



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT!



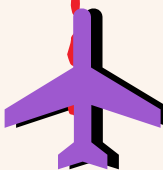
MEET EDA!



WHY K-STATE?

I know the professor I am working with right now before coming here. He was my advisor during my undergrad in Turkey. I had been thinking about doing a Ph.D. but was not sure of where. So, I knew that my old advisor was working at K-State and had an open position for a Ph.D. student, and we found each other that way.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR EXPERIENCE SO FAR?



To be honest, it was not that hard moving to another country because I had moved several times to different cities and countries around Turkey. Having moved before helped me adapt but, then COVID happened two months after I arrived at K-State, so the situation changed a little bit. During the pandemic, we stayed home, and then it hit me that I had moved to a different country because I had a lot of time to think about it. So, it was a little bit difficult but not much.

DIFFERENCE THAT YOU HAVE NOTICED?

I moved here in the middle of the winter, and one fun thing I noticed was that people drink iced drinks. I went to Texas Roadhouse, and I got a big glass of water with a lot of ice. I thought it was strange because we were in the middle of winter, but then I saw people drinking iced coffee as well. I realized that is something people do here. In my country when it is the wintertime we consume warm drinks all the time.

WAS K-STATE WHAT YOU EXPECTED? WAS MANHATTAN WHAT YOU EXPECTED?

I did not have specific expectations before coming here but after I got here I realized that Manhattan is a nice place to live. It is a safe place, and it is not a big city. You can find almost everything locally. There is also a lot of fun things to do like go shopping, going to the movies, and eating your dinner outside. I think it is a very fulfilling city and it makes me really happy!



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IS CLASSROOM CULTURE A LOT DIFFERENT HERE?

The first two months I did not notice any differences between the classrooms here and in my country. However, here students can freely share their ideas and contribute to the classroom environment. I really liked that, but then COVID-19 hit, and we all had to go home. So I couldn't experience more time in the classroom and cannot really compare it to education in my country.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING A STUDENT AT K-STATE?

I like being a research assistant at K-State because I get the opportunity to connect with people from different departments and collaborate with them on projects. There is also a nice student environment. You can ask questions to your classmates, professors, and people in other departments and get help. I feel really lucky to have that friendly student environment.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS ARE YOU INVOLVED IN ON CAMPUS?

As a Ph.D. student, I do not have much time to be involved as I would like, but I have attended different events the Department of Food Science has hosted. I also went to a lot of events during orientation week. One event I really enjoyed was the party hosted for all the countries at the beginning of the semester. It was nice to see the different dances from around the world.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN IN MANHATTAN?

I like to go to the movies with friends. When the weather is nice, I like to go to Aggieville, get a drink, and enjoy the music. I also enjoy spending time at the City Park and playing tennis.

IF YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN ONE THING BEFORE MOVING HERE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

The weather is crazy and it can change in an hour. I should have known this.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

Try to communicate with other people to socialize, ask for help when you have problems, and learn more about the American culture. It will help you gain more self-confidence! Communicating with others will help make the adaptation process a little bit easier.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT BEING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AT K-STATE?

When I came to K-State, I did not feel like I was a student from a different country. You realize that despite coming from a different country, some things are universal between students. Emotions are universal. Sometimes you laugh about the same things, or if someone is sad you understand that as well. I just feel like the campus is very friendly with international students.

WOULD YOU MIND SHARING A PHRASE FROM YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE AND WHAT IT MEANS?

A phrase I would like to share is Hos Geldiniz! It means Welcome all!

