

## Sumanyu Maingi



Short bio: I am Sumanyu Maingi from class of 2015, School of Mechanical, Materials and Energy Engineering, IIT Ropar. I am currently pursuing a Masters degree in Materials Engineering from University of Southern California.

There are two versions of me: The Pre-IIT Ropar Sumanyu who was a little too introvert, boring, timid, casual and above all naive, both academically and professionally; and the Post-IIT Ropar Sumanyu, who I would say tried to get better w.r.t. the flaws I listed above! How IIT Ropar brought about a transformation in me is something that can't be described in a few words, still, trying to keep it short.

Talking about academics first, well, I never realized how amazing it was until I started my Masters in the US. In about 60% of the coursework I've taken up, I've felt that I knew it already. Every time I find a group of students NOT raising their hands in the class on being asked whether they knew something or not, I say to myself "*Ah yeah! I studied it back home!*". The comprehensive coursework at IIT Ropar has so much in common with the graduate level courses here, and it's only getting better every day, courtesy critical feedback by the students and the ever-increasing interest of the Director and Faculty! Comparison to IIT Delhi? Well the day's not far when they start comparing their curriculum to ours!

And now talking a little more than the academics, I had a complete makeover in my personality over the 4 years I spent here. Be it learning professionalism, developing work ethics, inculcating soft skills that are not taught in classes and forming some really beautiful bonds for a lifetime, IIT Ropar has done it all for me! More than growing as a student, I would say I grew as a human being. From a guy who didn't know how to talk in front of a big gathering of people, how to carry oneself in a formal environment, who didn't know how to manage his time and tasks well, who didn't know how to take initiatives and challenges, I found myself at least a tad bit better at all of these, 4 years later! Now when I look back, every little occasion of interpersonal development is helping me so much right now; be it delivering a seminar in front of an audience, hosting an event in front of a few hundred people or working with people from different backgrounds and cultures in the laboratories, everything endowed me with immense

self- confidence and helped me develop my communication, teamwork and leadership skills to a whole new level. Now when I talk to recruiters, professors or other people from academia or industry, I feel so much at ease; the nervousness I used to feel once is beyond gone! Who is to thank? Well, no other than IIT Ropar!

Other than that, I learnt how to manage my time so much! Being in a professional college, you've got to stay active in a number of things apart from academics, as there are a lot of things books won't teach you! IIT Ropar does just that for you, though of course it's a two way road! While at IIT Ropar, I used to eat and breathe IIT Ropar. Well, I still do! It's so much a part of me that even after graduating, the best experiences and memories (both personal and professional) I can recollect are from those 4 years I spent here!

With Prof. Das as the new director and the ever-increasing enthusiasm of the faculty and students to make IIT Ropar a world-class institute, the present students should consider themselves extremely fortunate! The day's pretty near when people will stop saying, "*Ah well. Ropar's a new IIT. How good can it get?*". Talk about good? We're going to be the best!

Cheers, IIT Ropar!