SERVICES  
AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
MANAGER

## CONTACT

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

## CURRENT PROJECTS

As Director of Career Services, I act as the liaison with university clients and coordinate workshops, internships, alumni events, and career advising sessions for students.

Most recently I organized key2advance's networking event for students from UNU-Merit's Public Policy Program and the University of Kent's Brussels School of International Studies in Brussels.

I also manage the community of past and current Next Generation Leadership Academy participants and coordinate the Guest Lecture Series.

## ABOUT ME

Andrea is half American and half Austrian and has held various roles in communications, international affairs, and education in both the public and private sectors.

She began her career as a Legal Assistant at Bertelsmann in New York, before obtaining her master's degree and consequently working at Media Consulta, the German Federal Foreign Office, and Novartis Animal Health.

As Alumni Relations Manager at ESMT Berlin, she discovered her passion for alumni affairs and event organisation, areas she continues to work in at a political foundation. Having grown up as a "third-culture kid", she has continued her mobile lifestyle with her own family, with stints in Munich, Kuala Lumpur, Brussels, and, currently, Berlin.

At key2advance she works in career services, alumni affairs, and community engagement and acts as the liaison with university clients.

Andrea holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Contemporary German Studies from McGill University and a Master's in Transatlantic Studies from the Humboldt Universität and Freie Universität zu Berlin.

## EDUCATION

### Bachelor of Arts

Political Science and Contemporary German Studies from McGill University

### Master of Arts

Transatlantic Studies from the Humboldt Universität and Freie Universität zu Berlin

## Q&A

### 1) How did you get involved in key2advance?

Andrea and Mona met as undergraduates at McGill University. They hit it off immediately and have been friends ever since, crossing paths over the years in New York, Berlin, Dubai, and Bonn. When Andrea moved to Brussels in 2018, she took on the role of Internship Coordinator and has been part of key2advance ever since.

### 2) What experience do you bring to the community?

I have experience in the private and public sectors, education, alumni affairs, and communications.

### 3) What value does coaching and training bring to your clients?

Training and coaching do not only give university students the tools they need to manage the university to job transition smoothly but also the confidence to apply for the internship roles or jobs they are truly interested in.

### 4) How do you work with your clients to ensure the perfect session?

I think with any event or session involving students, it's key to make them feel comfortable. All our sessions are geared towards empowering students and helping them develop the skills they need to succeed in the job market, be it through writing the perfect cover letter, giving them tips for interviews or organizing networking events with alumni. I think with any event involving students it's key to make them feel comfortable and keep them engaged.

### 5) What's your favourite part of being part of the key2advance community?

It's an absolute honor to work with such a talented group of people who are so passionate about what they do and who truly care about helping their clients become the best versions of themselves. I love that I'm part of an inter-generational community that is 100% supportive and judgment free.