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1.3.5 Does your university as a body have schemes to support poor students from low income countries (e.g. offering free education, grants)?

What it's like to be an international student at UPES

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/what-its-like-to-be-an-international-student-at-upes/>



Maria Bernadete Munto from Cabinda, a small city in north of Angola, recounts how her degree in BBA Oil and Gas from UPES gave her an edge over her peers and landed her a job in the petroleum industry in Angola

UPES is Asia's first university that offers programs, specifically designed for core sectors with high growth projections. These domain-focused management courses train the students in a way that they understand the nuances of the industry in a much better way than their counterparts. In a highly specialized industry such as oil and gas, it is essential to educate the students in a manner that they become industry-ready as soon as they step out of the university.

Maria Bernadete Munto from Cabinda, a small city in north of Angola, recounts how a degree in BBA (Oil and Gas) from UPES gave her an edge over her peers and landed her a job in the petroleum industry in Angola.



Angola is the second-largest oil producer in Africa, and I wanted to contribute to the development of this industry

Q1 What motivated you to pursue BBA in Oil and Gas?

Angola is the second-largest oil producer in Africa, and I wanted to contribute to the development of this industry. I love travelling, and companies in the oil and gas industry offer good travel perks. My brothers, who work in the same industry, used to tell me stories about how vast was the [market for oil and gas](#). Therefore, I developed an inclination towards the industry.

Q2 Why did you choose UPES?

I chose UPES as it is one of the top universities in the world for studying petroleum. It gave me everything I could have asked for from an educational institution. Academically, the system was completely different from my home country. In Angola, the class timings are from 8 am-12 pm and at UPES, I used to have classes from 8:30 am-7:30 pm. The teachers were always willing to help,

whenever I needed their support. They understood that I was away from home and hence, comforted and took care of me like a family, especially Ms. Samiksha Khurana.



I chose UPES as it is one of the top universities in the world for studying petroleum

Q3 How was your experience of living in Dehradun?

Dehradun has pleasant weather and moderate climate, which is perfect for students. The mildly cold temperature and greenery provide a peaceful environment to study. It is also one of the safest cities for girls and is student-friendly. While I got the opportunity to visit other cities as well, but there is no other place like Dehradun. As a foreigner, it was difficult to adjust at first, but the people and beauty of the city made me feel at home, The intra-city commute was convenient and affordable and even travelling to neighbouring cities was fairly easy.

Q4 Did you face any challenges during your stay away from home?

I did face certain challenges as an African student, however, all those challenges made me stronger. It took some time to adapt to the culture, language, food and people, but then that is the part and parcel of being an international student. All those experiences helped me become more agile, flexible and confident.

Q5 What would you like to say to other future aspirants?

Being an international student requires a lot of work. However, not everyone gets this opportunity. So, if you get one, plan it well and make the most of it. As an international student in India, I got the chance to travel to a new world. Studying at UPES was an experience unlike any other. I discovered my new self while gaining an understanding of a different culture. Living in a foreign country by yourself can be overwhelming at times and it tests your ability to adapt to diverse situations, but in the process, it makes you resilient.



As an international student in India, I got the chance to travel to a new world

Message for the alma mater

I don't even know where to begin. When I finished high school, I was not ready to leave home. I had my fears. When I came to India, its vastness overwhelmed me. But when I visited the Bidholi campus of UPES, I fell in love with the place. The sprawling campus and the forests around reminded me of my hometown. I thank all of you especially Dr. Atul Razdan and Dr. Anirudh Singh for everything you have done for me.

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/jigyasa-pahwa-my-life-at-upes/>

JIGYASA PAHWA · MARCH 13, 2020



UPES gave me the golden opportunity to study a semester abroad at Coventry University, UK. The fact that I did not pay any tuition fee, was a big perk for me as a student

I hail from a non-legal background and being a first-generation lawyer in my family, I had to make a wise decision while picking my law school. After months of research and hard work, I am glad that I chose UPES back in the year 2016. Being a law aspirant, I always knew a balance between personality development and academics was extremely crucial. UPES as a university helps its students evolve their character, get industry exposure and become the perfect choice for recruiters.

Being an extrovert, I was an active public speaker. I represented my university at the national level for numerous moot and debate competitions. I was fortunate enough to be chosen for the Erasmus and Exchange Student Program in England, which also happens to be my dream country to pursue higher studies. As a child, I was enamoured by London (from what I could see in movies, sports matches and news), but never really got the opportunity to visit the city.

UPES gave me this golden opportunity to study a semester abroad at Coventry University, UK, as a Business Law student. And, I did not have to pay any tuition fees, which is a big perk for any student. I would say this exchange program was a life-changing experience because it made me more confident and prepared me to conquer the impending challenges. Even though this was not the first time I had gone to a foreign destination all by myself, I was a little nervous about this new beginning.

However, several people had put in their efforts to make this exchange program successful. From choosing my modules for the exchange to regularly taking updates during my stay, the faculty was always in the forefront to help.

The academic structure at Coventry University was completely different from what we had in India. I had to choose three modules, which were a blend of practical and theoretical aspects of business law. Apart from assignments and coursework, we were also required to attend the practical sessions of Mediation and Negotiation. This helped me build more self-confidence to appear in the courts and do in-depth research. There were multiple conferences and seminars that we attended. Faculty from various reputed colleges around England and solicitors from esteemed law firms gave lectures every week. I benefited a lot from these sessions.

Jigyasa Pahwa



My experience in England was picture-perfect and undoubtedly the best time of my life.

The kind of exposure I got from this exchange program helped in my overall development. There were continuous evaluations and teachers would regularly call students for discussions. I now have friends from numerous countries. Various co-curricular activities and the chance to build a network across the world made me understand and experience a wide range of cultures. My experience in England was picture-perfect and undoubtedly the best time of my life.

I am thankful to UPES for giving me this exhilarating opportunity, wherein I learned some life-long lessons. I also received my letter of recommendation from a senior lecturer at Coventry University, which will help me in applying for LLM at reputed universities in the UK.

I take pride in saying that I am a part of this prestigious university and it has changed my life for good.

Scholarships for Higher Education to Girls

<https://twitter.com/UPESDehradun/status/1645759518834556929>

Project Shakti by UPES offers scholarships for higher education to girls. Over 6,000 girls benefited since 2020. Meritorious girls with 60% in 12th can avail up to 30% tuition fee scholarships. Be the tomorrow you deserve!

Visit: <http://upes.ac.in/scholarships>

#UniversityOfTomorrow



HDFC Credila

https://upes-production-cvb3e7frghdda0a4.z01.azurefd.net/drupal-data/2023-10/upes-dehradun_hdfc-credila.pdf

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Project Vriddhi

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/project-vriddhi>

Every child deserves to reach her or his full potential. And education is one of the best predictors of success in children. It can help break the inter-generational cycles of poverty and marginalization. This project aims to provide the desired level of education in English and Mathematics to primary school students. It is helmed by the UPES faculty as mentors and supported by student volunteers.

Project Samwedna

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/samwedna>

Construction projects are a tall order and usually require people with varied skill sets to execute it. Workers are typically hired to spend months or even years on any one project. At our campus, too, there are numerous construction projects, thus making it a transit home for hundreds of workers. This project is aimed at the children of these workers. It provides them with education, day-care, mid-day meals, medical checkups, clothing, etc., through a day school set-up at the campuses.

Project Protsaahan

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/project-protsaahan>

One of the biggest reasons students drop out of college is because of lack of funds to keep going. This project supports meritorious underprivileged students of PYDS Academy of Learning, Purukul – Dehradun, for their higher education beyond Class XII. It admits two students annually from PYDS – one boy and one girl – who qualify the UPES Entrance Examination, into any of its programs and gives annual cumulative academic scholarship of Rs.20 lakh.

EDUDHURMA

<https://www.upes.ac.in/social-impact/edudhurma>

UPES runs a CSR policy called EDUDHURMA which stands for Education for Developing Humans for Righteousness and Mindful Actions.

Under this initiative, UPES has impacted the lives of over a hundred families, students from underprivileged backgrounds, government teachers as well as local schools in Dehradun.

There are four projects under EDUDHURMA: Protsaahan, Utkarsh, Dronasthali and Utthan.

UPES launched Protsaahan in 2018 to help the underprivileged meritorious students of Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) Learning Academy, Dehradun, pursue higher education at UPES.

Project Utkarsh aims to achieve overall progress of the society through holistic education to the neediest segment of the society.

Dronasthali supports the professional development of government schoolteachers while Utthan promotes the application of knowledge in the local community, to harness the scarce resources to their optimum level, raising the bar of development and to light up self-confidence of individuals.

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