

A message from Vivian Ho, 2011 Cranfield NZ Alumni Scholar



Cranfield University School of Management adopts a team-based learning approach. This is my study group for term 1. From left: Vatsan Govindarajan from India, Vivian Ho from New Zealand, Chiah Lim from Malaysia, Andres Sanchez from Spain, and Niels Footman from Scotland.

My journey as an MBA student began on 24th September 2011. I landed at Heathrow airport and was promptly picked up by a taxi arranged by the university. The weather was superb; not a single cloud in sight and the temperature was 27 degrees Celsius. Who would have thought the English weather could be so kind in late September!

My first week at Cranfield was “full-on”. Students from the previous year organised and led our orientation week. Days were long, in fact, days were very long. We often started at seven in the morning and did not return to our hostel until eleven at night. I must admit it was physically taxing on the first two days. I kept reassuring myself that it will be easier once it becomes a habit.

Orientation week was packed with energy and fun. The idea was to get us to engage and bond as a group. Cranfield School of Management is very strong on team-based learning. In fact, we are expected to learn from each other as much as we learn from faculty members. For me, the value of an MBA isn't simply about a degree. MBA is about exposure to business from a global perspective brought together by the faculty members and fellow students. In my year, we have 80 students from 31 different countries around the world.

Personally, the most memorable aspect of the orientation week was the dedication and passion demonstrated by students from the previous year. They made us feel very much part of the “Cranfield family” right from day one. A year ago, they came to Cranfield as individuals from different walks of life seeking change. A year on, they demonstrated a strong sense of community and purpose in life. We were all touched by their enthusiasm and energy. For me, they are the living-proof of what a “Cranfield experience” can deliver.

I look forward to a very fruitful year at Cranfield. I feel very fortunate to be here and would like to thank Cranfield University School of Management, the NZ Cranfield Alumni, and NZ-UK Link Foundation for their financial and personal support through my journey. To find out more about my MBA journey, please follow this newsletter in the coming year.