

Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?

I am gaining a broad based MBA that will equip me with a wide range of skills within the Business field. This will help me in consultancy as clients often need help in more ways than one and I can add value in many places with a broad skill set. (BTW – my grandma's are both smart so I think they would understand this!)

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

I want to use my MBA as a key differentiator when competing for an entry level consulting position. I also wanted to further my business knowledge before entering the field. It is very competitive at the moment and very difficult for anyone who wants a very specific job as I do so I must be able to differentiate myself as much as possible from my competition and I am hoping that my MBA from RU will help me to do that.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

Yes, I think that networking with other graduate students in non-related fields can add value. I think this is especially true for those with a long term view on their careers. Businesses these days are so integrated not only in a global sense, but in a functional way that no knowledge is unnecessary knowledge. It is only by reaching out to others who are experts in different field that we are able to learn new things and broaden our knowledge base.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

Playing tennis, soccer, or working out. I love sport and nothing else can beat it for fun and stress reduction.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

Straight from the Gut – Jack Welch (former General Electric CEO) and I finished that about 1 month ago. I highly recommend this to anyone who wants to get involved in any aspect of business. For those who aspire to manage people in any way, it is a must read book.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

With Dr. Schwartz – a sociology professor at RU. We have been close friends since we met in 2005 during my second semester at RU. We both share a love for tennis which I think resulted in us becoming close. He would often come to watch me play my matches (for RU Men's tennis 2005-2008) and support the team.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

The close interaction between the professors and students and the amount of group work (which is a good thing) that we do.

The professors interact significantly more with the class and there is more debates to facilitate learning. This allows for a different type of learning to where you are not only gaining academic and experience based knowledge from the professor, but you are also learning from your classmates who often have experience in the field.

I have learned from working in the real world over the past 3 months that all good businesses structure they're functions around teams so it is so essential that you are able to work effectively on a team. In the MBA program we do a lot of our assignments in teams which is very relevant to the real world.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

No – I would not be one of the scientists on board but I would be part of the planning team.

I am very interested in business strategy so I am big on planning and looking at the implications of decisions.

Therefore, for a trip to Mars, I would probably not be on board as I would not know enough about how to carry out the operation. However, I would be part of the planning team.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

Indian food - because it is so good and it is the number one British food in popularity terms. At home I eat it once a week and in the US I eat it once a month (it is hard to find!).

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I would probably be working in industry (as oppose to a consulting firm). It is hard to pinpoint a specific firm but maybe BT, GE, a bank, something not too exciting (in my opinion), but yet another reason why I attended RU.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

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