

International Student Spotlight Interview Questions

NAME: Tej Man Tamang

YEAR AT K-STATE: 4th year PhD

MAJOR: Horticultural and natural resources

HOME COUNTRY: Nepal

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

The main reason I came to KSU was because of the research they had to offer. It was the most interesting and what I wanted to work with.

- What has your experience been like so far?

It has been good! There is a lot to do here with the programs and events. I am busy with my research, but I would like to go to more events. I like to go to McCain when I can and the international student events. ICC (International Student Union) organizes many events that I like. And there is a lot of diversity KSU has to offer.

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

I am from a valley in Nepal. The weather stays pleasant most of the time. When I arrived here in August, the weather was too hot. Winter was too cold as well. I remember going to the top of the world and thinking it would be really big and when I got there, it was just the opposite. But in general, the US culture is very different and how the US has managed the resources is commendable. There are many naturally rich places in Nepal but are not well managed. Also, the air is polluted in Kathmandu which I don't see here. I think the people of KS are very kind and humble. I have also been to TX, CA, New York, Florida, and CO. I loved CO. I got married there.

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

There were things I did expect and there were things I didn't expect. Overall, both K-state and Manhattan were more than what I expected. It almost feels like home with all the other Nepal students here. I love the farmer's market and try to go on Saturdays when I can. I don't like that there isn't a lot of public transportation. No trains or anything, without a car you are limited.

- Is classroom culture a lot different here?

Yes. Way different. I am a TA so I have observed the classroom culture closely. Here, the teachers have authority over their class, their syllabus, and what they teach. It seems more practical and students are learning what they need to learn. Back home there is the board that takes control over the class and

curriculum. Our tests are longer and our final exam makes up most, if not all, of our grades. I think back home most students study for the grade, not to learn. But both systems have their own pros and cons.

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

I like a lot of things about being a student here. My schedule is easy, I go to the lab work and then go home. I like football games. I watch them on TV. There are also lots of things to do with all the events, and professional development programs too.

- What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?

I am the president of the Horticultural and natural resources graduate organization. We have monthly meetings to talk about activities. We also work to boost our confidence and do presentations within the group.

I am also the co-chair for the research committee for the graduate student council (GSC). We plan programs like the Research and the state event with a poster presentation and GRAD forum with both poster and oral presentations.

- What do you do for fun in Manhattan?

For fun, I like to watch football on the weekends or play soccer. I like to go outdoors like Tuttle creek, Konza prairie, Pillsbury and so on. Lately, I have been thinking of visiting different wineries near Manhattan.

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

To learn about driving and how hard it is to be here without a car.

- Do you have any advice for incoming international students?

Don't just come here just because it is the US. They should be coming here for education and need to know about what they want to study. It is also important to follow the rules and regulations to be a student in the US. Also, reach out to the advisors when you need help. Learn about driving and housing beforehand. If weather is important to you then think about that and do your research and learn the geography of KS. Be prepared for culture shock too.

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

Being an international student means you are apart of the diverse student population of KSU which is cool. It is great for your academic and professional development if you know how to use the resources.

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

उदेश्य लिनु उडि छुनु चन्द्र एक (Udeshya linu udi Chandra chhunu ek)

Translation: Always keep high aims.

Photo:

