1. At ISB we value diversity as it enhances both the in-class and out of class learning experience. Tell us how would you contribute to the same?

“You are the first cohort from our college, go out there and show them your metal”

Said the Dean of Thapar University when I started my journey as a third-year student at Trinity College Dublin transferred from Thapar University. It was going to be my first encounter with the western world. There was a lot riding on our batch. Our performance would decide the fate of partnership between the two colleges. And for a meek submissive guy from a small city in Punjab this task seemed humongous. Unlike any regular Engineering student who wakes up late, gets well prepared mess food, takes a rickshaw to the class, visits home regularly, in Trinity, I had to wake up early, prepare my breakfast, pack my lunch, cycle 6 K.M. on a hilly terrain, complete daily assignments, return late at night, prepare dinner and finally go to bed. And then there were those small chores that just kept on piling like buying groceries, opening and maintaining bank accounts, getting student cards, collecting documents for visa, finding a cheap eat-out place, cleaning your bathroom.

This was the very first time I found myself out of my comfort zone. My motivation was, ‘learning’ be it from curriculum or from my interaction with people of different nationalities. For example Did you know that there is a popular Brazilian TV show that depicts caste system in India (Caminho das Índias)?, or Why was 3 idiots such a big success in China?, Or How the Irish model of Independence was opposite of the Indian model?, or Why the Italians hate American way of making Pizzas?, or How to use computer vision to filter out the traffic violators ?, or How semantic web would empower the Euro 2020 goal ?. I enjoyed the curriculum as it promoted originality and practicality. My Irish friends and I used to slog long hours in labs completing assignments, coming up with unique solutions. One of the hardest lessons I learnt was the European independent attitude. Although, I had friends but I was on my own when there was any chore outside of academics. Back in India I would have taken all my friends to help me with whatever work. Then there were those times when I found myself clueless on how to behave and what to take along as a gift when I visit my Irish friend’s family home. The learning went on and the 2 years passed by in the blink of an eye. I set out to achieve a good academic score but achieved something bigger by becoming a diverse person. This journey taught me how to live independently, how to mix up with and learn from people of different cultures. This is something that I can contribute to the already diverse ISB.