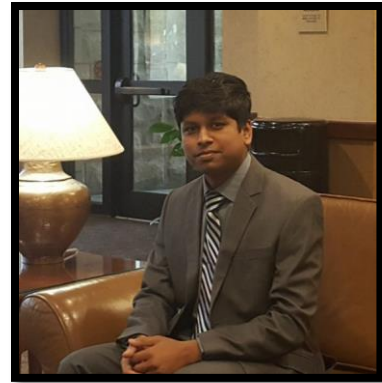


International Student Spotlight Interview Questions

NAME: Tanvir Ferdousi
YEAR AT K-STATE: 3rd Year Grad Student
MAJOR: Electrical Engineering
HOME COUNTRY: Bangladesh



- What was it like coming to K-State? How did you decide to come here?
I was excited most of the time! It was my first time in the US. I got the opportunity to experience a whole different culture and travel to another side (literally) of the planet. At the same time it was difficult to leave my familiar old life behind. I applied to several graduate schools in the US. I found here a good research team that best suited my expectations. In addition to that, several known faces here in K-State also encouraged me to come here.
- What has your experience been like so far?
It has been a pleasant ride. This campus is beautiful and the society is culturally inclusive. People are respectful towards each other. I like the way people greet and smile at strangers when passing by, an easy way to brighten someone's day. K-State has a good reputation around Kansas. Whenever I meet new people, they always praise for being a K-Stater.
- What were some of the big differences when you first arrived (social, academic, weather, etc.)? Was there anything that was really surprising?
The first noticeable difference was the population as I came from a crowded large city. I was happy to move into this quiet, peaceful city of Manhattan. The weather is dry compared to where I was before. I had to adapt to the freezing temperatures too which was a first for me.
- Was K-State what you expected? Was Manhattan what you expected?
Yes it was. Initially, I was not quite sure what to expect. I am content with what I have got. The idea of considering the community as family, wearing purple and feeling a sense of unity were some of the best experiences.
- Is classroom culture a lot different here?
Compared to Bangladesh, yes it is. The grades in the courses are evenly distributed throughout the semester in the form of assignments, projects, quizzes etc. This keeps a student engaged from the beginning. In my opinion, this is more efficient way of teaching instead of putting pressure on a student at the end of the semester. I also find the lack of excessive formality in the academic environment comforting, even though I am used to that.
- What do you like about being a student at K-State?

One thing I like is that K-State and Manhattan provide us with plenty of opportunities grow and learn. There are so many activities and clubs to get involved with that I wish I had more time. When the semesters are running, there is barely a day that feels dull.

- What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?
I am involved in several club activities including the American Red Cross Club (ARCC). Apart from my graduate research, I have also taken part in courses offered by UFM and Basic Language Trainings (BLT). I also work with my Bangladeshi community to organize and participate in social and cultural events.
- What do you do for fun in Manhattan?
I mostly hang out with friends. We dine outside sometimes, try a variety of foods. I love to travel and camp/fish around the lakes (Tuttle Creek, Milford).
- If you could have known one thing before moving here, what would it be?
You will be missing your own country, food and people a lot. Despite that, jump into all the opportunities that the university provides from day 1. A more involved and active lifestyle will help with the homesickness.
- Do you have any advice for incoming international students?
If you limit your activities within your own (region) people only, you will be missing out a lot. Keep an open mind, mix and make friends with people from other cultures. Learn to embrace the differences and celebrate the similarities. Don't feel intimidated by a changing social or political culture. There are a plenty of people like you who may have defied tougher odds.
- What would you like others to know about being an international student at K-State?
It does not feel much different from being a local student here. There are plenty of opportunities to learn both inside the classrooms and outside.
- Would you mind sharing a phrase from your native language and what it means?

আসবার কালে কি জাত ছিলে
এসে তুমি কি জাত নিলে
কি জাত হবে যাবার কালে
সে কথা ভেবে বলো না...

It's a part of a song written by prominent philosopher and Baul saint Lalon Shah. He wrote and composed songs against caste system, nationalism, religious discrimination and identity politics during the 18th and 19th century.

Translation:

What was your caste during birth?

What caste you took once you were here?

What will be the caste during death?

Say that after thinking...