



HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

Kishinchand Chellaram College

Department of Life Sciences

Under the Aegis of DBT Star Status and Star Scheme

Presents

Edu – Link Lecture Series 2021 – 2022

Lecture – 01

‘A to Z of Studying Abroad – Challenges of Pandemic Times’



The Department of Life Sciences, K. C. College, under the aegis of DBT Star Status inaugurated the Edu – Link Lecture Series 2021 – 2022 on Saturday 24th July, 2021, by organizing an online webinar on the topic ‘A to Z of Studying Abroad – Challenges of Pandemic Times’, on Zoom platform. Mr. Atul Kotian, who is currently pursuing MS in Biotechnology, Jacobs School of Medical and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, New York and is an alumnus of Department of Life Sciences, K. C. College, was the guest speaker for the session. The webinar was attended by more than 60 participants which included second-year and third-year undergraduate students, faculty members, former faculty members and ex-students of the Department of Life Sciences.

The lecture series was inaugurated by Dr. Sagarika Damle, HOD, Department of Life Sciences and Dr. Tajeshree Shanbag, Vice Principal, K. C. College. They emphasized on the importance of never losing sight of one’s dreams, no matter the hardships that one has to face and how the Edu-Link Lecture series helps undergraduate students forge a bond with the alumni. Mr. Atul Kotian began the session by reviewing the past year in a nutshell and its impact on education. Before elaborating on studying outside India in the midst of the pandemic, Mr. Kotian briefed the students about standard application process of foreign universities before the pandemic and explained the universal trends observed among them. Sir talked about the aspects that have remained constant such as MCQ type exams and constant rate of acceptance in universities while also explaining the new challenges that the pandemic has imposed on all colleges around the world and measures taken to tackle them. Further, sir guided the students on how they can prepare themselves while planning to study abroad, emphasizing on the importance of standard tests, Statement of Purpose, Letter of Recommendation and LinkedIn. Sir highlighted the fact

that surveying available courses according to their interest and learning about the academic environment of desired universities are important prerequisites.

Furthermore, Mr. Kotian advised the students to focus on developing skills which would prove to be beneficial in the long term along with gaining academic knowledge. Sir also stated that one continues to face challenges even after securing admission in a foreign university such as adjusting to peculiar weather conditions, social norms of the host country and living independently. Sir also urged the students to get vaccinated against COVID – 19 in preparation for studying abroad. Lastly, Mr. Kotian summarized the webinar by advising the students that patience is the key to success and to take time to decide the best course of action for their future. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session where Mr. Kotian cleared the doubts of students and guided them in their pursuit of postgraduate studies. The event was concluded by a heartfelt vote of thanks by a student volunteer.

Mr. Atul Kotian provided detailed information about all the aspects of studying outside India, which students need to consider and be aware of, especially keeping the pandemic in mind. The students appreciated the informative webinar as it helped to stimulate their mind in the right direction. The webinar was successful in its purpose of making students aware of the steps taken in preparation of studying abroad. On the whole the webinar was well organized and was led forward by an eminent speaker who paid attention to the details and managed to keep the audience enthralled. The speaker's personal as well as professional experience made the webinar knowledgeable and fruitful to aspiring students.

- **Team KCLSD**

