

Gujarat Technological University

GTU International Experience Program-2015 at Laurentian University, Canada

Not just the time difference of nine and half, but a huge and immensely palpable change in culture, education process, lifestyle, beautiful nature, facilitating resources, and weather – *of course!* Learning imparts knowledge and first world countries are recognized worldwide for that and hold the coveted, prestigious status of being best when it comes to education and learning. International Experience Program (IEP) of GTU at Laurentian University, is of true benefit to its students, as it gives opportunity to them to experience the western education, their culture, and a rendered chance to imbibe knowledge first hand from the best of professors; that too at a young age which would do nothing but ever more increase the comprehensibility and capability of learning new things with utmost curiosity.

Dr. Tejal Gandhi, Dean Pharmacy Faculty (Zone-3), GTU and Principal at Anand Pharmacy College, who accompanied students as a mentor sincerely acknowledged this opportunity bequeathed upon Under Grad students by GTU. She really appreciated this outstanding effort of GTU. In last three days - in three batches of 34, 56, and 19 - 109 total students landed in the city of lakes, Sudbury, Canada. Students seem to be settling down after a long journey and jet lag. As to familiarize and ease up, Dr. Gandhi and Dr. Passi's (Professor at Laurentian University) teams arranged an orientation event for all the students wherein information related to discipline, housekeeping, academic schedule, attendance, utility usage, college building, food court, and etcetera were disseminated. Besides this, as many of the students



traveled internationally for the first time that too by air, Dr. Gandhi made sure to provide packets of basic and useful information whenever time demanded for it such as during process of immigration, finding boarding gates, expected code of conduct on western roads, obeying laws and rules of other country, and maintenance of silence.

During orientation of students, Dr. Gandhi underscored the importance of learning by remaining vigilant all the time which will help in absorbing novel and good things of the new environment. Their regular classes have started from 15th

June 2015 but before this date students took time to explore university and surrounding perimeters: visiting lakes and gyms, trailing in woods, swimming, and etcetera.

This program can actually serve its purpose only when student's expectations and needs are satisfied; making them feel content and supported by lending help whenever they require. And this is possible only when interactions are held with students; for this Dr. Gandhi has created groups and elected leaders. Dr. Passi and Dr. Gandhi organizes one hour meet every day post dinner to discuss planning, and to take feedback from the leaders. Group leaders, named Akarsh, Krutgana, Kelvin, Utkarsh, Rom, Anil, Harsh, Samvid, Vrutika and Meet are coordinating excellently and timely with their group members.



Dr. Gandhi feel very confident with the way the program is going and pride in fact of being associated with GTU. Dr. Gandhi feels that this IEP would certainly be a remarkable success for its students, indelibly etching everlasting name of GTU in western countries.