

International Student Spotlight Interview



NAME: Jorge C. Simroth

YEAR AT K-STATE: 2nd year Ph.D. Program

MAJOR: Ph.D, Animal Science/Clinical Sciences

HOME COUNTRY: Mexico

What was it like coming to K-State?

It was a real adventure, everything happened at the same time. The same week I was admitted into my Ph.D. program at K-State we were also notified that we were expecting a baby and I had a “once in a lifetime” job offer that same month. Regardless of all of that, we decided to take the adventure and move to Manhattan and start a new life.

How did you decide to come here?

Job offers come and go all the time, but an opportunity for personal/professional growth and getting a Ph.D. degree by being part of an outstanding program as the one I am part of now, doesn't happen very often. We decided that sacrifice and hard work would pay off in the future, so we took the challenge and moved to Manhattan so I could start on my Ph.D. program.

What has your experience been like so far?

It has been incredible! The K-State family is amazing, the environment on campus is great. I have learned a lot, not only in my field of study, but I have had so many life learning experiences in such a short amount of time. As a family, we have learned that when people are willing to compromise, help, and care for each other, everything is possible.

What were some of the big differences when you first arrived (social, academic, weather, etc.)? Was there anything that was really surprising?

We come from a big city with a population of around 6 million people (Monterrey, Mexico), so moving to Manhattan was a big change for us in a lot of ways. However, before this, we lived in even a smaller town in the Texas Panhandle (Canyon, TX) while I was getting my Master's degree at WTAMU. Academically speaking, K-State is by far a university with higher quality programs than what I had access to in Mexico. Regarding weather, the only difference with our hometown is the harsh winters and snow. The most surprising of all to me, was how proud all of the K-Staters are in what they do...regardless of what that might be.

Was K-State what you expected? Was Manhattan what you expected?

K-State has been more than what I really expected, my learning experience has been amazing, and I have learned and experienced way more things than I thought I would. Manhattan has been exactly what we expected, a little nice town with good people and lots of things to do where we could have a happy life and raise our son.

Is classroom culture a lot different here?

Yes, here people are eager to learn, they come to class with high learning expectations and they are attentive and respectful of the professor; also class size is way much bigger.

What do you like about being a student at K-State?

I like the fact that as a student, your education, success, and improvement as a person and as a future professional are top priority for everyone.

What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?

Being a grad student with a family leaves you very little time for Campus activities. However, when possible, I try to volunteer in activities to help out other students or help promote my department/program.

What do you do for fun in Manhattan?

As a family we enjoy hiking, fishing, and having a picnic at any of the parks in town or at Tuttle Creek Lake. A walk around campus is always enjoyable as well.

If you could have known one thing before moving here, what would it be?

It's cheaper to buy a house and pay mortgage and utilities during your stay in Manhattan than paying rent for the same amount of time. When you are done here you can always sell the house, and most of the time make a little bit of money on it.

Do you have any advice for incoming international students?

Expect the best and don't worry too much about moving into a "new environment". Kansans will strive to help you feel like in home and make sure to help you solve any problem or questions you might have during your stay.

What would you like others to know about being an international student at K-State?

Moving from a different country is always a challenge, but being an international student at K-State, in Manhattan, will always make you feel as if you were back in home. This place and its people are awesome!

Would you mind sharing a phrase from your native language and what it means?

“Mas sabe el diablo por viejo que por diablo”. This can be translated as “More knows the devil for being old than for being the devil”. What this really means is that wisdom and knowledge will come with experience, time, and of course age, no matter who you are or how smart you think you are at any point in your life.