



MS/PhD Series 2.0
Episode 2
Launchpad to Success: Building your MS/PhD Trajectory
2024

Date : 22th December 2024

About the Speaker:

KANAK GAUTAM:

Kanak Gautam completed her **Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech)** in **Electrical Engineering** from **Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)** in 2024, achieving a CPI of 8.563. She has diverse experience through **internships** as a **Business Analyst and SDE** at **Sofyrus Technologies**, an **SWE Intern** and **Intern Engage** at **Microsoft**, and a **Web Development Intern**. She has attended two conferences and secured a 7.5 IELTS score. Recently, she was awarded **with fully funded admission** to the **MS Program in Computing Science** at **Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada**, with a research focus on **Human-Computer Interaction**.

Introduction:

On December 22nd, 2024, we hosted an insightful online webinar **titled "Launchpad to Success: Building Your MS/PhD Trajectory"** as part of the **MS/PhD Series 2.0, Episode 2**. The event was organized by **Dr. SAFIA AKHTER KAZMI (Faculty Advisor)** and **Mr. MOHAMMAD ZAID (Branch Counselor)**, with the participation of founding members and students of Aligarh Muslim University.

Event Start: Opening Address:

The webinar began with an insightful opening address by **Sidra Suhail**, who introduced Kanak Gautam, currently a MS student at the Simon Fraser university, Burnaby, Canada. Sidra highlighted Kanak's **remarkable achievements** throughout her Bachelor's degree, emphasizing her **hard work and dedication** that led to her successful journey. She set the tone for the session by celebrating his accomplishments and inspiring participants with his story of perseverance and commitment to his field.

Keynote Address Begins:

Kanak Gautam's webinar presentation provided a **detailed roadmap** for students aiming to

pursue MS program abroad. She discussed key steps, starting with **GPA requirements**, and selecting the right programs. Kanak offered valuable guidance on shortlisting universities based on academic goals, preparing for tests like **IELTS and TOEFL**, and exploring **scholarships and funding opportunities**. She emphasized the importance of building a strong profile, including academic excellence, extracurricular activities, and personal projects. Kanak also **encouraged students** to remain focused and persistent in their pursuit of higher education abroad. Her insights were designed to inspire and equip students with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate the application process and achieve success in their academic journey.

Closing :

The webinar **concluded** with an **insightful question-and-answer session**, providing participants the opportunity to engage with the speakers and gain deeper understanding of the topics discussed. This interactive exchange of ideas further enriched the learning experience for all attendees. **Fatima Wajih** formally concluded the event with a vote of thanks, expressing sincere appreciation to the esteemed speakers for their valuable insights, the organizers for their dedicated efforts, and the participants for their active engagement and contributions. Her closing remarks underscored the importance of such collaborative efforts in fostering knowledge and growth.

The screenshot displays a Zoom webinar interface. The main presentation area shows a slide titled "From Aligarh to Vancouver: The Big Leap" with a timer indicating 04 minutes. The slide content includes three challenges: "Challenge 1: Deciding to study abroad wasn't easy—imagine explaining this to a joint family!", "Challenge 2: Key hurdles: Applications, SOPs, and convincing relatives I wasn't eloping.", and "Challenge 3: Why SFU? A top-notch Computing Science program and the dream of being part of cutting edge research." The right sidebar shows a list of participants, including Sadaf Suhail, Rafeeq Ahmad, Adeeb Ur Rehman, and 17 others. The bottom toolbar contains various controls like chat, mute, video, and a red end call button. The bottom status bar shows the time as 9:15 PM and the meeting ID as kya-yaaa-osc.