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Uday Nair

PhD Management

MBA in Business Administration (2009)

I completed a Computer Engineering from Fr.CRCE (Mumbai University). After finishing this degree, I worked for three years and during this time I felt the need to know more about the management side of a business. I decided to study an MBA course, and came to the University of Sheffield. During my MBA, I worked in a company IC Innovations Ltd as an intern for three months. Towards the end of my MBA, I developed a keen interest in business consultancy, especially the concept of competencies. This led me to apply for my PhD under our MBA director Dr. John Kawalek, and now I am into the 1st year of my research life here at University of Sheffield Management School.



The reason behind choosing University of Sheffield for my MBA was the profile of the professors and lecturers in the Management school, ranking of the school, and the location. I am a nature loving person, and when I started enquiring about different location I found that Sheffield had the proper mix of bustling city during weekdays with quiet and lovely weekends - especially if you spend £3 for bus ticket to Peak District which is 15 minutes away. These reasons made me choose Sheffield above all the others.

The reason for choosing to continue studying here for my PhD is completely due to the people and my time here as a MBA student. The people here are very friendly; especially the staff, who are always welcoming and open to discussions. The director of the MBA, and my research supervisor, will always have the time to listen and give input into any kind of discussion, even when he is busy. When you are doing a PhD it is very important that you trust the people and love the place where you live, because this place is going to be home for the few years of your research life. And since I decided to spend the next five years of my life here, I preferred Sheffield above all other.

The most enjoyable part of my course is the friendly interaction with peers, lecturers, and professors. The university also has a tonne of resources like books, company contacts to conduct research and internships, and even funds for starting your own business, which are all available for the students for use. In addition to these the best thing is you are always welcomed with a smile and cheerfulness.

The most valuable aspect of my course is working with different companies with turnover from £200,000 to £2.3 billion, both during my PhD and MBA. These experiences give me the platform to test theories and experience the working culture here in UK and EU.

The method used for teaching here is a bit different from where I come from (prescribed book method), as here the method is searching for books in library and reading it - especially for writing assignments with multiple references, which was a first for me. Initially it was scary and tiresome but as time went on I understood the underpinning for this process and then I started enjoying it.

The lectures delivered by lecturers, professors and guest speakers are very much energised, and interactive. I always find a lot of positive and negative energy jumping around the room, especially when there are these mini vivas. But overall, it is a lot of fun. There are times when I have to present to an audience of 100 people at the beginning it was nerve wracking but now it is a part of my daily agenda.

The place where one to one takes place ranges from Common area to cafe to pubs to Lecture theatre. It is always fun to interact with Lecturers/Professors in these places they always tend to have 10 mins to spare to speak to you, hear your issues even to join you in your parties especially in the after exam parties where they are different from what I assume they are.

One of the biggest benefits to studying at Sheffield is the opportunity to work with innovators in their field, working with different companies, and learning different approaches to the existing systems of life. It is a complete transformation of oneself physically, mentally and spiritually.

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