**INTRODUCTION**

My name is Urmeet Kaur and I belong to VPO Dialgarh Tehsil Batala, District Gurdaspur. I have done my secondary education in the year 2016 with 8.2 CGPA and senior secondary education in the year 2018 with 63% marks. Both my qualifications were done under CBSE. After that I did Bachelor of Computer in 2021 under Kurukshetra University that I completed with 72% marks. Now, I would like to pursue Master of Information Technology from Monash University, Australia. In order to fulfill the eligibility criteria, I appeared for IELTS on October 30, 2021 and I scored overall 6.5.

**WHY NOT IN INDIA**

Comparing between my country and Australia, we seem to lack an effective learning environment and proper research methodology in education especially IT being a practically oriented subject. In India, there are few universities that offer Masters in Information Technology such as Guru Nanak Dev University, Lovely Professional University, Indian Institute of Management and Technology, Guru Kashi University etc. But it is very challenging for students to get admission, in top ranked universities or institutions. Along with this some other problems also exist like teaching styles are old, syllabus is outdated, etc. Also teaching in my country is just limited to books and have less practical exposure. A few of the institutes here in our country also offer Master Level courses in IT, in collaboration with foreign Universities, but those courses are not recognized worldwide.  Besides that, the masters’ degrees offered here in my own country also place less emphasis on the practical aspect.

**WHY STUDY IN AUSTRALIA**

I do not want to compromise on my higher education and intend to study in only a reputed university that offers a high degree of academic excellence. Hence, I have decided to go abroad for my undergraduate study. With further research and counseling, I realized that Australia is best suited to my educational needs. It is ranked as the 3rd most popular Overseas Students Destination. Australia has five of the 30 best cities in the world for students based on student mix, affordability, quality of life, and employer activity – all important elements I had to consider when I was choosing the best study destination. Scholarships for meritorious international students are also available in Australia which makes it an ideal study destination. Australia is the hub of many global multinational companies and business firms which will provide me an excellent environment to gather practical work experience and develop my skills in cyber security. All the universities in Australia are recognized by the government bodies and the high quality of education is credited globally. After graduation, the 2-year work permit would enable me to get an international work experience that is very important for me to gain the advanced knowledge and skills that India lacks right now.

Before choosing Australia, I had looked for various other popular countries as well where many students go for their education and those were Canada, USA and Europe. But Canada and USA are providing me a similar course for 4 years. Since the cost of education and living in those countries especially USA is 3-4 times as compared to Australia so I calculated that the complete 4 years degree will not suit my budget. Also USA has a very lengthy admission process that takes lot of time in preparing for the documents and still there is no guarantee of getting the admission and visa. The main concern with European countries like France and Germany was the language. In order to study there, I need to know their local language and on the other hand, Australia’s main language is English which I am quite comfortable in speaking and listening. Moreover Australia suited me in lot many ways so I chose it is as my study destination.

**WHY MONASH UNIVERSITY**

After taking the decision to study in Australia, I looked for the colleges that specialize in providing this course. Some of the universities that I selected were Deakin University, RMIT University, Monash University. Out of all the universities, I have chosen to study from Monash University. Firstly, I was impressed to find out about its reputation that it is ranked at no. 75 in the world by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020. It is known to have world class facilities and the staff is also given 5 star ratings for their qualification and teaching methods. The pass-outs of this university are known to get excellent employment opportunities all across the world as the students are prepared for the latest job needs. The courses are designed by professionals who understand the work requirements and accordingly train the students. I also checked my chosen course and was satisfied to find out that it will prepare me for senior job roles like security systems analyst, systems designer, data security specialist etc. that are in high demand in the market today. Not only this, the course is accredited by Australian Computer Society (ACS) and after the completion of the course; I will be eligible to apply for the membership. The fees structure of this university is also in my budget.

My course will be taught at Clayton campus that is the biggest campus of the university where more than 30,000 students study together from different parts of the world. Out of many facilities offered by the university, some are Health and Fitness Centre, Eating Joints, Transport and shuttle services, advanced computer labs etc. The campus is located very near to Melbourne’s CBD where lot of top level IT companies are located. I also checked the accommodation options nearby my campus that are available on shared basis in the range of $200-$250 per week. I will finalize my stay after getting the visa approval.

**ABOUT THE COURSE**

Information Technology has become one of the most aspired professions’ in the 21st century because it is almost used in every sector that drives the economy of the country be it education, banking, business, health etc. Since this demand increases the need of IT professionals that are only growing with time, so I decided to make my career in this field long time back. I have selected Master of Information Technology as my intended course in Australia because it is related to my previous field of study. Previously, I have done my graduation in IT field. This course will also equip me with the knowledge which is the current need of the industry. Therefore to upgrade my knowledge and qualification in IT sector, I have finalized to study this course. The study of this course will equip me with the knowledge of concepts related to software development, database management. I will also get practical training during the study of my course. This course will diversify my field and after studying this course, I can work in IT firms. I also searched over the internet that IT jobs are growing at a rapid rate. This field will provide me with the opportunity to use my technical skills to produce some innovative ideas. Along with that this is field in which a person never stops learning. One of the most positive factors is the amount of money that I will make by working in IT sector. I can expect high salaries in my future career. These are the few reasons for which I choose Master of Information Technology as my purposed course.

**LONG-TERM PLANS & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:**

After completing the Masters of Information Technology at Monash University, I will have ample of opportunities. The degree I will be pursuing from Australia will be a great asset in enhancing my career here in India. Students with an international master’s degree and good work experience from abroad are highly demanded here in my home country which makes easy to find a permanent position in either the public or private sector. It is also known widely that Information Technology professionals are well paid, compared to other professions.  With my skills on the database system, information systems, advanced research project, data storage and file management, network technology, and management, etc, I would be able to be a part of reputed software companies such as Infosys, TCS, Wipro, Reliance Ltd, Infi Beam, etc.

I believe that I will be very well qualified to get a good job with a starting salary of 70,000-90,000 rupees per month when I return back from Australia. But before I come back to India I would like to take the opportunity to work in Australia by applying for the 2 year post study work visa. The reason is to gain a good hands-on experience in an international environment that will be highly valued when I will go back to India. Initially I may work at the entry level job roles like Data Security Executive, IT Assistant but later on this experience will be very beneficial for me when I return back to India.

**VISA CONDITIONS: -**

I am applying for student visa which comes under subclass 500 and I need to follow all the rules and regulations for an international student in Australia which are stated below: -

i .I am not allowed to work more than 20 hours per week during my study time.

ii.I must score 50% marks and can work full time during vacations.

iii.After reaching Australia, I am not allowed to change my education provider and applied course and I must remain enrolled in my registration course. I must maintain 80% of attendance.

iv.Within 7 days of my arrival in Australia I need to inform the university about my current residential address and contact number.

v.I need to update University and DIBP within 7 days of change of address and contact details.

vi.My OSHC must be maintained during my stay in India.

vii.I am not supposed to do any kind of illegal activity or crime

**Regards**

**Urmeet Kaur**