Essay

Explain your spike factor (something unique about yourself) that you believe will contribute to the Rotman community and is aligned with Rotman values. How will your spike factor help you succeed as an MBA student and beyond? (up to 1000 words)

Our admitted students stand out through the varied accomplishments in their personal and professional lives â something we describe as the "spike factor". Tell us about your spike factor and how it will enrich our Rotman community. You have up to 1,000 words for this essay.

The following are examples of topics you may decide to address. You may choose to address any one, multiple, or none of these in your essay:

What are the things that you have done in your life that demonstrate passion, perseverance, resilience, innovation, drive, ambition and more? This can cross all or any aspects of life outside of work â personal accomplishments volunteer and community activities, awards, entrepreneurial ventures, sports or the arts.

We believe that exposure to a rich diversity of viewpoints makes for a superior learning experience, and pride ourselves on building a diverse class of exceptional individuals who will go on to make the School proud as professionals and alumni. How will your diverse experiences and perspectives contribute to the classroom and the Rotman community? (Note: We consider diversity to include race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, visible or non-visible disabilities, first generation students, socio-economic background and others).

Tell us your story that you believe will contribute to the Rotman community and how it is aligned with Rotman [values](https://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/Connect/AboutRotman/OurValues) (respect, diversity, excellence, and integrity). How will your spike factor help you succeed as an MBA student and beyond?

Optional - Please upload 1-3 of your 'spikiest' pictures to the supplemental items section of your application. Note: Your photos must be uploaded as a single PDF.

#### **My Spike factor: The constant urge to learn something new!**

As a part of my growth journey, I keep myself updated on what is going around globally. While browsing through the internet, I came across an incident that made me realize I need to do something bigger than myself. The incident talked about how a room full of dying children and mourning parents turned into a room full of life and hope. This was possible because Sir Frederick G Banting, Charles H Best, and JJR Macleod discovered insulin at the University of Toronto in 1921.

This was the first time I knew I would love to be a part of such history. The urge to learn something new and help people is what led to the discovery of insulin. I believe in the same way of living and making a positive impact on the world around me. This is my 'spike factor.'

I have always been an inquisitive person. Around the age of nine, I developed an interest in arts, especially sketching. I participated in various competitions and won many of them. My sports phase started around the age of fourteen. I started playing multiple sports, including football, cricket, and swimming. As I moved forward, I developed a great passion as well as skills for swimming and football. I was captain of the school football team as well as qualified and participated in the swimming nationals.

Before starting my graduate degree, I wanted to serve in the Indian Air Force. I made it to the final round but could not get through; nonetheless, that week of various physical and mental tests was one of the best experiences of my life. I learned never to give up and keep moving forward even when pushed to my limits. Then came college, and I developed an interest in graphic designing and became one of the coordinators of 'Graphicas: designing and game development hub' at the institute.

During this journey of developing new skills, one thing was constant—my love for numbers and problem-solving. I was good at mathematics too. This is what lead me to choose business analysis as my career path. Even at work, I always tried to learn and implement new concepts. We all know the importance of data in today's world. Wheelseye Technology was no different and was a data-driven organization; however, very few people could use that data. Data manipulation and making sense of numbers were a regular part of my work, which made me a hotspot for colleagues reaching out for their data concerns. I estimated it would save more time and effort if I trained my colleagues rather than simply help them. I took out extra time to solve people's queries and trained them to solve their problems. Within a quarter, around 60% of my colleagues could make their reports which decreased dependency and delay and improved efficiency.

My father being a doctor and my mother a part of multiple NGOs, I always saw them help people. They constantly encouraged me to give back to society as they believed in the Rawlsian social welfare, which states that the utility of its worst-off member measures the welfare of society. Following their footsteps, I always tried to help people around me, directly or indirectly. I started helping around in their NGO, Bharat Vikas Parishad (NGO), through which I was able to help not only people but the planet too. I automated Bharat Vikas Parishad's database used during its blood donation camps using google forms and sheets. I have been helping in their latest project, eco-bricks, by raising awareness and collecting plastic waste. Made out of plastic bags and bottles, eco-bricks can be used to make tree guards and benches, helping build infrastructure while checking the plastic waste generated by the community. Covid is a challenging time for everyone, and India was severely hit when the second wave hit in April 2021. When resources were scarce, I volunteered with my college friends to maintain and verify fresh leads for requirements ranging from medicine and oxygen to hospital bed and vaccine availability.

My life experiences and learnings developed through the diverse views and knowledge of the people around me and my strive for excellence have enabled me to solve problems ranging from managing a logistics network spread across four states to reaching a meeting in Chennai on time while being stranded 626km away without any travel arrangements. An MBA from Rotman will help me put my thoughts more methodically and make better and faster decisions, while I will bring a diverse experience in various disciplines to the Rotman community. The theoretical and practical knowledge I acquire at Rotman and my urge to learn something new will help me solve complex business problems post my MBA.