

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SPOTLIGHT!

MEET NELOFAR!

WHY K-STATE?

My family and I moved to the United States because my husband wanted to get a degree in sustainable energy from United States. During that time, my youngest daughter was only 9 months old, but after a year I thought, maybe I should pursue a degree too. I got my master's degree, and it never crossed my mind to do a Ph.D. However, when I was right about to graduate from the Master's program, I asked my husband should I go for the Ph.D.? And we both made the decision in five minutes.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR EXPERIENCE SO FAR?

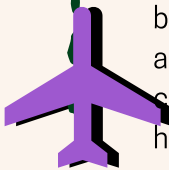
Manhattan is a town where you can live easily. Everything is within reach, and everyone at K-State has been very cooperative. When I moved here, I had to attend different sessions as an international student, and my youngest daughter was always with me. I realized then that everyone at K-State was very cooperative, wanted to learn about us, and help us, so that was very fascinating for me. Another thing that has made my experience here a great one is that I am not the only international student. We have over 100 countries represented at K-State.

DIFFERENCES THAT YOU HAVE NOTICED?

I noticed several differences between here and my country. The first one is the weather. The weather here can get really cold during the winter. In my country, it is usually warm. Another difference is education. At K-State, professors are really independent with their courses. In my country, I did not have that freedom because everything depended on an institutional board. We could not adjust to the needs of students because every decision about the classroom was made by the educational board. Also, K-State offers a lot of academic support and resources for the students, which is not something we have in my country. Academic support, resources, and facilities make a big difference for students.

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

I needed it to be a safe and cooperative environment. Which was great because I happened to find both things here. I got accepted to two universities for the Ph.D. program, but after meeting both advisors I made the decision to come to K-State because I felt I would have the support I needed for my family.



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IS CLASSROOM CULTURE A LOT DIFFERENT HERE?

As mentioned before, the resources we have access to as students. I know researching K-State has been something that has impacted me. The access that we have to the different facilities and resources has been amazing. Another thing is the way professors teach and approach students. English is not my first language, and my professors always try to make it is easy for me to understand. They also let me share my opinion to help me make the connection from the content to my experiences as an international student.

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

I like walking around campus! I find the structure of buildings fascinating because they are different from the ones in my country. Whenever the fall season arrives, I like to walk around campus with my family. Whenever we walk around campus, if the Union is open, we go in and eat ice cream. In addition to that, I like that I have also found my community here.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS ARE YOU INVOLVED IN ON CAMPUS?

As a mom and a Ph.D. student, it is hard to get involved. There was also COVID-19 so, it was a horrible time where we could not do much.. I am not involved in any organizations because that is an additional responsibility, and I do not feel I can do that right now.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN IN MANHATTAN?

I like to walk around campus with my family and attend different events. We will be going to the Homecoming Parade in a few days!

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

I did not know about the academic support students get and the diverse environment on campus. Usually, some students do not do research about it. It would have been nice to know more about that before moving here. Also, housing is important because when you come from a different country, you cannot really explore housing ahead of time and find something that fits your needs before arriving here.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

Try to get connected to someone from your country before moving here. I think they could offer great support if you have questions about things like housing. I did not get connected until after I got here. It would have been useful to have their help with suggestions about housing outside of campus.

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

We have diversity here so, do not hesitate to join K-State. Manhattan is a very cool place to live. It is a small and safe town, so it is easy to live here. You will have a lot of support from the staff at ISSS, and they will guide you when you come to K-State.

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

اگر پڑھ الف جو ورق سپ وسار
اندر تون اجار پنا پڑھندین کیترا.

This is called the poem of the east. It means, "Read letter A, forget all other pages. Cleanse your heart, how long can you read pages after pages."

