

Harrisburg Huddle

Episode 102 – International Graduate Study

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[Host] Welcome to the Harrisburg Huddle, the Penn State Harrisburg Podcast. One of the greatest assets of our campus is our global community, hosting students from over 40 countries. Penn State Harrisburg is truly a global destination for academic study. This week, Professor of Information Systems Dr. Rhoda Joseph sat down with current international MBA student Tasleem Muzaffar to talk about what it's like to be an international graduate student in central Pennsylvania.

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[Rhoda Joseph] Hi, my name is Rhoda Joseph. I'm the director of the MBA program at Penn State Harrisburg. I'd like to introduce Tasleem, who's a student in our MBA program. Welcome, Tasleem.

[Tasleem Muzaffar] Yeah, thank you.

[RJ] How are you today?

[TM] I'm doing well, thank you. How are you doing?

[RJ] Very good. Tasleem is one of our students in the MBA program, and I'm excited to talk to you today about your experience so far. So, Tasleem, why Penn State Harrisburg? You have an extensive background. You have done several graduate degrees already, you have a PhD. So, there must have been something unique that attracted you to Penn State Harrisburg's MBA program. Can you tell us about that?

[TM] So, the reason I chose Penn State Harrisburg for my MBA. One, why I did decide to do another MBA, that's the first thing I should answer. Because when I started working in the industry, a good manager can really shape the company and drive it forward. It doesn't matter if you are a good employee; it doesn't matter if you're a hard-working employee. Because if the top is not up to the mark, your ideas are always shot down, and the companies... because those people usually get into that kind of preservation mode that they like their salary, they don't want to do anything fancy so that they don't really risk anything. But a good manager will always take a chance so that the company can move forward, and the employees get professional growth as well, get a bigger perspective. So that's why I decided to do the MBA and why at Penn State Harrisburg. Penn State Harrisburg is a smaller campus, and that's where you get to get a customized experience, right? So you're not one out of ten thousand international students at a bigger campus in a bigger school. Here you are in a smaller community; you can easily reach out to

professors; you can even approach them; you can knock on their door and get a chance to talk to them. Whereas in a bigger school, in bigger campuses, with so many students, it is really difficult to have that opportunity. And then after graduation, like any grad degree here in the US, you get that opportunity to do an OPT as well and also CPT during the program if you want to.

[RJ] Yeah, Tasleem, you said some really exciting information for us to hear for our program. One of the things you mentioned was the customization or the personalization of the MBA program at Penn State Harrisburg. How do you feel that you transitioned as an international student into a new environment, and how did you adjust to some of the expectations based on coming from a technical background into a business degree?

[TM] Um, so the adjustment initially was slightly difficult because when you are... because Harrisburg is in Middletown, which is a smaller, very small town, so the transition initially was slightly challenging. And coming from a part of the world where it's always busy and... so that was initial, the transition was difficult. But then, because it's such a tight community, five thousand students, and out of five thousand, a thousand students are international, so 20% of the campus's international students, and most of them do live on campus. But because the community is so tight, you get used to it pretty quickly; you get that support from everybody.

You got support from the faculty; you got support from the department; you got support from the international student office, tremendous support, actually, from them. They help you with housing; they help you with the visa process, everything that you need when you come here. So, for me personally, it was that, and also slightly easier because my family was already here. But for other... but from the perspective of other international students, it would still be easier for them to travel in, to do the transition there because it's a smaller community. You are, again, going back to bigger campuses; the same example I'll go again. If you go back to bigger campuses, sometimes you don't have a chance to actually get those services because everybody's just too overwhelmed with the... and there's too big a wait time. And then you have to find things out on your own.

And here, I also work in the international student office here as well, so I know how much effort the whole office puts into enhancing the experience of international students. Like, we organize trips to grocery stores, not just like the generic grocery store like Walmarts or Targets, but also ethnic grocery stores. Once a week, there's a trip; students have to sign up. And then there are also events going on. We are having a Lunar New Year event in a couple of days' time in here, and we already have 500 students signed up. And that kind of tells you that we keep organizing these events, and the school keeps organizing these events to keep the students engaged so that they get used to this system and also they don't miss their home, miss home as well. So, the transition for me was relatively easier, having been to other countries already, so I kind of knew what to do.

But if you're coming here for the first time, you're leaving your home for the first time, the transition here is very easy because of the services and the efforts that people put to make life easy for the international students. And, again, I will give you another story that I get from working in the International Student Office. Over the holidays, before we actually closed for the holidays, one of the people who work at the Learning Center, they actually came to our office and they opened their house for half a dozen international students so that they don't feel lonely at home in the housing here. So, you can see how people go out of their way to make life easier for international students.

[RJ] Yeah, I think that's a really good point because for international students, they're leaving their home, their friends, their family, and coming into a new environment, a new culture, and engaging with new people. So, I think the support is going to be critical for the student success, and it's one of the things that we really work on developing, and we're proud to know that it's working. If you were to advise any other international students about coming here, you mentioned several things that you saw as an advantage. Do you have any issues that you felt were disadvantage or concerns about our program or coming across to Penn State Harrisburg?

[TM] Well, the only disadvantage would be that not many flights come here. So, other than that, I think the program-wise, it's pretty good. You get a chance to basically look at all aspects of the business side. You get a chance to look at the marketing; you'll have a chance to look at the finance side, corporate finance, the ethics of the corporation, corporate structure.

So, as an MBA, you get a pretty good overview of all the aspects of business in this program. The faculty is very strong, and I had liked all loved all of my professors up to now. And then you have a chance to do your own thing as well through the electives. It's not like you always have to take the econ or finance or marketing courses. I took courses related to data as well, like with you.

So, you can also customize your MBA a little bit the way you want. If you want to enter, let's say, management in the tech sector, you can take those electives that are related to information science or data. And if you wanted to go to the healthcare side, you can take those electives. So, there's that opportunity as well. It's not like you have one hardcore MBA degree and you can only do one thing. It opens up the doors for you, and not just in the tech sector, not just in the banking sector, but also healthcare or education or e-commerce. It's a very good program.

[RJ] Yeah, I really like what you said about not really seeing too many disadvantages, and the only issue you had was flights into Harrisburg. The good thing is, Harrisburg is an international airport, and you do have a direct flight to Toronto.

[TM] It's the only international flight that this airport has, to Canada, Toronto.

[RJ] That's a big plus, I think, for us geographically as well. We're three hours away from most major cities, so you can fly out of BWI, you can fly out of JFK. The accessibility is also a really good point. You mentioned that you like the class sizes, so what was the experience like with the students that you engaged with in your different classes? How would you describe those types of relationships that you developed with other students in the program?

[TM] That's an excellent question, actually. The good thing with this MBA program was, it's not just full-time students. Not all of them are full-time students. So, you do get some students who are industry executives. And when you collaborate with them or when you're having those discussions in the class, you're not only hearing an academic perspective that a student would give out based on what they have read in the book or what the slide says or what the professor says, but you will get to hear the industry's perspective. And different industries, like one could be from the IT sector and one classmate could be from an engineering background. Like, I had one classmate who was taking multiple classes with me. She's from a civil engineering background, and she works for a construction company that builds infrastructure for the cities.

Now, you get to hear that kind of perspective that I don't have. I don't have that knowledge, so I cannot think from that perspective. So, it's all this good. And the class size is small, and we have so much diversity in the class, not just academic background but also work experience background, which is really important..

[RJ] Yeah, I think the work experience is a big piece because the classroom is not just a learning environment, but it's also a place for you to network with other professionals across multiple disciplines. Yeah, uh, I know that you've been in several of my classes, and you've made a lot of very useful connections. Uh, could you talk a little bit about the experience you had recently where one of your classmates actually tried to recruit you, yeah, to their company? Just because it's so difficult to find expert talent. And while you're in the classroom, you're actually networking with professionals at all different levels, uh, from all different types of organizations.

[TM] You're absolutely right. One of my classmates actually, uh, she wanted me to come and join her company. Uh, but things didn't work out at that time because the way, um, my paperwork, the documentation was, it didn't allow me to go outside the campus and work. Um, and by the time I got my paperwork in order, the opportunity had already been, uh, fulfilled.

So, but, but, uh, she's keeping an eye on things, and we'll see how that goes. But yes, as you said, um, it's a very good opportunity to network, and you could even land your job in your class while you're sitting next to a recruiter. Um, so, uh, it's, that's why I said this class size is small enough that you can go and talk to people. Uh, it's not a classroom

where it's a theater-like classroom with 300 people in it, and you don't even know who in your class are. It's 10, 15, 20 people in max in the class. You know everybody's name. You know them on their first-name basis, and that tells you how easily it is to network with people here.

[RJ] So, you mentioned that you work on campus, and you had the opportunity to network with other students and were offered a job, and you're still being actively recruited as an international student. Can you talk about the experience of having access to job opportunities as an MBA student, both on campus and off campus?

[TM] Well, on-campus jobs are very easy to find for international students here, and there are a lot of opportunities here. Like our office, the International Student Office, hires a lot of people. So does the Learning Center. I work in both the Learning Center and also the International Student Office.

There are also other job opportunities like in the Career Services, here in Marketing, and also in Stacks, Housing and Food. There are tons of opportunities for international students. And as an F1 student, you are allowed to work up to 20 hours on campus, not outside the campus, but on campus.

But outside the campus, there are other opportunities like you can go do an internship in the summer that is called something called the CPT, Curriculum Practical Training, and you can go to Eastside Wiser on campus, and she will be happy to help you out with the paperwork to do the CPT. And then after your graduation, the U.S. government allows you to have an OPT as well for the MBA program too, where you can get work authorization, and you are allowed to work full-time off-campus. Um, and CPT is also full-time internship, but that is all allowed when you are in the summer period, or you need to get permission from the government first to do the CPT.

So, yes, you have a ton, like, you've got tons of opportunities to work both on campus and off campus. Um, right now, I'm looking for jobs outside the campus because I'm about to graduate as well, uh, full-time roles, uh, but while I'm doing that, I'm still working on campus, both in the Learning Center and also in the International Student Office.

[RJ] Yeah, I think that's a really, uh, great piece of information to share, particularly with some of our existing students that actually do work, uh, 20 hours during the semester as well. So, students have a lot of flexibility with engaging in activities to support their academic goals as well as their professional goals by getting a career experience while they're studying in the US. Um, I think one of the things that you also mention is

flexibility with your classes. So, with the MBA program, we have a variety of class options. So, we do have in-person residential classes. We've had some hybrid options where you do some work online and some work in person, and we've also had 100% remote classes. Did you experience any of those types of options in your time here, and how?

[TM] I have actually experienced all three of them, okay. Um, so, um, and each mode of instruction gives you a different experience. So, I, in my first semester, I had a totally remote class. Um, one class was totally remote, and one of them was in person. Um, so, I would drive down to campus and then have to drive back home and turn my zoom on as well. Um, so, uh, yeah, it was, it was, it's, again, it gives you that flexibility that you don't necessarily have to be in person all the time, and you can take some classes on your own, at your own time. Like, they are totally on the web, and you just have to watch the pre-recorded lectures and go through the exercises.

Um, so, it gives you that flexibility as well if you are a working professional. Like I said, most of our classes, we don't necessarily only have students, but also the industry executive, and they are busy for their work, and they can just take classes whenever they want to. So, it gives you that flexibility as well. And sometimes you need to be remote because of the nature of the course or the nature of the exercise that needs to be done on the machine.

So, for example, yes, we, at school, we do have computers available, computer labs available that you can always access. But sometimes you just need to access the software that is only available online through the web labs, and then you have to conduct that session virtually so that everybody is on their own machine, and they can log into web labs.

Speaking of web labs, it is a tool that the school provides where you can log into the school's computer remotely and then use all the software that the school has available for you because some of the software is not necessarily available to download on your computer due to licensing issues. So, you can only use them on school. That's what we call web labs. Um, so, yeah, so if you're, if, for example, business analytics, some of the software is only available on the web labs. So, in those situations, the classes could be remote as well if the computer labs are not available.

Yeah, so I had a very good experience for all three, where, uh, in-person, personal preference is still in-person because I'm old. So, um, so, but, I overall, I, it wasn't, I didn't feel like, "Oh, this is not working out for me," in any of the modes. So, yeah, it worked out pretty well for all three.

[RJ] I'm really glad to hear that the flexibility was something that you appreciated because we really work hard to meet the students where they are. So, uh, we have flexibility with

modes of instruction as well as flexibility with the concentrations that you pursue for your MBA. So, at Penn State Harrisburg, the MBA consists of 30 core credits. Nine of those credits are electives. You can do a general MBA, or you can do a concentration, and we have a variety of concentrations ranging from Information Systems to Finance to Data Analytics to Supply Chain Management. And you can customize those nine credits.

What was your experience in tailoring the degree to really fit your needs? You have a diverse background, so how were you able to really take advantage of those options to get the degree that you really needed?

[TM] That's a good question. Um, so, as I said, when I started working in the industry, I wanted to move into management, but I still wanted to keep my previous technical background, and I wanted to move within that domain. So, having a machine learning artificial intelligence background, um, for me, I was again looking to stay in that same domain.

So, data analytics and information systems, they were kind of attractive to me because I could relate to those courses, and because I wanted to stay in that domain. So, I chose those. But, as you mentioned, there are tons of other concentrations that students can do: supply chain, finance. You can also do a general MBA. You can also look at health administration if you want to.

So, yes, it was very easy to actually find those courses, and those courses are offered pretty consistently. So, it's not like I had to wait a semester to get into that course, and the course is not available. Hypothetically speaking, if something happens, then the faculty, if you go talk to the department, they're very accommodating. They will arrange an alternative course for you, be it on Penn State campus Harrisburg, be it at UP, or be it at Harrisburg Community College or other Harrisburg University. So, there is always that option for you. The department goes out of its way, and faculty goes out of the way to help the student out in order to accommodate what they need.

I mean, I cannot speak generally for all the concentrations, but at least in my case, there was one occasion when the marketing course was not being offered, and then I had a conversation with you, and then we tried to figure things out, that how, what can we do, and we ended up with a very good solution which worked for everybody. But, as I said, that's the best part, that everybody tries to make things happen for you, and it's not like you send an email, you put a request in, and nobody, it's falling on deaf ears, and by the time they get back to you, your semester is already over. So, that is the best part of this campus and this program, that everybody supports you completely, and I found it very easy to choose the courses I wanted to keep to stay in that domain of data analytics.

[RJ] Yeah, I think as a team, we're very student-centered. So, our goal is to really assist you in getting your goal accomplished. So, as a result of that, we do know you by name,

and we will find you, track you down, assist you with your class scheduling, assist you with just the support that you need in transitioning to campus life, as well as succeeding with your academic goals.

One of the other ways that we assist is financially. We know that education is not cheap, and getting an MBA, it is a costly undertaking. Could you talk a little bit about any scholarships or funding that you received while you were a student here?

[TM] Yes, um, so there are a few limited options available for international students. So, there's a scholarship through the MBA program as well that I qualified for in the first year. Um, and there's, I will not go into the details of the scholarship, but you can get aid from the department. And there's also, you can get a scholarship from the International Student Office as well. ESA actually has this grant, tuition grant available, and then you just have to apply and answer all the questions that they want, and you can get a good scholarship from there too. Other than that, as I said, financially, you can work on campus for 20 hours a week as well. That gives you a lot of financial help. You get a reasonable salary, and if you work 20 hours, that's good for you to bear your monthly expenses such as rent or utilities.

[RJ] I think it's good to mention that as well because students have different ways to augment funding the education, as well as working on campus, off campus, or working with a faculty member on a research project. So, it's always good to look into all of those options, and I think it's something we want to share with international students as well, so they know that these options are available to them. So, how difficult are the classes? I will say that we're very proud that we're an accredited business school, and only five percent of business schools globally are accredited, so your degree is valued anywhere that you go. So, how difficult did we make it for you to get those classes done?

[TM] Now, that's a very difficult question to answer because it's relative. So, I have found these classes to be okay. I mean, not too difficult and not too easy. It's not a walk in the park either. You have to put in effort, like naturally in any grad school. If you are walking in the park and getting a graduate degree, that's not the right graduate degree for you. So, if you make an effort, if you put the time in, of course, you need that work-life balance as well. I'm not saying be a bookworm 24/7. But if you put the appropriate time in with the appropriate effort, you should be fine.

[RJ] Yeah, I think that leads us to the other point that there are a lot of resources available to support students academically. Yeah, Penn State is a huge institution, but at Penn State Harrisburg, we are able to tailor a lot of resources to fit the needs of the students. So, did you utilize any of those resources, such as the library or the Learning Center, whether you were a student there or you assisted other students? We also have different writing workshops. Can you talk a little bit about those kinds of activities?

[TM] Yeah, Penn State Library is sort of unique. It's one library distributed across campuses. So, yes, I use library resources quite a bit, and there are tons of resources in the library through the business program as well, like IBIS World and other resources that are not normally available and very expensive. And I'm lucky the school has already paid for them. So, I have used those quite a bit for my reports, be it marketing or financial statements, corporate finance, and all those courses that require that kind of approach. Even for my capstone, I'm going to use IBIS World. So, yes, I have used that extensively. It's an excellent resource. So, you get to see reports that are not easily publicly available. You get to have industry stats through those tools.

Other than that, the Learning Center, as I mentioned earlier, I work at the Learning Center. The Learning Center is a program that the school offers. It's free of cost to students, and they can sign up to get academic help. So, the Learning Center has tutors that tutor a variety of courses, mostly undergrad courses, physics, chemistry, math, whatever, econ, finance, engineering of any kind. But they do offer assistance in the academic grad courses as well, and I have helped grad students in the MBA program. Those juniors to me, so the Learning Center also has writing exercises. They have writing tutors as well. So, if you struggle with writing, and most people do, initially when I started grad school, I was a bad writer as well, and my professors have honed that writing skill into me now. But if you struggle with writing papers or articles or even a thesis, the Learning Center provides writing coaching. They have writing tutors.

[RJ] Yeah, I think with a lot of the classes, we also try to embed some of those resources. So, for example, in one of our core classes in Information Systems, we embed modules with library resources. So, students get access directly in the course, as well as walking over to the different departments, units, or making a phone call, sending a text, or using an app. So, we try to give you access in a variety of ways to stay engaged in the community.

So we talked a lot about the academic side of the house. What is life like on this campus for someone coming in brand new to the US, as an international graduate student? How would you describe that experience?

[TM] Life on campus is pretty good, actually. Because we, at the International Student Office, we organize tons of events. There's always an event going on, either there's a movie going on or some sort of lunch or dinner is going on. So every week, there will be at least two events from the International Student Office. They have this Global Ambassador and Global Lion mentorship programs. And either there's a trip going out off-campus to a Sports Emporium or skiing even or to Broadway. We too went to New York. I mean, our office went to took students to New York Broadway just in, I think, that was November, and we are going again in April because some of the students missed out on that opportunity. We could only take 40 students, and I think 180 something signed

up. So now, because of the popularity, we are now doing another one. So there are all these activities going on campus, not just from the International Student Office but from the Student Engagement Office as well. You have clubs on campus, and there's also a very good gym, the training facilities. They also have a swimming pool, a basketball court, there's a squash court, a badminton court. So there's also sports facilities if you are athletic or if you are towards athletic.

So yeah, the life on campus is pretty good. You have a food facility here as well that is open for the students who live on campus and who are just here for classes, and you have meal plans that give you discounted prices on meals. So yeah, the life on campus is pretty busy, pretty good. As I mentioned, even in the holidays when everything is closed, you remember the story I told you that someone from the International Student Office came and opened their home for the international students so they don't feel lonely.

So you will never feel lonely on this campus. This campus will always be buzzing, even though it's a smaller campus, but it's still all this buzzing and light. And there's also a police station on campus, so it's not like you're walking at 3 am and you're looking all around and you're scared. That police station is 24/7, it's only for the Campus Community, so you feel safe as well.

So you're not only feel supported but also feel safe. So I think your life is pretty good on campus.

[RJ] Yeah, yeah, I think that social engagement is critical for success, so you have a better chance of having a work-life balance. Myself and you as well, I know we've talked about our love of cricket, and just the fact that students would actually get together and go down at midnight or whatever time the games are being played internationally just to connect with other students. Yeah, and I think those types of events really help us to come together as a community. Recently, with the World Cup, people were getting together to watch the game, so I think we do have a lot of these kinds of activities, and I appreciate you sharing information about that. Food is also big. Yeah, I think we learn a lot about foods from around the world on a regular basis here on campus, so I think it's really critical to let students around the world know that we do have the ability to connect with you wherever you're coming from.

[TM] Exactly.

[RJ] Have you met a lot of other students from many different countries?

[TM] Yes, like not just the MBA program but all the other programs. They have a very good international intake, so the diversity on campus is pretty good. You get students from all over the world. We have people from different backgrounds. Take India, for example, right? India is such a big country that even within India, there are so many states

that are different from each other, that you get to experience different kinds of culture from there. So Punjab is totally different from, say, Tamil Nadu or Malayalam. I don't know if I pronounce it correctly. I apologize if the pronunciation is wrong. So yeah, you can see that it's the diversity within one country. There's so much diversity, and then China is exactly the same as well.

So yes, I have got to meet a lot of people from different backgrounds and a lot of different food. We had the potluck dinner last semester where each student brought their one dish from their country, a traditional dish, and we actually helped them with the food preparation as well. If they couldn't find ingredients, they would let us know, and then we would order it for them. And it was a great success. We had 50 different dishes that day, and it was also at the house of one of the graduate ambassadors, and they are a local student. So you can see how both the local community and the international community are showing solidarity here on this campus. Even the local students are putting their foot forward to help out the international students feel welcome, and that goes again back to this campus being just the right size. It's not too big, it's not too small, and everyone here is very supportive.

[RJ] That also brings up a point about the faculty and staff that engage with students, and in the School of Business, we have an amazing team of faculty and staff that work with students at all levels to make sure that they have a good experience. One of the things that we do as well is have an orientation at the beginning of the program to just walk through all of the different pieces of information. I know, Tasleem, you're at the end of that journey and you're looking forward to heading out the door, but could you talk a little bit about what the admission process was like and how that works for international students?

[TM] Admission process is relatively straightforward. Everything is laid out in full on the website, so you just have to go into the Penn State Harrisburg website, into the MBA, into the Business Department, and then it's pretty straightforward. You just fill out the application and follow the requirements, turn in your transcripts from previous degrees, letters of recommendation from faculty or from your co-workers, your letter of intent, why do you want to do the MBA, and just pay the admission fee.

If you fulfill all the requirements and check all the boxes, you will get an admission letter from the school, and then the school will send you further documentation, like, "Okay, now it's time for you to apply for your I-20," and now we are sending you I-20, now it's time for you to go apply for your visa if you need one.

The school will follow up and basically hold your hand and help you at every step until you are here or until you are out the door, as you were mentioning. So the admissions process is very relatively simple. There are no curveballs in the whole process. If you

check all the boxes, if you check all the requirements, and of course, the admission requirements change every year depending on the demand and how the competition looks like. I understand that part, but if you check all these overall general boxes, then your application is competitive enough, the faculty, the admissions committee, will consider your application for admission.

[RJ] Yeah, I think it's critical to have a clear process so that students aren't deterred because of random events happening with the admission process. We really are happy to hear that the process is streamlined and it works well for students. One of the other things with the admission process is that students can request a waiver for any of the standardized tests. So standardized tests for grad school are typically GMAT and GRE. So we want to hear from you. If you met the criteria, you sent in a request to us, we usually respond within 24 to 48 hours as well. So our goal is to keep an open line of communication with you from the initial introduction to our program all the way up until you graduate, and we will stay in contact with you after you graduate as well, because we definitely want to know who our alumni are and what you're doing and how you can continue to engage with us in the program.

[TM] Yeah, so for me, for the MBA, GMAT was required as a requirement, and also an English language test is a requirement as well for international students. So for me, I was able to get both waived. GMAT and GRE are waived if you already have a grad degree, so you can just send in those paperwork, and as you said, the department responds within 24 to 48 hours for that waiver, and I got that waiver, and the English requirement test I also got waived because I'm from an English-speaking country, Canada. So I was not required to take the test, but for folks who do not have a graduate degree, they would have to do the GRE or GMAT for the MBA.

[RJ] Well, those students can actually apply for a waiver as well based on the undergraduate degree.

[TM] Okay

[RJ] We have found that there's a lot of flexibility, particularly with work experience and undergraduate performance, that can really give us a clear direction as to your chances of success in the program. So we are really encouraging students that are interested in our program to send in that request, apply, and we can give you some initial feedback earlier on before you pay the \$65 application fee, which can also be waived if you attend one of our open house events, in person or virtually. So there are a lot of options that we have tried to implement to reach students where they are.

[TM] Yeah, that's an excellent piece of information because now students can just, I mean, they don't have to have that burden of having those GMATs and GREs. If they have the option of getting it waived and if they fulfill all the requirements, then if it gets waived for them, that's a huge plus. And also, if the application fee can be waived as well, that's a huge plus.

[RJ] Yeah, the last piece in the application is a TOEFL for international students. But fortunately, Penn State has recently revised some of those requirements. So there's a website where you can just look and see depending on what country you're from and where you obtained your degree, the TOEFL might be waived as well. So there are a lot of people with strong language skills that are coming in, and we don't want to deter anyone just because they're coming in with an international degree. So we really want to work with international students to encourage them to consider us for their graduate degree.

[TM] Yeah, that's good to know.

[RJ] So, Tasleem, it's been a real pleasure talking to you.

[TM] Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

[RJ] I feel like the pleasure was all mine. I really appreciate you sharing your experience with us about what life has been like in the MBA program, and I wish you and your family all success as you're next heading out the door.

[TM] Thank you.

[RJ] We do have your name. We have your number, so we will find you.

[TM] Thank you so much.

[RJ] You're welcome. Appreciate it.

[TM] Have a great day.

[RJ] Thank you. If you want to find out more about our MBA program, please visit us at our website. Thank You

[Music]