



Faryal ALI KHAN
Institute of Business Management (IoBM)
Karachi, Pakistan

Bachelor Program
September- January
2019 - 2020 Academic year

Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Faryal-Ali-Khan/>

Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtIeUIIQi4Q&feature=emb_logo

At first I was not very convinced to come to Russia for an Exchange Program as it is my first exchange program. But as my friends have been here already and they loved their stay in Moscow I thought to give it a try.

Entering Moscow as an International student came up with a rollercoaster of new learnings and experiences. The administration has been really supportive since day 1 from providing conveyance from airport to prompt email responses for any sort of queries! But I would like to request that incase of class cancellation or changes the administration should update us because for more than 5 times we have been waiting for the teacher outside our classroom and then we get to know after 15-20 minutes that our class has been cancelled. But I know that this issue can be and will be resolved by the administration.



Well, being an international student in IBS-Moscow felt like being in my home, yes! This is how comfortable it is to be here. And the metro system here is a life saver! As far as studies are concerned, they are very smooth and more of based on practical demonstrations rather than only theory. I thought that maybe studies here would be tougher than my own university but no, it's not the case. I highly appreciate teachers like Professor Isac Sergey for Marketing Research and Professor Goldberg for Strategic Management as their lessons are very interactive and they appreciate class participation in such a way that it eventually develops your interest towards the subject.

I would really like to apply such practices in my home university, IOBM, in Pakistan. I am looking forward to do a small survey on the student life and the life after graduation in Russia!

Overall, I can say that Moscow is a great city to be in and one can learn a lot about its history and beauty during an exchange program along with their studies.

As an experienced international student in IBS- Moscow I would recommend few things to the future students:

1. Try to learn basic Russian language
2. To bring along a whole lot of warm clothes as it is extremely cold outside!

3. To make the most out of this program, make friends from different cultures, learn about them, their culture, hangout with them and trust me you will love every part of it!



4. Try to do a small survey on your personal basis to know about the student life, careers, opportunities and ICT in Russia as it is one of the fast growing countries.

I have made infinite memories; with my roommate and friends, I have travelled to almost all of the attractions in Moscow including Bolshoi Theatre, the Red Square, Business Centre, Vdenkh, Gorky Park and much more. And the best part of touristy was ice skating in an open ring in Vdenkh, it is so much fun and the park is so mesmerizingly decorated for new year and Christmas eve. Not only this, I have also been to the beautiful Venice of Russia, St. Petersburg along with a Spanish and two French friends and it is so peaceful there

Moreover, being a passionate baker I didn't let go this opportunity to join one the best baking schools in the world i.e. TORTIK ANNUCHKA and did a French pastries course under the guidance of French Pastry Chef Frederic Andreu.

But before coming here I heard that the Russians are very rude but oh! Yes, they do have a straight face but trust me once you talk to them; they are very sweet and helping.

Something I really love and appreciate about Russian Culture is the influential arts specially when it comes to paintings and architecture. And, the level of importance that Russians give to the Russian language is truly impressive that staying in Moscow will automatically teach you some Russian.





Dominic WEBER

University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Northwestern Switzerland

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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Dominic-Weber/>

Video <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Dominic-Weber/>

Daily life

During the week we had normal classes. They are scheduled mostly between 10 am and 7 pm which is different than in Switzerland but absolutely fine. The duration of one class is one and a half hour. After that I always had 10-15 minutes break. The breaks really depended on the lecturer. After classes I either spent some time doing homework or I went out with other students to visit the city.

Administrative support

Before I arrived in Moscow we had to send a few documents to the administrator at the university. The communication flu through mail which made it easy and not complicated. The administrator always gave me enough time to send the documents and was very friendly. After I arrived at the university the administrator always took care of me and the other students and was also very helpful when we had problems. To conclude I have to say that the administrative support was great!

Comfortability

As a student, I felt comfortable most of the time in the university. Sometimes it was hard to communicate with other students or employees on the campus because they often do not speak English. Obviously the students in our study program were able to speak English. When I had some issues I received help every time from other colleagues from the class or from the administrator. Experience studying outside my home country Studying in Russia is not something that everyone has done and it feels great to be something special and not usual. It was an amazing experience to see how university is going in another country of the world. Sometimes it was challenging but sometimes it is good to be out of the comfort zone to develop the own personality.

Quality of academic processes

Most of the time the academic processes went smooth and without complications. Sometimes there were miscommunications with lectures that were called off but that is normal for a university.

Study results

In general, I was surprised by my study results. I learned a lot also in comparison to my home university.

Courses

The courses I liked most is International Economic Relations by Mr. Ligorio as well as my Russian classes by Mrs. Filatova. They provided very interesting lecture material and helped me a lot to increase my knowledge.

Other students in my program

All the other students in my program were mostly very helpful but also respectful. I felt very comfortable during class as well as in leisure time. At the end, I found a lot of new friends and I am looking forward to keeping up this relationship.

Using my knowledge in the future carrier and study

In general, I learned a lot about Russian culture and how they behave. This makes it easier for me to work in an international company that has to do Russia. Also the experience I got here will be very helpful in the future.

My opinion about Moscow and Russia

Moscow is a beautiful city that has a lot to offer. There are uncountable places that you can visit during your study. You will never get bored. The fact that the city is enormously huge is confirming the fact that you will never get bored. There is a lot to explore in your leisure time. What I sometimes did not like is the behavior of elderly people. Sometimes they can be rude which did not make me feel very comfortable. But I have to say that the younger generation is very open and interested in different cultures, which is balancing again my comfortability.

Advice

I really suggest to prepare well for you exchange semester. It is very useful to know the basics of the Russian language to communicate with others. There are not a lot of English speaking people in this city. I also want to future students to be aware about the medical check. When I arrived here in Moscow I had to do several medical checks, which were in my opinion not necessary. I know that it is the Russian law that says that we have to make it, so there is nothing the administrator can do. I was just a bit surprised that we had to make a blood test, cardiology test, and also a test for the lungs. When you come here you have to do this, no matter where you are from and no matter what kind of documents you handed in before (for the visa for example). It is only a whole day you have to spend for the medical check and the price for this is about 1600 rubles and after the tests everything was fine and there were no problems. I also have to say that the doctors were very professional and the medical infrastructure was available.

Stereotypes

There are several stereotypes about Russia and some of them are true. The stereotype that every Russian is drinking a lot of vodka is definitely not true. I did not see a difference in the consumption of alcohol here in Russia and in my home country Switzerland. The stereotype that here in Russia are a lot of beautiful women is true.

Places in Moscow

As I mentioned earlier in my report, there are a lot of different places in Moscow. I can really recommend the museum of the Russian military, as well as the Izmaylovo District and the market there. Obviously I recommend the basic tourist attractions like the Red Square, the Bolshoi theater and the Kremlin.

Locals

The locals I met were very friendly most of the time. The ones that speak English are always interested



in where I am from and they come to me and ask me. I was very surprised, but I always felt comfortable when I was talking to a local.

Cultural differences

The most interesting thing is that Russians are not on time, even if they say that they are punctual. The lecture normally starts 5-10 minutes later because most of the students were late and sometimes also the teacher. Here I recognized that Swiss people are

definitely very punctual.

Conclusion

Making an exchange in Moscow is not something everyone does. Therefore, I really recommend you to go to Russia. Moscow has a lot to offer and it is very interesting to learn the Russian culture. The standard of the university is very good and the administrator as well as the teachers are very professional and helpful.



Lovis JOAS

Hochschule Pforzheim Pforzheim University,
Germany

Bachelor Program
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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Lovis-Joas/>

I always wanted to go to Russia, because this country has always been very interesting for me. When I got the chance to study at IBS RANEPA IBS for one semester I immediately took it. My journey started at the end of August. The coordination with the IBS-RANEPA was great, Zemfira (our coordinator) was always very helpful and arranged everything for us. So we were never left alone.

When I arrived at the airport I was picked up by a taxi driver and driven directly to the campus. There I was received very politely. At the beginning of September, we were officially welcomed, we received our student IDs and we were shown everything on campus. Afterwards the right lectures started for us. The lectures were all very exciting and interactive.

We had a lot of group work and teamwork was very important. The professors were all very nice and obliging. I lived in the dormitory on campus. There you could cook on almost every floor and there were community rooms where you could study or meet friends. There are also several canteens and even a

gym on campus. So you never get bored. There I met many new friends with whom I explored Moscow together.

In addition, we always had help from IBS students when we needed it. All in all my stay was very nice and I made many new experiences. The time went by very fast so I would recommend not only to visit Moscow but also St. Petersburg.

Many are scared off by the visa procedure to travel to Russia, but with the help of our coordinator, everything went smoothly.

At the end all that remains is to say: **Москва, я вернусь.**



William GOURBEYRE
Burgundy School of Business, Dijon, France

Bachelor Program
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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/William-Gourbeyre/>

My name is William, I'm a French student from Burgundy School of Business. I spent 4 months in Moscow, Russia. I was in IBS the business school of RANEPА. Once there, I was welcomed by a buddy that planned everything during the first week so that I wasn't alone and lost. Actually, I had a very good impression of Russia at the time I arrived there. The weather was nice, and people were very cool with foreign students. The lessons given to us were good and the teacher were very professionals.

Regarding the life in Russia, I met a lot of foreign students and we spent great time in clubs during the weekends. Also, it is very easy



to travel in Russia. I could visit St Petersburg and some cities around Moscow for low prices. Life is not that expensive and there's a lot to do in Moscow, the city is full of history. The international team is always here to answer our questions and help us for anything. I could learn Russian language during the semester even if it's not easy at first. I'd like to thank all of the IBS RANEPa team that made us come to Russia and also the teachers and students there.



Envel LE BOURG
Burgundy School of Business, Dijon, France

Bachelor Program
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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Envel-Le-Bourg/>

STUDENT LIFE

We had an excellent administrative support given by MS Zemfira who helped us a lot: an explain how is working the Russian administration and helped me to find my luggage. Being an international student in Moscow is great. Studying outside my home country was really an impactful experience. I met a lot of people and learned more about myself. It was interesting to see a different academic process which is qualitative. I really like Russian food, buildings and monuments, museums, exhibitions, Moscow, Vladimir, Suzdal, Sergeï Posad and Kazan. Because I love to discover new cultures. The courses I enjoy the most is Russian language. The people were sympathetic and nice. I want to thank again MS Zemfira, for all the work she did to help during this semester. I plan to use what I learned during this semester in my professional project and during my master. Moscow is a beautiful city, living in it was marvelous. I made three trips outside of Moscow which will stay in my memory.

COMMUNITY AND DAY-TO-DAY LIFE IN MOSCOW

I did not see any stereotypes in Moscow about the city or Russian people. My favorite travel experience and is the weekend I travelled with friends in Vladimir and Suzdal. The place I enjoyed the most visiting is the kremlin in Kazan with its church and mosque. The museum of European art. VDNKh is an amazing totally worthy to visit at any season (in winter with its enormous ice rink) and in summer under a beautiful weather. The most interesting thing about Russian culture I learned is how their language is construct. I learned that France and Russian share similar value in their culture and traditions.



I normally live in a country as big as this university so for me the distances were the first challenge here nevertheless I enjoyed Moscow a lot. It is a city which can literally offer anything if you know where to go. Amazing restaurants, breathtaking rooftops and best clubs, from the underground ones to the fanciest.

Do not be concerned with the weather it is not as bad as you may think, in May I am already tanned so the sun exists even in Russia.

During the stay, you will have local holidays, a way to travel and discover the country; I personally recommend the historical city of St Petersburg and the savage trip to the lake Baikal. I am ultimately so proud of my choice, in these months I have made great connections, which I will bring with me for the rest of the life.

I look forward to hear your experience as well.



Alina RITTER
University of Applied Sciences Bielefeld,
Germany

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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Alina-Ritter/>

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The last few months before arriving to Moscow I had very close contact with Zemfira alimullina, the International Program Coordinator at the IBS Moscow. We communicated via mail and I had to send her a few documents to get the visa and to get enrolled at the IBS. The communication was easy and not complicated at all because the coordinator gave me enough time to send her the documents she needed. After the arrival at the campus, Zemfira always made sure that everything is fine with me and the other students. She also helped us with the medical checkup, that has to be done some days after the arrival. If we needed support, we knew that we can come to her office or even call her at any time.

COMFORTABILITY AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AT THE IBS MOSCOW



At the beginning it was hard to be far away from home and in another country without the people who you are used to have around, but I got used to it after some weeks. The campus felt a little bit like home. Moreover, I had a fellow student from the Fachhochschule Bielefeld with me and made some new friends in Moscow, which made it a lot easier. As my mother language is Russian, I had some benefits and no problems to communicate with Russian students or the employees at the campus. Also, everyone was friendly and ready to help if there were some

EXPERIENCE OF STUDYING ABROAD

Russia is an unusual country to spend a semester abroad. But as I already mentioned, I thought it would be easy for me

because I speak Russian and it would be a great opportunity to get even more fluent in this language. Also, I wanted to know if the education system is really that different as my mother always tells me. Yes, it is different, but every country stands out with its special features and I am grateful that I had the chance to experience it on my own. It was challenging to get used to a different education system and different rules especially in the way of writing exams, but it was an amazing experience.



ACADEMIC PROCESS

There is nothing that I would criticize regarding the academic process. Everything was fine. Generally, every single course was interesting and helpful. But out of the 10 courses I have chosen the courses I liked the most were Cross Cultural Management by Ms Daria S. Myasoedova and Marketing Research and Operations by Ms Maria M. Bernstein. In my opinion, there were courses which were more demanding and courses which were less demanding. I gave my best and I am satisfied with the study results.

PEOPLE IN MY PROGRAM

The other students in my program, Russian students and international students, were very friendly and always ready to help if there was an issue. During the leisure time I spent a lot of time with international students from Switzerland and France. I am glad to say that I found great people who I can call friends now.

GENERAL OPINION ABOUT MY STAY IN MOSCOW

Moscow is one of the most beautiful cities I have visited so far, especially during winter because everything is lightened, and it just looks magical. There are a lot of places to explore in Moscow.

So, there is not even time to get bored in a huge city like this. Further, it is very uncomplicated to make new acquaintances because the younger generation of Russian people is very open minded and does not hesitate to talk to you. Younger people are always very interested in getting to know who you are and where you are from. A lot of them speak English, so that my fellow international students also had no problem to communicate with them.

ADVICE

I think it is necessary to be well prepared for a semester abroad. Especially in Russia I would suggest learning some basic words in Russian before coming to Russia, as not every Russian speaks English, to get along in the daily life because I have experienced that some international students struggled at the beginning of the semester. Further, future international students have to realize that the Russian education system is not like in European or other countries. It may be different to what you know from your home country. We had a lot of homework, presentations and tasks to do for the courses to make sure that we get the points to pass. Also, we had some small tests in between. You have to put more effort into working for the university during the semester. This is mostly unusual in Europe.



STEREOTYPES AND CULTURE

As I was raised in a Russian-German family I am familiar with the culture and the stereotypes foreigners speak about but there was nothing that surprised me.

FAVORITE PLACES IN MOSCOW



I already mentioned that Moscow has a lot of places to explore but I absolutely fell in love with the Red Square. Every time I went there it felt like the first time. It is one of the most beautiful and powerful places in Moscow. Near the Red Square is the Nikolskaya Street which I was also impressed by. I really liked to take a walk there, especially in the dark. Apart from that one of my favorite places was Moscow City with its skyscrapers. Just to see how multifaceted Moscow is makes it a special city.

LOCAL PEOPLE

Local people are mostly friendly and are willing to help you. Like I said before the younger generation is always interested in getting to know you. What I realized is that most of the people living in Moscow are stressed as it is a big city and a lot of people are there to work or study.



Cecilia FULLIN
University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Northwestern Switzerland

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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Cecilia-Fullin/>

Arrival

Most foreign students didn't speak any Russian, just like me, so I was very happy that IBS-RANEPA provided a taxi driver who picked us up from the airport and drove us to the campus. At the campus were some Russian students, our buddies, waiting for us to help us install in the dormitory and to support us if we had any questions.

Administrative support

The communication with our Russian coordinator Zemfira always went by smoothly. I received all information in advance and she always replied immediately before I arrived in Russia as well as during my stay at IBS-RANEPA. I could always call her even outside of working hours. The only negative thing which was annoying sometimes is that I always needed to find someone who speaks English (or call Zemfira) if I wanted to talk to someone working on the campus. Neither the receptionists, doctors, administrators nor security staff can speak English.



Comfortability

I felt comfortable on the campus, it is secured so that not everyone can enter and there are many security staff. There are cafeterias and vending machines in every building, so I always had the possibility to buy something to drink or to eat which I was very happy about. The only uncomfortable thing was, again, the language barrier. Also, the documents which we had to sign were only in Russian.

Experience of studying abroad

Russia was not my first choice to study at and I didn't think I would be sent there to be honest, but at the end I am actually very happy that I took the chance to go. I was scared in the beginning because I didn't know anything about Russia apart from the stereotypes. It took me around one month to get used to the new environment and to meet people. At the end it turned out to be a very great experience. If there is a chance to study abroad, no matter where, I strongly recommend to do it.

Studying at IBS-RANEPA

The study went by mostly without complications, the professors were always able to find a solution if there was a problem. My Russian classmates were also friendly and helpful if I had questions. The system of the university is very different to our system in Switzerland, so it was very interesting to compare and to experience how the university life works in another country. I was able to follow every course and passed every exam without problems.

Courses

My favorite courses were International Economic Relations by Mr. Ligorio, Cross Cultural Management by Ms. Myasoedova and Russian class by Ms. Filatova. I enjoyed attending their classes, they were always interesting and with good lecture material.

Classmates

The Russian students I talked to were very friendly and helpful and I was able to have some interesting conversations with them. I spent most of my time with some international students from Germany and France. We built a strong bond and I can actually call them friends now.

Using my knowledge in my future career and studies

I learned a lot about Russia, its people and culture, I can understand Russians behavior and adapt to it. It was definitely an eye-opening experience and it will help me to be more open-minded and understanding when studying or working within an international environment.

My opinion about Moscow, Russia and the locals

Honestly, my experience and impressions I got from Moscow and Russia were so much better than I imagined. Moscow is a very beautiful and exciting city, which has a lot to offer. I met some Russians outside of IBS-RANEPA, which are my friends now and I was able to learn a lot from them. They definitely broke all the stereotypes I had about Russia. They were very open-minded, funny and I had great insightful conversations with them. Russians, especially young people who speak English are very interested if they hear someone speaking in another language. I have been approached by Russians sometimes because they wanted to know where I am from and wanted to help to make my experience in Moscow even better. I was very positively surprised by that behavior and I thought it is very cute how Russians really wanted foreigners to like Moscow and Russia and to feel comfortable. Elderly people can be rude sometimes which can be uncomfortable especially if you do not speak Russian, but this generation gap can be experienced in many other countries too, also in Switzerland. In general, I think that Russians are very friendly, kind and great hosts.

Advice

I strongly recommend to prepare for your exchange semester. I learned to read Cyrillic before going to Moscow and this was already helpful, but it would be even better to already know some basic phrases before going, because most people don't speak English. Be aware that you will have to undergo another medical check after your arrival at IBS-RANEPA even if you have already sent documents with your medical test results. I was not very happy that they took blood samples again even if we all already did it in our home countries. There is nothing one can do because it is the law in Russia, so just be prepared. It takes one or two days and you will have to pay around 1600 roubles.

Stereotypes

The stereotype that Russians are rude is not true for most of the time. There are rude people, but it was the minority in my opinion. Another stereotype that all Russians drink vodka the whole time is also not true.

Places in Moscow

Moscow is a huge city with beautiful parks and places to visit. I really liked the Gorky park which becomes an ice rink in winter. Also, the park at the metro station VDNKh in the Ostankinsky District is very interesting with the different museums and exhibitions of the past USSR era and it also becomes an ice rink in winter which is very beautiful. Of course, the basic tourist attractions are a must like the Red Square, the Bolshoi theatre and the Kremlin. I can also recommend to take the chance to go to St. Petersburg, either by train or by plane.



Cultural differences

I could definitely see that time is handled differently in Russia as it is in Switzerland. It is tolerated to be late 5-10 min while we have zero tolerance about being late in Switzerland. I actually got used to that and life felt more relaxed while knowing it is not that bad if I arrive late.

Conclusion

I am very happy that I took the chance to go to Russia, I had a really great time and I met great people. Russia is an underrated country because not many people visit it and most people don't really know many things about Russia. As soon as you get used to your surroundings and meet nice people, you will have a great time. The university is very professional and Moscow is great, so I can only recommend to take the chance to go.