

THE JOURNEY FROM SRM UNIVERSITY (INDIA) TO MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY(USA)

GENERAL INFORMATION :

The journey from SRM (India) to MIT (U.S.A) was just like the dream came true . Every engineering student wants to study in MIT (the world's number 1 engineering institute) .I still remember the day when i was filling my application form for MIT at that time only i could feel the pressure on my shoulders . Generally people have the opinion that “ yes i am going to USA , i would enjoy, *fultu masti hogi yaar*(lot of enjoyment would be there)“ but in this excitement they forget that though they are going to USA ,but at the same time they will be studying in MIT which is not the place to enjoy .It requires sheer hard work , determination , full concentration since your competitors are among the world's best students being available .

MIT (Massachusetts institute of technology) is world famous engineering college .It is situated in Massachusetts state along Charles river .The city of boston (also called new England) is situated on the other side of the Charles river . The city has several tall buildings with various malls which gives the city of boston a very classic look ,along with it makes it one of the expensive cities in USA .There are several routes which can be used in order to reach boston (logan international airport) from India ,which includes flight from various metros across india .There are several hostels ,or housing being provided by MIT which could be easily reached with the help of local cab (Metro cab :-617-782-5500,Boston cab :-617-536-5010,Hello taxi :-617-734-1111) with the nominal fare as (25-30)\$.The flight fare from India(Delhi) to boston is approximately 45-60000/- INR if booked well before time ,otherwise it would even cost upto 1-2 lakh INR .

COURIER SERVICES :

There are several things which has to be taken a good care of one such thing is, For courier purposes DHL (<http://www.dhl.com/>) and FEDEX(<http://fedex.com/>) are most trusted one which delivers the courier within the record time .They are bit expensive, but in USA their services are considered to be the best .It takes approx 3-4 days for the courier to be delivered at the mentioned address .The address should be correct otherwise it takes a hell lot of time for the courier to be delivered . It's advisable to sent the courier on Monday so that it is delivered atleast by the end of working days i,e Friday .Here at MIT the college is for only five days a week . The courier companies provide us with the AIRWAY BILL NO with the help of it, we can track the courier by just sitting in front of computer .

PASSPORT AND VISA:

The other most important thing to keep in mind is that before applying for admission at MIT one should be ready with his/her passport ,and if by chance at the time of applying u don't have the passport then apply for it under tatkal category .One could go for the visa interview only after the getting the I-20 form(the most important document after your passport :keep it with carefully).It's a document that legalises your stay in USA ,without it, no body recognises you.It's

basically your identity . The selection procedure takes approximately 2-6 weeks ,after the selection the concerning person from MIT sends the confirmation copy by mail (the original copy could be received upon arrival from room no :-3 -103(S)),after the confirmation mail the ISO (International Student Office) prepares the necessary immigration papers which is required at the time of visa interview .For visa related information one must visit site (www.vfs-usa.co.in) .Please make sure that all the paper work are in proper order as required by the embassy .Before going for the visa interview make a payment to HDFC bank ,they would give the barcode receipt necessary for the interview .The amount to be deposited could be seen on the HDFC site (www.hdfcbank.com) .After the payment to the HDFC the barcode is activated after three days .Every I-20 has an sevis id number using that ,the sevis fees is deposited (<http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/index.html>).

COURSE SELECTION :

The one of most terrifying thing which an applicant faces is course selection . The course selection is toughest task. One should be very clear in doing this job,since this job only decides their fate at MIT .One simple think one should keep in mind, take those courses only in which you have interest and you are confident that you could cope up with the standards .Very humble request to all of you future ongoing students to MIT don't try to select your courses on the basis of the SRM (course matching scheme) that sometime proves to be very fatal , even lead to flunking in one or more of the courses there .So please go through the courses list which is being revised every fall as well as spring term before jotting down your final selection . Special advice to those students who are planning to take course 6 (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) ANNE HUNTER – is the goddess of course 6 contact (anneh@eecs.mit.edu: anneh@mit.edu).Please take her suggestions before filling the final choices . She is the lady who is truly a magician and helps you in coming out from this commotion , but please keep one thing in mind while sending her mails don't ever write respected , or dear ma'am just try to be simple and call her ANNE keep it as formal as you can .

The course selection for respective term could be made by symbol (🍂 fall term; 🌸 spring term).The subject listings n schedule could be seen at site :(<http://student.mit.edu/catalog/index.cgi>) .As per the rules, student has to register at MIT at least for three subjects it's always advisable to go with three only since more than three might ruin your life .It's just an advice otherwise it entirely depends on person to person perception .The classes are designed in such a way that a student is booked all the time even three courses here will be tiring as it would be taught all five days in week in form of(Lectures , Recitations, Tutorials).Here I think it's worth mentioning about 6.100 (Independent Project) which is a course in which a student can work over the project in his /her area of interest and as well as, has the freedom to even decide over the professor. The library at MIT is in itself an outstanding piece of architecture .A place where one can sleep ,eat ,read ,write and study .The library is well furnished and thousands of books are available to be read .One can take approximately 1000 books on his/her card for studying. In MIT, Athena clusters are very famous which are basically the collection of number of computers having net access enabled with printers where one can connect and print N number of printouts that too free of cost .

HOSTEL AND ACCOMODATION:

The next most tiring work after selection is accommodation .On campus housing is very limited so it is always advisable to keep an eye on the graduate housing (Many of us have a confusion regarding whether to apply under graduate or undergraduate housing).We have to apply under graduate housing category which has (Tang hall ,The Warehouse,Sidney-Pacific,Edgerton House,Ashdown) Housing related queries can be seen on site (<http://housing.mit.edu/graduatefamily/residences>). The washing facility is available in almost all hostels, where on usage of coins the clothes are washed .One should try to minimise in his/her clothing's since in some international flights only two 23kg bags are allowed along with one cabin bag and one laptop .It's suggested to take quilt with you in the luggage .Generally it is said that on campus housing is mainly for the regular students but if applied well before time and getting on the waitlist as soon as possible the chances are increased of getting the on campus housing. All the residential buildings are wifi enabled and well connected from main campus through bus service .The rooms are well equipped with modular kitchen as well as well furnished .It's advisable to reach one week before the registration date.On reaching MIT one should collect his/her original acceptance letter from room no (3-103), then report to international students office room no (5-133) (take the prior appointment before leaving India) contact (mariab@mit.edu) and fix your appointment .When a student is admitted he is supposed to get his/her medical insurance upon arrival site:(<http://web.mit.edu/medical/p-student.html>).I-20 contains all the necessary information regarding the living expenses , fee structure. Please don't carry extra amount outside I-20 since amount mentioned in I-20 is far more sufficient .Generally every Saturdays there are grocery shuttles operating between *Shaws* market (it's like supermarket where all the necessary every day use materials are available)and hostels.

FOOD N USEFUL THINGS:

For food there are several restaurants such as Indian cuisine (Royal Bengal ,Dosa point ,Desi dhaba ,Punjabi dhaba (a real spicy one)).There is one **Stratton Student Center** (<http://web.mit.edu/campus-activities/www/html/studentcenterinformation.html>) which is considered as Mini Mall .It's advisable to book tours and visit the city or other places outside Boston (<http://www.sunshineboston.com/>) it is much cheaper and the easiest mode of seeing places in USA .The local tour can booked with Duck tours(www.bostonducktours.com/). For fitness freaks MIT has three level of Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center(web.mit.edu/zcenter/welcome).

ABOUT THE WRITER :



I Varunesh Singh a student of SRM university (India's No 1 college) in E.C.E department final (IV) year . I was in MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)for my sixth semester i.e. (Spring term 2010). I took four courses there which includes (6.013 ,6.012 ,6.100,6.701).I came from small city of Lucknow where i did my schooling from St Francis college ,after completing my schooling i joined SRM (Modinagar campus) E.C.E branch . In my third year i got this golden opportunity for studying at MIT. It was like a dream come true .The working style was awesome , truely learning experience .

VARUNESH SINGH

B-TECH (E.C.E) FINAL YEAR

SRM UNIVERSITY

CHENNAI (INDIA)

CURRENTLY STUDYING AT MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT) CAMBRIDGE (U.S.A)