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F1 Student Visa: The Last Milestone

A good GRE score along with good academic performance can get you admissions to good schools and also scholarships, but it can't ensure your entry into US land.

The F1 student visa is the last step but probably the most important one to realize your dream to study in the USA.

Today I am going to give you a few tips on how to prepare for your F1 visa.

Step 1: Application (DS-160)
Once you receive your I-20 and you pay your SEVIS fees, you are good to go for F1 visa application i.e. for DS 160.
DS 160 form will ask you very basic questions on your:
a. Personal details
b. University where you are going to
c. Who is funding you
d. Your tentative travel plans
e. Couple of contacts in India and in US

Fill up this form with correct details, be honest and brief. In the event you had earlier visa rejection, even if it happens to be a tourist visa, please make a mention. Once the form is filled, check it once before you hit the submit button.

Step 2: Pay your visa fees and book a visa date
Once your DS 160 is filled in, pay your visa fee, which is 160$. Once you pay the fees you can book your visa appointment along with you biometric registration.

Step 3: Preparing documents
Remember there are three types of documents to be verified:
Academic documents:
● All your transcripts starting from Std. X till your graduation
● Your i-20
● Your GRE and TOEFL score card
a. **Visa documents**
   DS-160 confirmation page
   Visa appointment confirmation page
   SEVIS fee payment receipt
b. **Financial Documents**
● Letter of support from the sponsor
● Proofs of financial support
Caution about financial documentation - keep in mind that the financial documents should produce proof of funds sufficient to take care of your two years of education, out of which one year of funding that includes your tuition cost and living cost should be shown as liquid assets, and year two expense can be shown as immovable assets.

Step 4: Preparing for Visa interview.
You will get about 5-7 minutes to interact with the Visa Officer and in that you will need to convince the VO that your intent to go to USA is primarily to get quality education and not migration and if you are able to prove this then you will need to prove that you have sufficient finances to take care of your 2 years of expenses.
The probable questions for the visa are:
1. Which University are you going to?
2. How many universities had you applied for?
3. Why particularly this university?
4. Who is funding you?
5. What do your sponsors do?
6. What are your plans after graduation?
Please be thorough with the facts about the university and how you are going to fund your education.
So the key to crack F1 visa is:
A. Prepare all your documents perfectly.
B. Study all about your university and the course and speak to your parents about the fund arrangements.
C. Lastly be very concise and crisp in answering the questions. If you don't understand a question, don't hesitate to ask again.

Always remember the Visa Office is not interviewing you to reject your visa but the VO has to ensure that you are the right candidate to enter the US land.

For any query please contact
Ms. Shweta M Apte
F1 Visa specialist
(shweta.apte@vidyalankar.org)

The Ripple Effect: NSS-VIT making a difference!

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a community service program involving youth on a very large scale to participate in community service. The sole aim of the NSS is to provide hands-on experience to young students in delivering community service without any bias. It is a Central Sector Scheme of Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and provides opportunity to the student youth of India to take part in various government led community service activities and programmes. The NSS Badge proclaims that its volunteers are "Proud to Serve the Nation." All the NSS volunteers wear the NSS badge with pride and a sense of responsibility towards helping the needy. The Konark wheel in the NSS badge with 8 bars signifies the 24 hours of a day, reminding the wearer to be ready for the service of the nation round the clock. The inspiring motto of NSS is "NOT ME BUT YOU." Extraordinary NSS volunteers are awarded with 'Indira Gandhi National Award' and 'SAARC Youth Award'.

The students of Vidyalankar Institute of Technology led by the Program Officer Prof. Pravin Gharge and a team of dedicated teachers have successfully revived NSS in the campus and are emerging as a strong unit for community service. The NSS-VIT unit provided a helping hand for the 'Kerala Flood Victims' by organizing a donation drive on campus and transporting around 30-35 cartons of flood relief material to the flood affected areas in Kerala.

It is rightly said that you make a living by what you get and you get a life by what you give. The NSS students prepared around 3000 paper bags out of which around 500 were distributed during a street play on "Plastic Ban". This highlighted the importance of plastic ban in the society and encouraged people to use environment-friendly and recyclable cloth and paper bags. After Ganesh Visarjan, the NSS-VIT volunteers put in coordinated efforts to clean-up the Dadar Chowpatty beach by sorting out plastic and other non-biodegradable waste. This idea of beach clean-up is the smallest act of kindness that is worth more than the grandest intention. Highlighting the significance of road safety, 25 NSS-VIT volunteers were trained last year by the well-known 'United Ways Mumbai' who in turn will train 25 more students this year, thus making them certified trainers too. This is a small attempt towards making youth spread awareness of road safety.

NSS-VIT volunteers are enriching their personality while aiming at making a difference to social welfare through exposure to the various segments of society and community segments within the institution and the village that the Institute had adopted last year Kharivali (Thane District). The NSS volunteers at Vidyalankar Institute of Technology believe in the philosophy that "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do". Happiest are the NSS volunteers at VIT who lose themselves in the service of the others!

NSS-VIT

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"*Journalism is what we need to make democracy work.*"
— Walter Cronkite

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TALK JOURNALISM 2018

The media is known as the fourth pillar of democracy, rapidly spreading information and keeping citizens informed through active journalism. Journalism has undergone a massive overhaul and has now taken the responsibility of not just informing but also educating. The public dependency on journalism for news and information has increased such that news now shapes and dictates public opinion. In this regard, a widespread scepticism on the role of journalism in the contemporary Indian scenario is a topic of much debate. India's biggest journalism festival TALK JOURNALISM 2018 was attended by the students of BMM, VSIT at Jaipur's Fairmont luxury hotel from August 10 to August 12, 2018. Being the 5th edition of the festival, VSIT was among the only 25 institutes across India that were welcomed.

With 74 speakers and 43 sessions, the festival was attended by an audience of more than 3500. The students of VSIT were in for a pleasant surprise to have global whistle-blower Edward Snowden, address them through a video conference. Economist and politician Subramaniam Swamy, shared his personal experience and provided more insight to students on the Media situation during the emergency era in India. Prominent among the speakers were Barkha Dutt, Nikhil Wagle, Karan Thapar, Anubhav Sinha, Akash Banerjee, Ayaz Memon and many more. Google's GNI programme invited fellow media students of VSIT for joining their FAKE NEWS DIMINISHING INITIATIVE. Bollywood musician Swanand Kirkire along with RJ Karthik were among the many other renowned speakers.

The greatest boon to the VSITians was being in the company of senior journalist Mr. Nikhil Wagle, who also gave a personal interview to VSIT student Akshay Gosavi and Ninad Dangre. Rupesh Bandkar was one among the participants for the exclusive Photography Workshop conducted by an eminent female Chinese photographer. Student Yash Rane, shared some candid moments with Senior Journalist Karan Thapar and was also guided about scholarships by the UK govt. to Indian students by Mr. Geoff Wain, British Deputy High Commissioner, Ahmedabad.

—Yash Rane
(TYBMM-Journalism VSIT)

Learning about Patents

Want to share your big idea with the world? Are you a person who has multiple ideas? Are you someone who moves with the world and gets inspired to build a solution for a problem you noticed?

This is the generation of innovations. In today's fast-growing and competitive world, an essential topic to learn about is Intellectual Property Rights and Patent Searching. Patenting is registering your invention with the government so that the technology can be leveraged safely i.e. by taking permission from the patent holder or by purchasing or renting it. VSIT students attended a SKEP (Skill & Knowledge Enhancement Program) Session held by IEEE-VSIT Student Branch, on August 25, 2018. The session was presided by Mr. Kiran Talele; he is Student Activities Chair and EXECOM Member, IEEE Bombay Section and Associate Professor, Electronics Engineering Department, SPIT and has eight patents registered at the Indian Patent office.

There are two types of properties-tangible and intangible, ideas are counted under the latter. For patenting, the type of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) needs to be identified, whether it is a Trademark, Patent, Copyright, Industrial Design or Geographical Indication. There can also be multiple IPR in one product, for instance, the graphical design on a can of Coca-Cola would be registered as a trademark and the can's aesthetic structure would be registered under Industrial Design. Patenting safeguards the ownership of an IP and if not patented, an IP becomes obsolete anyway after a certain number of years. But we need time to work on our ideas, don't we? Well, the good news is that one can file a patent even if the implementation of that idea hasn't begun, the process is called provisional patenting but it is necessary to submit another filing in the next twelve months from the date of filing. More details about the process can be found on http://www.ipindia.nic.in/ .

— **Arfad Shaikh and Karishma Bahl,**
SYBScIT, VSIT

BEHIND THE SCENES
Understanding film-making in a visit to ND Studio

Film making has so many aspects for media students. Films, as a form of art as well as entertainment, are a vital part of an Indian's life, urban and rural. As media students, films are studied as art and therefore, film making is crucial in understanding how this form of media is important in the world of mass communication. VSIT organized a visit to ND studio on August 25 to obtain a broader perspective of what the film world has in store. ND studio located in Karjat is quite scenic as are most Bollywood movies. We were able to scour through various film sets. The first was a retro café where a song from a recent biopic Sanju was shot. We got the opportunity to witness a jam session in the retro café. The next set visited was a jail set, an indispensable requirement for every Bollywood movie centered on justice and crime. After a break at the Khaugali, a beautiful replica of the Agra fort left us mesmerized as it was featured in the famous period drama Jodha Akbar and also the sheeshmahal in the comedy Prem Ratan Dhan Payo.

The statue house was the next stop and it is home to the statues of several popular actors. The next set visited sent chills down our spine as it was a visit to a house that had an ominous vibe to it. It was set that can be used as a haunted house or the spot for a gruesome crime. The chor bazaar set was a colourful one and in the set of the TV show Kaun Banega Crorepati, we were introduced to several important aspects of film-making and the importance of the set.

Post lunch, we had the opportunity to watch a theater performance, bringing stories to life, in front of our eyes. The sets visited were varied in nature, ranging from modern to classic. Another classic set visited was of the TV show Asokha. A lane in ND studio consists of sculptures of gods and goddess and there was also a village set up. The visit made vivid the various aspects of the art of film-making studied in the classrooms. Such an experience helped strengthen the concepts learned and also piqued our interest in this art form.

— **Sayali Deshpande,**
FYBMM, VSIT

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"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going."
— Beverly Sills

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VIT School of Management:
Learning Social Responsibility through Professional Association

VIT School of Management has tied up with the leading professional body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to provide the much needed corporate exposure to the Management students. On account of this, the students stand to benefit on multiple fronts including opportunity to interact and network with professionals from diverse backgrounds, leadership, skill building, innovation and entrepreneurship, and an opportunity to network with peers across the country. The students get a chance to participate in major CII events on a regular basis.

Once such event was a Road Safety Initiative on 15th August 2018. The event was organised jointly by CII and GVK CSIA at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai. The main purpose of the event was to create a honking free Mumbai and to educate drivers and pedestrians about the facets of road safety. Thousands of volunteers participated in a walkathon seeking public support for the adoption of a 'no-honking' habit. Continuous exposure to high noise levels is an unfortunate issue in multiple Indian cities that has harm-

ful physical and psychological health consequences. During the walkathon, the participants, that included employees of Mumbai International Airport, CISF, Immigration, Customs and their friends and families as well as volunteers from various institutes tried to create awareness and spread this message amongst the masses. Other acts like skits, dance performances and flash mobs were organized to showcase the criticality of this initiative and to add a zing to the overall exercise. The event witnessed participation from many B-

Schools from Mumbai region.

The students of VIT School of Management participated whole-heartedly in this event. They really appreciated the experience. Siddhi Jadhav, Management Student, Second Year says "It was a great learning experience by participating in this event organized by CII. This event helped in executing leaderships skills, helped in networking and planning and managing the crowd. Post the event, certificates and goodies were given to all the participants and volunteers. Also, I would like to thank VIT and Prof. Arijit Ghosal for encouraging us to participate in this event." Quips Moksh Malji, "It was great working with CII and with GVK group. Helped in learning a lot of things. By participating in this event, I got to interact with many students of other B-schools and network with various professionals who participated in the event." "I am grateful to have this opportunity to work with CII, it was an amazing experience," added Aakash Sanghavi.

— **Arijit Ghosal**
Head- Marketing and Sales
Vidyalankar Dnyanapeeth Trust

Modern Day Teacher and Student and The Relation they share

Long gone are the days where the students wished their teachers with 'Good Morning'. This is the generation of the Millennials and the greeting begins with a 'Hi'.

Fundamentally, a relation between a teacher and a student are free from selfish interests and profit as this affinity is far above all egoistical interests. The term Teacher often referred to as Guru in Vedic term, itself betokens 'The one who enlightens an individual lost in tenebrosity'. The traditional objective of education and a teacher was only to transform a blank mind into a knowledge-

able one, and an illiterate person into a literate one. In short, the traditional teachers viewed that it is due to them that learning occurs.

But as previously stated, gone are the days where students readily accepted whatever the teachers said. Modern students are challenging by nature, as they have all the information they need at the tip of their fingers. This has drastically transmuted the relation between a teacher and student, and I believe majority of the changes are positive ones. The relation is no longer defined just by obedience and acceptance, but by questions and analysis, concurring

to each other's terms and meeting each other's expectations where acceptance may or may not follow.

The modern-day relation is inordinately interesting and inclusive as it requires the teacher as well as the student to meet halfway. This has led to a bond between them, where information flows both ways. However, the onus still lies with the teacher.

Modern-day students require teachers who are witty, knowledgeable and an epitome of ethics yet quite loving, caring and more of a friend to them.

— **Chirag Sheth**
SYBMS F, VSIT

BE PRACTICAL!

"Practical knowledge is essential for our growth as it brings us closer to the truth and reality of the life; it helps us to live life in a very matured and responsible way."
-A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

Knowledge leads us to the clarity of the concepts. The knowledge includes in itself the theories as well as practical. Theoretical knowledge may be attributed to the clarity of a topic or subject and the practical knowledge helps to understand the working and the methodology of the theories involved with these concepts. For example, if a person is studying about a com-

puter and its components, he would of course have knowledge about what the internal components are, and even its working. In absence of hands-on experience, he would lack the practical knowledge about it and while troubleshooting, the knowledge is zero.

Today education has become degree-oriented and is more inclined towards theoretical knowledge which only helps students to learn and reproduce it on paper. Engineers must be churned out with practical knowledge hence internships nowadays have become mandates to provide them an overview about how

an industry works. There is a theoretical side and a practical side of knowledge and both are valuable. The true masters of any craft or discipline understand both ends of the spectrum. They put in hours to acquire the practical techniques while also putting in time to understand how those techniques fit into a larger context and tradition. Practical knowledge — helps you acquire the real technique of doing something. It is much closer to your actual day-to-day work. There are some things you can only learn through doing and experiencing. Where theory is often taught in the idea

of a vacuum, the practical knowledge is learned through the reality of life. Both practical knowledge and comprehensive knowledge are equally important.

The world is progressing day by day, and we are getting more and more modernized everyday which demands a lot of changes from some previous conventional techniques that were followed. Rapid changes have increased the demands for experts in every field. Today the need for expert professionals is raising day by day who are expected to have good knowledge, excellent social and communication skills and who can utilize their skills in a positive way in life.

— **Prince Karania,**
IF3IB, Vidyalankar Polytechnic

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"Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master."
— Christian Lange

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HOW YOUR APPS CONTROL YOU

The biggest trick apps efficiently pull is to make you believe that you are the one controlling it. Well, aren't you? Aren't you the one who swipes that finger up and down the feed? Aren't you the one that chooses what button to click?

Oh! Sure. Then what do I mean and how does this strategy to keep you glued work?

The Hook Model
The main strategy all your social media apps use is this very model (by Nir Eyal) that is based on T.A.R.I
- T- Trigger (External or Internal)
- A- Action
- R- Reward
- I- Investment

Trigger
1. External Triggers: Has this ever happened to you, where you haven't opened an app in weeks and one fine day, you get a notification saying your friend just uploaded a new picture, you click it and there you are inside the app
2. Internal Triggers: So an Internal Trigger is your mind doing what you've programmed it to do. What do you do first thing in the morning after you wake up? Check your feed, messages? I see you grinning
Now, what happens after you give in to the trigger?

Action
You click the trigger and flow into the app with an intention of being there for a few minutes, but little did you know about the next phase in the Hook Model

Reward
Once you're in, the app will now serve you your favorites…
- the posts you like
- the memes you love
- the photos that matter to you
- the people that matter to you

Ever wondered why the feed of your favorite social media apps never end?

You are served, for as long as you swipe so you dive right into the next phase, unbeknownst.

Investment
As you're being rewarded, you happily continue by investing your precious time into the app.

the decision you made earlier of spending only two minutes on the app goes into the drain and you end up spending hours

Conclusion
The very purpose of this simple and short write-up is for you to understand that your time is precious and you are being fooled every minute that you spend there

Someone great once said, the worst decision is indecision.

Everyone has a life goal and I'm sure you do too. Take the first step into your future. Make a decision to control your apps and let them not control you.

Refer the blog-
https://medium.com/@androidan1304/how-your-apps-control-you-22c65fafd478

— **Danyl Fernandes**
IF5G
VIDYALANKAR POLYTECHNIC

Nectar of Power

And it was a big catastrophe!
She saw everything squandered,
She saw everything wandered,
She felt the storm as never before,
She fell on her knees and roared.
But, yet she decided to get up and walk.

Her prolonged cry remained unheard,
Losing herself is what she feared.
She felt the storm and decided to float.
And she felt the tides moved in harmony
with her,
Thus, she decided to breathe.

This time her breath wasn't normal.
She exhaled the pain, inhaled the love.
She looked at the sky keeping her eyes wide
open,
It was the sky who made her love the storm.
And she landed at the shore.

She had nothing to give,
Be it for good or bad, she gave thanks.
thanked the universe for everything.
Showing all emotions was really a big thing.
And she thanked herself as she rose with the
power.

She refused to live anywhere else,
But beneath the weight of universe`s love.
She saw the storm building her self-
confidence.
And then she realised,
It wasn't the nectar of pain, but the nectar
of power.

Finally, she smiled,
Looking on the brightest side she asked,
Was it the sky who kissed the sea?
Or the sea met the sky?

And she laughed with all her heart, open,
and realised,
This is what happens to us in life,
We fall, we cry, we learn, we rise,
we keep learning and rising.
We rise by lifting ourselves and others.

— **Aishwarya Dhadke K,** SYBMS, VSIT

The month of Shraavan

Shravan month, the fifth in the Hindu calendar, is a very important period for devout Hindus and is considered to be the holiest month of the year. In fact, every day in the month of Shravan is considered auspicious. To celebrate this auspicious month, the Marathi Vaagmay Mandal (MVM) Members of VSIT organised an Event "Rang Bawra Shravan" on the September 01, 2018. The theme of the Event was Shravan which included all the festivals celebrated in this month such as Naag Panchmi, Naralipaurnima which is celebrated by the Koli community to thank the God of Sea, Rakshabandhan, a popular festival celebrated all over India This festival of Rakhi shows the strong bond and love between brothers and sisters. Another important festival of this month is Mangalagauri which is celebrated by the newly-wed women of Maharashtra.

The event was not only celebrated by the MVM members but also by the students who enthusiastically participated in folk dance, singing and poetry recitation and exhibited their creativity on this platform.

Students performed folk dance keeping the culture and tradition in mind. Performances on songs like Ya koliwadyachi shaan, Mangalagauri, Chimbh bhijlele captivated the audience. Some students sang melodious songs like Nasara Nachara, shravanat ghan Nila, Ghan Ghan Maala and Maze Maher Pandhari. Their songs were based on the raindrops which fall on the surface like diamonds and make the atmosphere and environment even more beautiful during shraavan month. An attempt to show the culture and tradition of Shravan was successfully celebrated by VSITians.

Such events aim to preserve the cultural history of our country and reinforce the celebration of the roots of Indian tradition.

—**Kanchan Taksale,** MScIT, VSIT