

Statement of Purpose

Masters of Science - Sustainable Resource Management

I, Pranjal Saini, was born in the small town of Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India. My family had relocated to Varanasi in 2008, after my father's appointment as a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Banaras Hindu University, one of the best engineering institutes in India. My mother was a supervisor at a government-run Anganwadi centre, providing childcare services to the rural community. My elder sister is currently pursuing a master's degree.

While in school, I received several prizes and certificates for competitions like the Science Fest, French Olympiad, etc. I performed well in mostly all my subjects, maintained high grades and was praised by my teachers for the effort and hard work I put in. I also had several co-curricular interests like playing basketball, chess, badminton, etc.

I completed my bachelor's from Banaras Hindu University, where I enrolled in the top-ranking agriculture program in India. Since my admission in 2020, I have maintained a high CGPA of 8.2 while studying subjects like Sustainable Agriculture, Agro meteorology and Climate Change, Soil Science, Plant Physiology, Statistics, Journalism, Remote Sensing, etc. I also obtained a keen knowledge of Calculus through the Mathematics class in my first-year curriculum, and also Statistics Methods, and Agricultural Informatics in my first and third year respectively.

From my Bachelor's degree, I bring a solid foundation in environmental sciences and resource management to the program. I have a deep understanding of agricultural systems, sustainable practices and utilization of natural resources. Throughout the course, I have developed proper analytical skills which are crucial in addressing complex issues facing us today.

I am applying for my Master's degree as I wish to study further. I chose an international university – TUM in Germany, to get exposure and great opportunities ahead. During my research on options to study abroad for my Master's degree, I came across many top universities in different countries, but the best suited for me turned out to be Germany due to various reasons. The key factors for selecting the final location were tuition fees, programs offered, world ranking, living expenses, and safety.

I chose Germany amongst all the other countries due to its reputation for hosting international students very efficiently and because of the cultural diversity, friendly natives, and high quality of education offered by the universities in Germany.

Munich is amongst the most developed cities in the country, with universities that provide a high scope of learning out of many others with the most developed and modern infrastructure and facilities. Therefore, studying in Germany will provide me with international exposure and opportunities to grow and become a better version of myself for the future challenges in my life.

I looked at many universities which offered a master's degree in Sustainable Resource Management, such as the University of Milan and University of Galway. Finally, I decided to pursue it at TUM after analysing the subjects offered and the faculty's quality. After comparing all the universities, I found TUM to be the most suited for me as the course structure offered several interesting specialization options like Landscape Management, Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains, etc. which would help me further my education and engage in the matter of sustainability with a broadened practical perspective.

I wish to pursue my Master's degree from an international university rather than from a university in my home country India. Even though there are a lot of prestigious universities here, the teaching techniques used are very theoretical. I want to experience a much more practical-focused program, which would help me further my goal of doing a PHD and going down the route of research. Moreover, the number of seats for admission are minimal compared to the country's population, making it a one-in-a-million chance to get admitted to such institutes. Also, the educational qualifications and experiences from an international university are more valued as it is backed up by international exposure and quality of studying. The 8-week compulsory internship program provided in TUM's course structure would help me gain some experience dealing with real-world issues, outside of theory and into the world of practical. I believe that exploring overseas education would add value to the Indian context in multiple ways.

Therefore, for my career to flourish, I want the best education possible, which I can only receive from world-class educational institutes located abroad. The quality of education is far better in international universities as their methodology comprises more practical learning. Furthermore, the curriculum of Indian institutes is not updated regularly, which leads to students studying old content year after year. Hence, I would like to study abroad to get international exposure and better infrastructure for my education.

The program M.Sc. in Sustainable Resource Management deals with the challenges of constantly increasing pressure on natural resources and the impact it has on our world. It educates us on the different scientific methods which we can help us sustain our resources responsibly and apply different strategies.

I believe that these problems are of the utmost importance; understanding the underlying cause and applying the correct principles in order to combat the issues which we currently face is necessary.

The program is very much related to my bachelor's course, as I learned about Sustainable Agriculture and its importance in stopping the exploitation which our soil, land and water resources face. Issues like soil degradation and water scarcity are significant problems faced by the Indian agriculture system. The TUM program emphasizing topics like conservation agriculture and sustainable land management strategies will help in finding solutions to the issues. I have always wanted to pursue my career in the related field because they cater to problems using creative solutions which tend to stand out from the rest.

During my bachelor's degree, studying courses like Soil and water conservation engineering and Environmental studies and disaster management gave me insight on the above-mentioned issues and motivated me to toward the choice of wanting to study sustainable resource management. I learned of unsustainable farming practices like mono cropping and intensive tillage which reduce soil fertility and productivity. Additionally, Climate change has caused unpredictable weather patterns, which severely affect the yield of the crops grown in India. Such issues have made me realize how necessary it is to learn of better sustainable methods of agriculture and how to find ways of using our limited resources in an efficient way.

After I graduate, I would like to further study and pursue a PHD because it would help me start or continue research in a field I'm passionate about and allow me to contribute to the world by finding solutions to the problems of exploitation which our resources face. I will be able to gain professional work experience and build a strong profile that will help me excel in my career. And eventually, studying from an international university will help me get even better and financially stable jobs.

Pranjal Saini