

SEMESTER COMPLETION REPORT

SPRING SEMESTER 2022,
(JANUARY – MAY)

SUBMITTED BY – BHAVIKA MEHTA

ROLL NUMBER - 17030521009

DEGREE – MASTERS IN BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION – INTEGRATED
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

HOME UNIVERSITY – K J SOMAIYA
INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

HOST UNIVERSITY – SAINT MARTIN'S
UNIVERSITY, LACEY, WA





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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I am grateful for my family who believed in me and it is because of their unconditional support that I found the courage to go abroad and to my friends Aditya and Radhika, who encouraged to me chase after my dreams.



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Saint Martin's University is a private Benedictine university in Lacey, Washington. It was founded in 1895 as an all-boys boarding school by monks of the Benedictine Order. Saint Martin's began offering college-level courses in 1900 and became a degree-granting institution in 1940. The college became co-educational in 1965. In 2005, it changed its name from Saint Martin's College to Saint Martin's University. It has a functioning Benedictine monastery on school grounds and some members of the monastic community also serve as professors. The university has a beautiful campus and believes in community life, it is also very religious.



PREPARATION

The plan to opt for the Semester Exchange Program happened at the very end for me, almost all the seats had filled up when I decided to go. Satyendra Sir had been super supportive which gave me the courage to go for it. I picked St. Martin's University, Lacey, WA because I always wanted to study in the USA for its exposure.

Steps of my college and visa application -

1. The first step was getting approval from the examination department and Principal ma'am
2. After the approvals came in, I sent all my documents to Saint Martin's University.
3. The officials at St Martin's verified my documents, and they sent me an admission letter and DS-2019 form which is essential for VISA and travel to the States.
4. I applied for the Visa after receiving these documents and schedule an appointment for an interview.
5. I received my Visa within a week of my interview and booked my tickets immediately.
6. Important Tip - Qatar Airways, and many more airways provide free extra luggage to students. (1 bag of 23kgs)

PREPARATION

Packing Checklist

1. Utensils like a rolling pin (Belan), Tawa, pressure cooker, and Kadhai are expensive and not easily available. It was a wise decision to carry those.
2. Almost all Indian spices and ingredients are available in the USA but some of them are expensive. Any grains or seeds are strictly prohibited to take to the States.
3. Carry as many and as much ready to eat packets as possible. Haldirams has a huge range of gravies and full meals which can be eaten after only heating or adding water. I carried a bag full of those and came back empty.
4. Winter clothes, rain jacket, umbrella, but don't carry a lot. Clothes are inexpensive in the USA, you can shop if you'd like.
5. Prescribed medicines and generic medicines. Also, carry any churan or stuff like hajmola.

Education

The MBA courses were fairly easy and scoring especially because education in India is far more intensive. I took three courses during the semester, which is more courses than what an average MBA student takes in a semester. The courses I took were Marketing Management, Risk Management and Project Management, all of them followed a mix of classroom and practical learning. The methods of assessment were mostly class participation and presentations. There were a few MCQ based tests which were mostly not invigilated, but involved using analytical skills.



Extra-curricular Activities

The Campus has a Recreational Center which has gym equipment, basketball courts, running tracks, badminton courts baseball and volleyball, and a football field which are all free to use for students. The Campus also has a Campus activity center called TUB where students can play foosball, pool, video games, air hockey, watch movies and host events

Work

The university allows you to work on campus for 20 hours/week. In order to work, you need a Social Security Number which the Office of International Programs and Development will help with. I worked in the University's Cafe as a catering attendant for almost 12 hours every week. The job had its perks like flexible working hours, and free food. My coworkers and managers were very supportive and they took great care of me while I worked there.

Housing and Dining

The University provides different accommodation options such as single rooms with shared baths, twin rooms, apartments with kitchens, etc. I picked a single room in an apartment with Kitchen. The apartment had 4 rooms, 2 bathrooms, each was shared between 2 rooms, a kitchen and a living room. My roommates were all Americans and we got along pretty well.

I mostly cooked my own food and ordered food through Uber Eats and Doordash. The campus also has a cafe but I did not like the food a lot at the cafe. It does have vegetarian options and an excellent barista. If you are planning to cook, pick an apartment because other dormitories do not have private kitchens. They do have community kitchens which you can use.



Campus Life

The University has an Office of Campus Life which takes care of activities on campus and makes sure that students are engaged in activities on campus. Almost every week, they organized events for students. Some events that I joined were blanket making, plate painting, VR games, Movie nights, and card making.

There are also a lot of clubs that organize their separate events like cooking, discussions, dances, open mics, etc.

All the events on campus are free for all students and are a great way of meeting new people.



Cooking for everyone

The campus has an event where every Thursday, students will cook dinner which anyone can join. My friends and I cooked Indian food which was an instant hit between the students and staff. We made Cholle Bhature and everyone loved it.



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Showcase of Indian Culture

In collaboration with the Office of International programs and development, Students from India, Pakistan and Nepal showcased culture from their countries. My contribution to the event was hosting it, cooking food, and a dance. I made Rajma, Rice, Palak Paneer, Laccha Paranthas and Salad for over 70 people and we ran out of food because everyone liked it so much

Camping and Skydiving

One of my favorite memories of my trip was camping in Kanaskat-Palmer State Park which is a 320-acre Washington state park on the Green River in King County. The park has 2 miles of river shoreline and offers picnicking, camping, and 3 miles of trails for hiking. I have never lived in a tent, and living in the wild in Washington weather seemed scary, but it was super fun. We had to put our own camps, light our own fire and make our own food.

My roommates and I went Indoor Skydiving in Seattle and it was an experience of a lifetime. The feeling of flying in air is something that can not be described in words.





Not everyday was fancy and fun. A lot of days were gloomy and I felt homesick and did not find food to eat but at the end of it, each day came with learning. My trip taught me a lot, it evolved me as a person and I will do it all over again if given the opportunity. The first month, I felt as if I would not be able to make friends, but at the end, I had a big bundle of friends, a lot of whom cried when I left. Leaving the USA was as hard as leaving India, but I am grateful to have found genuine friendships that made goodbye hard.