

Tête-à-tête #3



Ms. Vijayalakshmi (Viji) Chellappa
Regional Recruitment Adviser (South & West)



1. What does a typical day in office look like for you?

Answer: My day begins with answering emails, attending to phone calls from students and agents, skype sessions with agents or students as scheduled. I also allocate time to plan my travel for both South and West regions, account for my travel expenses. Monthly reports, visit reports are also prepared keeping in tune with the deadlines. As my job requires travelling, I make sure that there are no pending tasks before I start to travel.

2. Your job entails a lot of travel and juggling different goals. What do you do to cope with all the challenges?

Answer: I knew quite well that this job entails extensive travel and I love travelling. As mentioned earlier I complete all the reports before I start to travel. While travelling too, I never miss to answer the emails. It all boils down to time management and prioritizing the work.

3. What is your biggest challenge while dealing with the Indian student?

Answer: Each student comes with a specific expectation and interest to pursue a program of their choice; they may not have a very good academic record that meets the requirements of the program but may have high expectations. Talking to them, understanding their requirements and helping them find the right program that fits their expectations is the biggest challenge. I also counsel the parents to make sure they understand their child's aspirations and offer support rather than forcing their ambitions on their children.

4. What is the best part about your job?

Answer: Meeting new people, students and sometimes parents too. Helping students achieve their goals by guiding them towards the right path is the best part

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of my job. I love my job even more when those students and parents thank me for helping them.

5. What are the aspects of your job that you like less?

Answer: There is nothing in my job that I like less. Generally, I expect students, agents or anyone to respond promptly to my mails or calls and when they don't, I don't appreciate that.

6. What do you consider your greatest achievement? You can quote from outside your work too.

Answer: In my previous organization, United States Educational Foundation in India, at the American Consulate, I was awarded 'Adviser with the Highest Impact Award' by the United States Department of State in May 2010. I was the only one selected for this award from among a pool of 450 advisers. That was one of the happiest moments of my life. I have also traveled to various countries and have been interviewed by channels and newspapers on higher education in the United States.

7. Highlight one thing about your university that you cherish the most.

Answer: I am very happy to work with Sheridan College. I like the diversity of programs offered. Promoting creative courses related to animation and gaming in South India, which is a typical market for engineering is a challenge that I like and cherish the most. Sheridan is in the process of becoming a university by 2020 and I am looking forward to it.

8. What is/are the skills absolutely necessary for your job?

Answer: Listening Skills and patience. Listening to the students, is very important to understand their aspirations. Patience is absolutely necessary to explain things to them in detail.

9. What is the one skill you would most want to acquire?

Answer: To learn to speak in Hindi is a skill I would like to acquire. I have been trying; I am hoping 2017 will give me a start 😊.

10. What are your hobbies?

Answer: I like to sing, listen to music and I read books both fictional and non-fictional (both in Tamil and in English). I like to play chess too.

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