

# ESTERO STAR ALUMNI SERIES

WITH **VIKAS TYAGI**, ENGINEERING (PG)

Glad I chose New Zealand for settling down. I am enjoying my ongoing journey with my family here.

## SNAPSHOT OF MY LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND

- Employed by Aviat Networks NZ
- Proud recipient of the New Zealand Excellence Award Scholarship from Education New Zealand
- Proud recipient of NZD 10,000 scholarship from Victoria University of Wellington
- Proud recipient of International Student Excellence Alumni Award



Vikas Tyagi went to New Zealand in 2019 to pursue a Master degree in Engineering from the Victoria University of Wellington. He moved to New Zealand with his family comprising of his wife and two children. He currently works with an American company called Aviat Networks NZ in their R&D centre leading a design and analysis team. Vikas's story is unique in its own way and quite inspiring. He moved to New Zealand at the peak of his career which was not only rewarding but well established. He took the challenge of relocating to New Zealand with his family with an intent to find a work-life balance and to raise his kids in an open as well as a multicultural environment.

Vikas with a prior experience of 15 years spanning across countries like China, Malaysia and Nigeria chose New Zealand as his place to be. Like anyone else, he had other countries such as Canada and Australia to consider too. But, New Zealand seemed to be his ideal choice considering the benefits he realised viz a viz other countries. New Zealand's generous post-study work rights were one of the major factors in this. Studying in New Zealand helped Vikas to get familiar with the local people, culture and the job market. This made it easier for him to apply for the right jobs. Vikas states that his decision to move to New Zealand has been very beneficial for his kids as they got to experience a multi-cultural environment to grow and learn in.

He met the team of Estero at one of the education fairs and was looking to pursue an MBA degree initially. Based on his credentials - work experience and a prior master degree in Management, MBA seemed like an obvious choice to him. But after a detailed career consultation with the team at Estero,

he realised a technical degree would be the best fit for him to achieve his personal and professional goals.

Vikas in his conversation with Estero has been very clear about how choosing a course and moving to NZ has been one of his best decisions. He talks highly of the Victoria University of Wellington. Ranking as one of the best universities in research, Victoria University of Wellington also has a very good infrastructure. It comprises around 30% of international students making it a very diverse place to be in. In addition to that, even the faculty is very supportive and approachable as per Vikas and the other alumni studying at the University.

With regards to the challenges that aspirants face while moving from one country to another, Vikas advises the upcoming students/aspirants to be very flexible in order to become an integral part of New Zealand. Anyone who is coming to New Zealand for education or employment should focus on their overall personality development. He believes an aspirant needs to have good confidence, social skills and an agile attitude to become successful apart from just the technical skills. Vikas believes that his professional expertise, extrovert nature and pro-active attitude worked the best for him to adjust to the new environment in Wellington.

On talking about employment opportunities, Vikas does mention the importance of networking in New Zealand. The lecturers are always happy to support their students by providing valuable references, however, as per Vikas the reputation of the University and its location at the heart of New Zealand's capital city works to the advantage of the student. He mentions, while there are many part-time and temporary jobs available that are easy to get, bagging a permanent job requires a lot of preparation before applying. While New Zealand has a strong demand for engineers, how you are able to showcase your skills holds the key, highlights Vikas. A piece of strong advice from him is - while one is seeking a permanent role post-graduation, an individual should consider starting with a contractual work to move ahead.

"Estero provided me with end-to-end support. They even helped me with applying for 2 scholarships that I didn't know of; amounting to INR 7.5 Lacs approximately (the New Zealand Excellence Award & the University Scholarship)

Vikas is in love with New Zealand as well as the city of Wellington and would've not wanted it any other way. Multicultural surroundings and lively city life with work-life balance makes it an ideal place for him. His kids love the overall experience of living in New Zealand and while Vikas has well rewarding employment in New Zealand, he does not leave any opportunity to explore the country in his free time.

Vikas recommends New Zealand for all those who are aiming at research-based learning and engineering courses. Engineering with a specialisation in Civil, IT, and Mechatronics is a booming career in New Zealand.

In addition to his inputs, he also speaks highly of Estero as a team of professionals who are empathetic and understand the student's needs and aspirations. He feels meeting Estero and planning his journey from there has been a life-changing experience for him.



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