

MY JOURNEY:

FROM INDIA TO QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

ASHWIN TRIPATHI
MA ANTHROPOLOGY



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

I AM ASHWIN TRIPATHI
FROM INDIA

STUDYING AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

I studied MA Anthropology at Queen's. The School and the University were very welcoming. The diversity of the class allowed us to have a better understanding of the course, with numerous opportunities to learn and socialise with classmates.

I first heard about Queen's University in one of the education fairs in New Delhi, India. I met Queen's India representatives, they offered financial support and assistance in the application. I was able to speak to an Anthropology student who cleared up any questions and doubts I had about studying at Queen's.

MY NEXT STEP

Currently studying:
PhD in Leisure: Intersections of Age, Gender and Culture at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, India

MY FAVOURITE MEMORIES

The library services were helpful throughout my course. They were able to help with short term loan of books from libraries across the world.

The research component of my course allowed me to prepare myself for the next steps in my academic career.



My research work comprised of fieldwork. It was very challenging, but with my supervisor's guidance I learnt and developed a lot. At the same time, it prepared me for my doctoral studies.

I applied for a position as a Student Assistant. My part-time job at the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Student Recruitment Hub, gave me the opportunity to work in a busy office environment. Over the months that I worked there, they became like a family away from India. The extremely supportive staff gave me the best experiences in Belfast. The



Earl Erne allowed me to discuss important topics and also explore the local culture.

TRAVELLING TO QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY FOR THE FIRST TIME

I travelled with a group of Indian students joining Queen's University. We were introduced by the India representative and were picked up by the student body at the Belfast airport who gave us such a warm welcome.

I flew with British Airways and Indian Airlines.

MY GRADUATION

I graduated in December 2017. It was definitely a happy day. Most importantly, the memories, experience and lessons learnt in Belfast at Queen's University will always be cherished! I received the international bursary worth £2,000 towards my tuition fee.



work comprised of talking to prospective students, promoting and sharing my personal experiences. In the process, I learnt organisational skills and improved my soft skills (communicating, writing, presenting).

I was an International Student Ambassador. This allowed me to share my experience with other students from India and abroad. It provided me a platform to meet more international students across the University. Our short trips to tourist destinations were an added benefit! For instance, our trips to the City Hall where we met the Mayor and the visit to Fermanagh to meet



I GRADUATED
IN DECEMBER
2017



SETTLING INTO BELFAST

Cost of Living

Belfast is one of the cheaper cities in the UK.

I stayed at Queen's Accommodation in Gurthrie House initially. After 9 months, I moved to a private rental property. You get to connect with so many international and local students to learn their culture, values and food habits.

I NEVER SPENT MORE THAN £20 PER WEEK ON FOOD



TRAVELLING OUTSIDE OF BELFAST

London and Scotland are 1 hour flight away. Belfast is close to many cities and towns like Derry, Newcastle and Bangor which are worth visiting.

LONDON & SCOTLAND ARE JUST 1 HOUR FLIGHT AWAY



When I wanted to cook at home, I got my groceries from Tesco supermarket. I never spent more than £20 per week on food, plus the occasional coffee and few meals from Maggie Mays (a popular student café)!

MAKING FRIENDS

I made lots of friends during Welcome Week at Queen's University, International Ambassadors' meetings, Faculty outings and local events.



MY ADVICE TO NEW STUDENTS

The greatest challenge was adapting to the education system. In India, we don't write essays or thesis until later on in the programme. Therefore, learning it all in a semester was difficult.

Tesco supermarket is the best place to

buy local groceries. Indian stores are available but I would suggest trying new things and adapting to the new culture.

My advice is to be open about your issues. Queen's University has many counselling services and groups to help you. You should visit the Student Guidance Centre or Students' Union.



I MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS DURING WELCOME WEEK



"It was an extremely rich experience of knowledge, academics, people and life. They were some of the most exciting days in my life. Most importantly, as a PhD student now, I feel, my Queen's University experience prepared me for this."



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