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Institute of Business Management (IoBM)
Karachi, Pakistan

Bachelor Program
September- January
2018 - 2019 Academic year

Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/syed-hamza-ali/>



Moscow, the city where every traveller has on his bucket list. I was selected by my host university Institute of Business Management for a semester exchange in their partner university IBS-RANEPA. Experiencing everything for the first time I was a bit worried and excited at the same time. As the process proceeded we got in touch with our International coordinator at IBS-

Moscow, Zemfira Galimullina. I was very comfortable while communicating with her, although she gave me every information regarding the whole visa process but still if I had any confusion I could email her anytime and I did not have to wait for reply for days, which made things a lot easier.

Landing at the Vnukovo airport I was excited to step into a whole different world and by whole different world I meant the western lifestyle which was completely different than the lifestyle we had in Pakistan. After being cleared from all the security checkpoints (which took more time than we expected) we had a driver waiting for us at the exit. The weather was a bit hotter than I expected but still I could feel the cold breeze



caressing our faces, the clear blue skies, the wide roads with periodic views of the forest on our way towards IBS RANEPA, I enjoyed every bit of that small ride. After arriving at IBS-Moscow I had an international student waiting for me who helped me in every basic thing, for instance, getting a room for me in the dormitory and showing me the currency exchange points. After doing all the necessary things, I finally went to my room. My first expression of the room was why is it so small? Can't I get bigger rooms? Well it was just a matter of time and I started to feel like home within a couple of days.

Similarly, the first week was comprised of all the paper work we were required to do and



to tell you the truth Zemfira helped us throughout the process just like a foster mother. Then we had an orientation where I met all the International students with whom I was going to study this semester. We all got along so well that the feeling of being a stranger got away quickly. I was surprised by the attitude of the Russian teachers and students towards me because the stereotypes I had about Russian were nowhere to find in their characters.

Talking about the courses I was expecting to learn more than I actually learned, the classes were very less interactive and it made the course less interesting. But my most favorite course among all courses was strategic management by Sir Arcadiy Goldberg, the atmosphere in his class was way different from other courses. He trained us to think strategically, to evaluate problems or to give suggestions on a particular topic. I learned so much from his class and for that I will always be grateful to him.

Now if I talk about the people of Russia I was really surprised and happy to discover that all the stereotypes I had about them were very wrong. For instance, if I needed help in the metro, in the superstore or anywhere else they were always eager to help us. I never faced any kind of racism towards me. One thing I learned about Russians is that they do not fake smiles if they are smiling with you then they are genuinely happy with you. To my surprise. It was very easy to find halal food and halal restaurants in Moscow and every day we would meet a person who turn out to be a Muslim in the end.



Similarly, to take a break from studies we planned a trip to Saint Petersburg and everything from the train journey to strolling around the city was memorable for me. Saint Petersburg had its own unique vibes and it always felt like I was strolling around a city of England. Coming back from Saint Petersburg I received an invitation regarding a trip to Vyazma, without any second thought I agreed with the plan. Sophie, who was organizing this trip helped us during the whole trip and I will always be thankful to her for such an amazing experience. In Vyazma we were hosted by different families, we played games with the locals, went for

a walk around the city, shared our values and thoughts with each other and to conclude, my trip to Vyazma was the highlight event of my exchange program in Moscow. As I said to the people of Vyamza "I came to make some friends, made a family instead" can describe the importance of this trip for me. People of Moscow and Moscow itself will always stay in my heart no matter where I go.



Rémi L'HULLIER

Burgundy School of Business, Dijon, France

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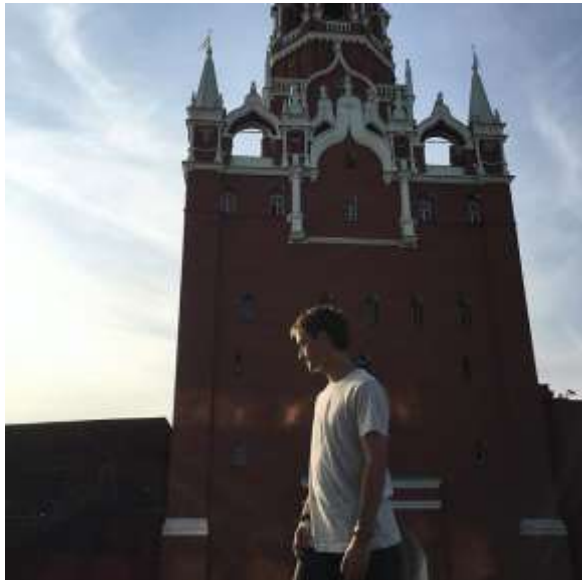
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I have spent a wonderful exchange in Russia. I had been happy to have the opportunity to travel in different places such as in Vyasma, Saint-Petersburg and Sochi. I could see different weathers, cultures and environments. However, I could travel only during the weekends (including Monday) because we had class the whole week so it wasn't possible to leave more than 3 days.



Furthermore, I would say that Moscow is a great city and it had been such an amazing city to discover during an ideal time, Christmas, with all the decorations.

My courses were interesting especially marketing research, cross cultural management and social responsibility management. However, I would also add that strategic management and business planning (courses from the 4th year Bachelor program) were a bit difficult because the topics were completely new and hard to follow. My Bachelor track lasts only 3 years and so I could not easily put into practice in my project presentations things I never saw before.



I only have positive and rewarding memories during my time in Russia along with these four months.

Thank you a lot to make possible this exchange in your beautiful country.



Rayco TARRIDA ORTEGA
IE University, Madrid, Spain

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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/rayco-tarrida/>



My experience in Moscow has most definitely been something I will always carry with me in the future. It was the first time I was studying abroad and doing so in a completely new country, where you lack the language can be challenging in many cases. However I must say that the administration of IBS RANEPa was very helpful since the day I arrived (if not I would have probably not survived the first week in Moscow).

Despite being an international student it was quite easy to get around and meet new people, although google translate did help a lot to get round Moscow as there is a lot of people who only speak Russian. Overall the experience of studying abroad has been fantastic and I have gained many positive memories that, as I said before, will always carry with me. It has been great fun and interesting all the way through.

Speaking about the academic expectations and studies I must say that the level was not as high as I expected in the first place and many of the classes were very slow going. On the other hand, some of the subjects and professors have proven to be extremely interesting, such as Strategic Management with Arkadiy Goldberg or the Russian classes with Galina Filatova, which were my two favourite subjects and the ones I've learned the most. All of the experience studying in Moscow will most certainly help me in the future, mainly as I have been doing business management courses being an international relations student, thus has helped me broaden my perspective and get an insight to the managerial world.



Moscow and Russia in general have surprised me in a positive way, falling in love with the city, people and culture. I will most definitely be coming back in the future to visit this vibrant city and hopefully in the future I will be able to do business here. I would also like to mention St. Petersburg, which was an amazing city, completely different to Moscow. However I was astonished by the historic level that the city has and the beauty of such.



Waleed Uz Zaman SIDDIQUI
Institute of Business Management (IoBM)
Karachi, Pakistan

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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/waleed-uz-zaman-siddiqui/>

video <https://ibda.ranepa.ru/about/news/startovali-obmennye-programmy-vesennego-semestra-fmbda-ibda-dlya-inostrannykh-bakalavrov-i-magistrov.html>



Coming to Moscow has really been an amazing experience so far for me. I have learned so many things in these four months that are surely going to help me in my future life. It's the first time that I've stayed away from Pakistan for this long. The day I stepped in Moscow, I knew I was going to experience many unique things, as lifestyle of Moscow and Karachi is very different.

When we arrived at Vnukovo airport, a driver was already waiting for us. Upon arriving at RANEPa, our student coordinator Vladislav Gorbunov received us and helped us with the initial formalities. From the medical checkup to purchasing the sim-cards, he was there to assist us.

We have been given room number 915, and it is no more a room, because it is like a home for us now. Everything has been quite good in the dormitory, and it indeed is well maintained. There's a kitchen on our floor so there are no issues in cooking as well.

Our international coordinator Zemfira Gallimulina had been cooperative since first day. Even before coming here, she guided us at every single step through her emails. I had a certain perception of Russian people before coming here. I had heard many things about their rude and arrogant behavior, but believe me, all these perceptions were far away from reality. I



I found my Russian mates really friendly and kind. In fact, not only my classmates but also the locals that I came across were all really sweet. Apart from Russians, I met some of the most genuine human beings from Spain, France, and Switzerland.

It was difficult to find halal food in the first two weeks, but with the passage of time, we discovered many restaurants and shops with halal meat. In the first three weeks, I felt homesick a lot, but as the time passed everything seemed fine.



time.

For me, Moscow is an amazing city. It has a lot to offer. It holds a huge share of world's history. There are many museums and monuments in this city that preserve the history of Moscow as well as Russia. You can find some of the most amazing and spellbinding architecture here. The mesmerizing Moskva River flows right through the city, adding to the city's beauty. We did not have much issues in traveling around the city as Moscow has one of the best and convenient subway system as well as buses. As the sun sets slowly, the city becomes more attractive with all those lights on the buildings and around the tourist attractions. I also got a chance to watch UEFA Champions league match in the Luzhniki stadium. It was an unreal feeling to sit in the same stadium where FIFA world cup final was played. I will not forget this experience for a long

The only problem that I faced in Moscow is of language. Locals and shopkeepers barely know or speak English here so we had to use translator quite often. Even the administration of dormitory did not know English, that was quite irritating at times. Apart from that, our stay has been quite amazing and these four months have totally changed the way I used to think about things. The time spent here has groomed me overall as an individual. I have given four months of my life to Moscow and in return, it has given me a lot of memories, experiences and learnings. I would love to visit Moscow once again in my life and relive all the memories and moments I spent here.

I am gonna miss you MOCKBA!





Valentine JAUBERT
NEOMA Business School, France

Master Program
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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Valentine-Jaubert/>

**How comfortably is to be an international student in IBS-
Moscow:**

Being an international student is quite interesting when you're in a foreign country, you learn a lot from others students, from you teachers, from local people, but you also have enough time to travel around! It wasn't the first time I studied abroad, but the third. So I let you imagine if I did like it or not...! We had some really good teachers during our Master program. The arriving in Moscow was the best I could have. I had a taxi offered by IBS and a Russian student was in the dormitory, waiting for me to welcome me and show me around (how things work in the dormitory, going to the medical center, going to the supermarket..) such a great way to be welcomed in such a big city that Moscow is! (Moreover, people outside the university don't often speak English, so I have been reassured really quickly by that arriving). We had the chance of having such a great coordinator, so it was really easy to get all administrative documents, including the visa. Thanks again Zemfira!



What courses did you like:

In my point of view, the best course was from Stefano Pilotto, he created such a great and warm environment within the class and we became a big team thanks to him. I'm also really grateful to him for the rich and interesting courses he gave us.

Which tutors you would like mention:

The best tutors were Zemfira Galimullina, Stefano Pilotto, Maria Bernstein and the CSR teacher. 4 absolutely great persons!

How you are planning to use your knowledge in the future carrier and study:

Doing business with people we used to know is obviously easier, so I didn't plan yet how to use my knowledge, but I know it will be useful in my future carrier and life

Your general opinion about your stay in Moscow, trips around Russia and so on.

An interesting place to stay for a while, I wanted to stay more because there's still a lot to discover in this city! If you like ballet, ice skating, museums, techno



music, good restaurants and wonderful architecture... then you'll be the happiest person in the world in Moscow!

The large amount of stereotypes that Western Europe have about Russia and Russian people will disappear quickly. During my semester, I visited Saint-Petersburg obviously, but also three Baltic's countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The price tickets were the half cheaper than from France!





Louis PIRLOT

ICHEC Business School, Brussels, Belgium

Master Program
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Web <http://eng-ibda.ranepa.ru/about/reviews/Louis-Pirlot/>

Video <https://ibda.ranepa.ru/about/news/startovali-obmennye-programmy-vesennego-semestra-fmbda-ibda-dlya-inostrannykh-bakalavrov-i-magistrov.html>

How comfortably is to be an international student in IBS – Moscow:

I was very surprised by the warm welcome Russian students gave us. I think we all felt very integrated, and personally never did one group work without at least 2 different nationalities in the group, which was really enjoyable. It was my second time studying abroad, so I was quite prepared for this. I find pleasant to feel a bit shaken and in need to adapt to a less comfortable environment (shared room, different food, cold weather), especially since it's so gratifying to escape its comfort zone. The IBS-Moscow was of great help, both Zemfira Galimullina and Maria Bernstein, and were always available to support in case we had questions or demands.

What did you like and why:

I really enjoyed that we were very well integrated among Russian students, not only studies-wise, but in the everyday life as well. It was not rare to see Russian students joining us during parties, it was a surprise and that was great!

What courses did you like

My favourite course was probably investors relations. It was a side of finance I had never studied, and very interesting approach to it. I enjoyed international finance and event management as well.

Which tutors you would like mention:

Mr. Pilotto will be remembered ! The warmest teacher I've ever had ! Asking for quality work, giving personalised and interesting insights and pieces of advice.

Your general opinion about your stay in Moscow, trips around Russia and so on.

I remember that during the introduction day, the video displayed was called "surprising Russia". This sums it all up ! Even though I've barely seen any of Russia, my stay here was intense, bright and most of all: surprising. We have this common picture of Russian people that they are cold and closed. All on the contrary. Of course when having "operational" interactions with them (i.e. asking the cashier a bag or ordering a drink in a bar), there won't be much efforts made from both sides. But once we go above this

operational boundary, the interaction really becomes rich and flavourful. I've travelled in several countries, and it is only here that I have felt this.

Awesome experience! I shall encourage any student willing to discover something new to come here asap. It is no advice, it is a prescription!