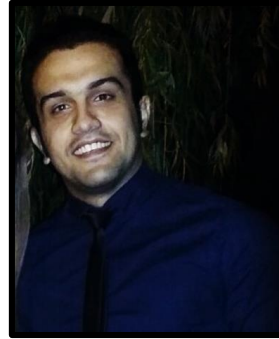


International Student and Scholar Spotlight

Name: Alireza Nooraei Beidokhti
Year at K-State: Second year (grad student)
Major: Biological and Agricultural Engineering
Home Country: Iran



What was it like coming to K-State? How did you decide to come here?

I like K-State, I had a friend here (graduated in past may), we have known each other for 15 years as a close friend. It was the main reason for me to come here since it's much easier to get to know here and adapt yourself with circumstances when you've already have a friend from your culture who knows here a lot .he had lived in Manhattan for 5 years.

What has your experience been like so far?

Peaceful town with peaceful and respectable people. However, you may sometimes think that you are not acceptable here. (it might be just a feeling, I can't say for sure it's true)

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

Not that much of surprise, since I already knew about here through my friends, weather is kind of different, for instance, I had never had the experience of tornado. In terms of academic things are more practical here compared to my home country. Which I really like, facilities are great and you feel the result of what you have learned. Theoretically, courses were much harder in my home country which was not useful in my opinion.

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

Almost yes. Since I already knew about it. Most of my compatriots were shocked though. Mainly because they are coming from big cities without any idea what is going on in a college town.

Is classroom culture a lot different here?

Almost. For example it's not polite at all to eat or drink during the class time and the teacher might get very offended.

What do you like about being at K-State?

So many fun plans and great facilities. Being active all the time since most of the people here are between the ages of 18 to 23.(I feel old for this town though, since I am 28).

What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?

Not that much of things. I have focused on my education and curriculum so far. Also, going to the gym as a sport plan.

What do you do for fun in Manhattan?

Using recreational services. Going to the bars in the weekends. Going to coffee shops sometime to study and hanging out at the same time. Also going to the nature.

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

How it feels to live in a college town with all joyfulness and difficulties. And cope with your issues on your own.

Do you have any advice for incoming international students?

Try to boost their self-confidence. Being far from your family and culture, and having a feeling of not being acceptable in a different culture may fill you up by hatred during the time (deep inside, you feel you are dying every single day). Try to adapt yourself with American culture and have a company from all different nations (not just your compatriots). It's too hard and challenging at the beginning, but when you make it, you feel how strong and powerful you are. Otherwise you will always blame it on others that they judge you. If someone judges you, it's not your issue it's that person's weakness. Don't let your confidence to be killed.

What would you like others to know about being an international student at K-State?
I think I responded to this question in the last one.

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

It's a poem: na borde ranj, ganj, moyassar nemishavad ... mozd an gereft jan e baradar ke kar kard

The whole concept is saying that without suffering and dealing with difficulties you won't be able to make anything. If you want to achieve something you have to work hard for it.