

My Journey from LNMIIT to IIT-Gn

I am Ashutosh Singla, currently pursuing Masters in Communication Engineering from RWTH Aachen University, Germany. I completed my Bachelors from LNMIIT, Jaipur and I believe that the most memorable part of my 4 year B.Tech programme were two semesters (5th and 8th) from IIT-Gn through Student Exchange Programme. This kind of thing is generally not possible in India, but in our institute, LNMIIT has a policy that some students may be permitted to pursue courses/semester in other academic institutions in India or even abroad, as non-degree students through Student Exchange Programme. It helps to broaden the horizon of students and also increases collaboration between institutes and some other benefits, For this, I feel a special gratitude towards two of my professors Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi and Prof. S.K. Jain as they made my dream of becoming an IITian true.

Joining IIT-Gn through Student Exchange Programme proved to be a turning point in my life. It brought a lot of positive changes in me at personal as well as intellectual level. Before joining IIT Gn in 5th semester, I was worried about how am I going to survive among the best minds of the nation. In initial days, I looked myself as a stranger among the forty odd people in my class but gradually everything started to fall in place; I started enjoying the lectures, made some of the best friends and became accustomed to IIT-Gn's ambience.

During my stay at IIT-Gn in 5th semester, I mainly concentrated upon my performance in academics and wanted to make a decent pointer. After my performance in mid-sem, I felt motivated and tried to broaden my horizon apart from academics and started spending time in culture and sports activities as well. I did everything here, from sports to study, from gossiping to discussions, and from watching movies to attending seminars. I felt so much belongingness from this place that at the end of the semester, I didn't want to leave this place but had to leave this place with heavy heart. But I was not returning with empty handed, I learnt how to get self-motivated, how to live a balanced (between your studies and leisure activities) life and most important thing consistent commitment towards your work/goal.

At the end of the 7th semester I came to know that I can pursue one more semester from IIT-Gn. This opportunity helped me a lot in providing acceleration to my career and I came here with lot of Enthusiasm, Energy, and with Positive Hopes. This time I had one more extra task to do apart from studies and that was to get admission for Masters in one of the most reputed German Universities like TU Munich or RWTH Aachen. My studies and application procedure were going side-by-side. The first setback I faced during my application is that my home Institute LNMIIT was not recognized in Germany, therefore, I can not apply to some of the universities. But Prof. Murali Damodaran and my friends (Kishore and Nishant) at IIT-Gn guided me how to tackle with this. So, I mailed to few authorities like DAAD Offices in India and in Germany and I mailed to Central Office for Foreign Education in the Federal Republic of Germany. After three weeks I got response from them that LNMIIT is now a recognized Institute and I am eligible to apply in German Universities. Prof. Abhijit Mishra gave his valuable suggestions for improving my SOP and CV. My friends (Nishant Joshi, Kishore Rathnavel, and Vivek Maheswary) who consistently motivated me, and reviewed my applications, and finally in the first week of April, I got Admission Letter from RWTH Aachen.

Following are the things which I liked the most in IIT-Gn:

1. Attending lectures of Prof. Joycee Mekie; I was so inspired and motivated by the way of teaching that during the whole 5th semester I didn't miss even a single second of her lectures.
2. Doing my BTP-II (in 8th semester) with Prof. Surendra Ranganath. By working with him I learnt the organized way of doing project; never give up attitude, and different perspectives of looking into the problem and solving them. This attitude helped me a lot in keeping me motivated during the up's and downs of my MS applications.
3. Students and Faculties always treated me like a student of IIT-Gn; I never felt I was away from my home institute.
4. Students are the main stakeholders of an institute, I saw in IIT-Gn how student cared about reputation of their institute.
5. A place where I have seen a lot of self motivated students.
6. Relations between the students and faculties are very friendly.

According to me, this kind of Student Exchange Programme can provide one with the opportunity to experience new cultures, meet new people, see more of the world - all while enhancing one's studies and expanding horizons!

I would like to thank the faculties, my colleagues and admin team of IIT-Gn for their consistent support and help. It was privilege for me to be in their touch in the shaping time of my life. It was a wonderful experience for me which I would relish forever.

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