



'I live in Kenya and work in Italy'

Carla Ranicki, 28, from Scotland, is a translator, based in Kenya.

I started my career tied to a desk in a grey office. Now, I trail my laptop around the house, and sit on the sofa, looking out at tropical plants and birds, instead of rush-hour traffic.

Before university, I spent my gap year in Florence, and fell in love with Italy. I did a degree in London, then studied journalism in New York, and got my first job in an office on Times Square. It was exciting, but I was tired out by the city's constant stresses. When I decided I was ready to move back to Europe, Italy sprang to mind.

I got a job at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in northern Italy, where I translated press releases. Then my boyfriend, Ugo, was posted to Kenya to work for the United Nations. It was supposed to be a one-year fellowship, but it became a job. So, I quit my job and moved to Nairobi.

So far, it has been a great success. I work mainly with clients in Italy, translating from Italian to English. I am setting up a company, called Traduzioni Culinarie – providing translations of food and wine-related subjects – with a friend based in Italy. We've just finished a cookbook that's going to be distributed by Borders in the spring. We work well together – better than we would sharing an office.

The freedom is incredible. No boss, no meetings, no begging for days off. I make my own schedule.

The internet in Kenya is not great, and frequent power cuts can be frustrating, but I've learned to always keep my laptop charged.

The biggest headache is tax, because I work and get paid in Italy, but don't live there. But it helps that I have a permanent address there, and go back every few months. To my clients, I could be anywhere in the world.

I have family all over Europe and can visit them as often as I like. I can be with Ugo, while still being financially independent. And I'll never have to buy another ready-made sandwich.