

International Student Spotlight Interview



NAME: Priyanshi Mishra

YEAR AT K-STATE: Freshman

MAJOR: Business Administration

HOME COUNTRY: India

What was it like coming to K-State?

Actually, I'm a transfer student from a small university in the Midwest. I didn't really like it there—there was a lot of racism and stuff like that. K-State is similar cost-wise and is a bigger university, so I decided to come here. K-State is like heaven for me; I love being here! The town where my last university was is really small and the people weren't very helpful, and I just didn't really like it there. Once I came here, from the first day, people have been so helpful! Even if you're just standing and you look confused, people will come up and ask you, "Do you need help? Do you need help?!" So that feels good, you know, when you're far away from home and you find some good people. It's like home away from home.

What were some of the big differences when you first arrived?

I first came to the U.S. from India in January. So in India, the coldest it gets is 0°C [32°F], so when I came to the U.S. there was already snow everywhere and it was so bad! I was like, oh my God, what do I do?! But I bought lots of warm clothes because the things I got in India were not sufficient. Another big difference has been the different measurement systems. You use Fahrenheit here and we use Celsius in India. Actually, just last week I told the people in my class that it was -3° in the morning that day and they all freaked out and said, "No, it was not!" And so I was like, "Sorry, I'm talking about degrees Celsius!" Also, dinnertime is different. Here, people usually finish by 7 or

8pm maximum, but in India, we don't usually start until 9 or 10pm. If I eat dinner at 7pm, I feel hungry before I go to bed!

Were K-State and Manhattan what you expected?

Honestly, after my first experience at my other university, I wasn't very optimistic about K-State. I was thinking since it's bad there, it's probably not that great here, too. But once I came, I was shocked—it was so good here, and I totally loved it! It's just that since my first experience wasn't good, I was thinking that everyone in the U.S. isn't very helpful—no offense—but then I got here and I got to know some different Americans. The thing about Manhattan is that I don't really have a good mode of transportation here, so I can't really say much about the town. I almost never go off campus! That's really the only not-so-good thing I've found about K-State is the issue with connectivity and lack of public transportation. So if I have to go to Walmart, I just wait for the shopping shuttle on Saturday morning.

Is classroom culture a lot different here?

I didn't go to university at all in India, so I can't really differentiate between the college experiences in the two countries. One difference I've noticed, though, is that some students here put their legs on the seats, but in India it is regarded as disrespectful to the teacher. One day in my Math class here, the teacher pointed it out—he's from Iraq—and he said, "You know, in my country, this is seen as disrespectful. I'm not telling you to stop it, but I'm just letting you know." And I was like, yes, it is in my country, too! Other than that, teachers are really helpful and friendly here. In India, probably 60% are helpful, but 40% are like, "I will be the strict one!"

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

The opportunities that are offered and, well, I just really like being here because of the fact that there are so many helpful people. Also, you know, if you want to do anything, there is always an opportunity to participate in something on campus. Actually, we even have an Indian Student Association event this weekend! There are even opportunities for activities through classes, and sometimes they're in the form of extra credit.

What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?

I'm part of Student Finance Association, the Indian Student Association, and I'm going to be initiated in Alpha Kappa Psi this weekend. Also, Multicultural Business Society—I've tried to join everything related to business, which is my major—and now I'm searching for a job!

What do you do for fun in Manhattan?

If there's something interesting happening on campus on the weekends or with International Student and Scholar Services, I'll go to that. There are usually things that come up. But if not, I'll go to Walmart and shop or to the mall and shop!

Do you have any advice for incoming international students?

If you're coming in winter, be ready! Be prepared! That's what I would say.

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

"Jaisi karni, waisi bharni." It means whatever you do, good or bad, you will pay for it now or later. Karma!