

Personal Statement: Colorado School of Mines

Have you ever travelled or studied abroad before? If so, where?

Why are you choosing to study abroad?

I am originally from Bangladesh, and I have come abroad to Germany to complete my Bachelor's Degree at Jacobs University. Before I came to Jacobs, I had very low expectations for what I might find so far away from home. But since the day I arrived, I have been nothing but impressed. This university has given me so much that it's hard to put into words. Coming to a foreign land and living on my own pushed me out of my comfort zone, and forced me to explore the limitless borders of my own capabilities. I have learned how to live independently, and in turn, developed into a self-reliant member of society so far away from home. Moreover, studying at a university with students from more than 120 countries has allowed me to make friends from all over the world, and immerse myself into many different cultures. I learned about people, their languages, their music, their habits, their traditions, their superstitions, their stories and so much more – and I want to keep learning. Jacobs has inspired me to be a citizen of the world, and I want to start right now! That is why I have chosen study abroad.

How will you incorporate your study at the partner university into your personal, professional and academic goals?

I believe Colorado School of Mines has a lot to offer. Firstly, it will give me a unique university experience. This leap into a completely new location and culture will teach me how to integrate into a different environment spontaneously. I'll meet new people and make many new friends. And more importantly, I'll be able to meet Professors and talk to them about their research, and explore any possible opportunities to work for them or be mentored by them. This would be a milestone for me, since I wish to apply for a PhD after graduation from Jacobs. When both professional and academic lives are intertwined, networking becomes essential for stepping ahead and making progress – and I wish to make full use of my good fortune in being a part of the study abroad program.

What do you hope to achieve during your study at the partner university?

At Jacobs, my major has a strong focus on communications. As much as I love what we've been working towards here, I also wish to take a peek beyond the boundaries of communications. Mines offers courses on Microcomputer Architecture and Interfacing, Sensor Design, Renewable Energy and Solid-State Physics. I will be able to learn about Digital Logic, VLSI Design and Data Science. I guess what I'm looking for is an ounce of freedom from a strongly composed academic structure. I believe it was Sir Isaac Newton who once said, "What we know is a drop, what we don't know is an ocean." Roughly speaking, all I want to do is take a dive in that ocean.

How do you plan to serve as a cultural ambassador for Jacobs University and for your country during your stay abroad?

I guess one of my brighter qualities is that I never forget my roots. Bangladesh is where I was born, and Jacobs is where my life really started. I have a special place in my heart for these two places. So, when it comes to representing them, I know without hesitation that I'll give it my all. In my role as a student, I'll strive to be the best student. In every game, I'll aim to be the winner. In every endeavor, I'll go the extra mile. Inspiration is a place, and everyone will know that it's Jacobs.