

Graduate Profile of a Management Engineer Student

BY: ANN GRAHAM

The interview described below was conducted by Ann Graham of QS Network and appears on www.topuniversities.com

With a background in engineering and first hand experience of working internationally, Vinayak Nalawade was ready to embark on his thesis in International Project and Supply Chain Management.

Name: Mr. Vinayak Anantrao Nalawade

Degree: Masters in Economics, Management & Industrial Engineering

Year of Graduation: 2008

Place of Study: Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy

Current place of employment: Moody International Srl. (Snamprogetti SpA Project, Saipem group)

Current position/job title: Thesis: - International project & Supply chain Management

Vinayak Nalawade describes his Masters in Economics, Management and Industrial Engineering as being better than an MBA. "This is a really good course because it is a combination of management and technical subjects. The assignments make candidates more design oriented so it's a unique opportunity for an employer to find a true calibre candidate", he says.

His masters has included innovation and marketing management, quality management, organization and HR management as well as other subjects such as operations, logistics, management control systems and marketing. This combination of subject areas has also enhanced Vinayak's career prospects. "It's a real opportunity for me to apply my knowledge extensively and creatively in a topic that I have a real passion for. I have been able to explore the theory and practice that I developed at undergraduate level and from industry experience. The environment offers me the chance to start thinking big by harnessing my mind and freeing my imagination."

Currently working as a Graduate Management Engineer at Moody International Srl. in Milan, Vinayak is working on his thesis, which looks at International Project and Supply Chain Management. This requires him to identify the difficulties in managing an international project; managing time, cost and quality; developing relationships with suppliers-collaborative management, and providing innovative solutions. He says the challenges of the job are managing suppliers, and maintaining a good attitude and behaviour with multinational staff. He hopes to have his thesis finished in July.

Vinayak has a bachelors degree and a diploma in Instrumentation Engineering. His educational background meant he was well equipped to work in the oil and gas sector in Saudi Arabia where his responsibilities included planning and coordinating activities with sub-contractors, working with senior executives to manage relationships with clients in emerging technologies, and executing operational engineering activities.

"During my time in Saudi Arabia I worked with a number of different nationalities but I had a feeling that I wanted to study management abroad. I understood that to become a Global Manager of an esteemed organization it is really important to see different people, their behaviour, and their approach towards difficulties during work. That's what I got at Politecnico di Milano. The class is made up of different nationalities and it is a real advantage for domestic management study."

Vinayak says the three most important skills he has learned while studying his masters degree are: decision making, the ability to better understand uncertainties and design management.

Once he's completed his masters thesis, Vinayak would like to become an assistant human resource manager. But before then he's working towards the roles of junior project manager and junior procurement & supply chain manager. Career opportunities here in Europe depend on knowledge of languages, previous experience and education background. Because this course covers supply chain management, marketing management and human resource management, it gives students ample opportunities in any field of work.