**Tushar Bhatt Interview**

**February 1st, 2021**

**Interviewer**: Alright, so first question, what is your program of study.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Bio for health science so two majors.

**Interviewer:** Okay, and.

**Interviewer**: You said, your second year right.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Yes

**Interviewer**: And you're an international or domestic.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Domestic.

**Interviewer**: Okay, so just let me know what kind of classes would be ideal for you to have this semester, and why, would you like these classes, so you can choose from like synchronous online, asynchronous, hybrid, in-person.

**Tushar Bhatt**: um it's kind of very like since March i've been like let's go back to you firstly go back to in-person because online was annoying and then during the summer I was like kind of getting used to it

**Tushar Bhatt**: So as from now, as of now, and I don't mind synchronous like actually okay I ranked async first just because of the time difference I'm in.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So all my classes are like I like 6, 7, 8am. I ended up sleeping a mess itself and I tend to work better and I just because it's quiet in the house. Which means i'm up late, which means I sleep late, you know what I mean.

**Interviewer**: So how many courses are you taking currently and would it be the same is as if you had classes in person?

**Tushar Bhatt**: Oh yeah so i'm taking five courses this semester.

**Tushar Bhatt**: It would be the same, I think, just because i've always done it.

**Tushar Bhatt**: If it seems harder.

**Tushar Bhatt**: would say oh it's tough, because I feel like I was just to give up this last night I was just like it's easier to fall behind online like, especially because of like when I was in person I go to every lecture every single thing, whether I was understanding what's going on, or not. Just because, once you missed that lecture you miss it, you know what I mean. Now that it's online I’m kind of like there's really no excuse like. So, and again because classes early by the time I’ve woken up I missed the first three classes of the morning, and then I have to play like catch up at night so I’m kind of like inverted if that makes it but anyway yeah. So yeah, the same amount of classes.

**Interviewer**: All right, so if you can explain in some more detail on have your how has your GPA been affected, as well as your focus in like you can explain how it has specifically?

**Tushar Bhatt**: See, though this is a tough one, because um.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So my GPA first semester of last year was like when it was in person.

It was tough right first semester is always tough but then we moved online, so I was like okay in summer

**Tushar Bhatt**: It could be attributed to the courses and stuff that I was thinking like a second that which, compared to like physics and stuff I thought better with.

**Tushar Bhatt**: But now, then last semester, I took a bunch of all like academic like 5

Mandatory so it wasn't like it was academic calendar course not like one of the ones I actually like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: But anyway, so, so the I tend to gauge I'm like Okay, if your GPA goes up, you should be grateful, no matter what it is right, especially in online. Nothing's easy anymore, and I get it right, so that said, my GPA has gone up by a tiny bit, so I should be grateful, and I should just leave it there.

**Tushar Bhatt**: With that said, though, I feel like I should be doing better

**Tushar Bhatt**: how's my focus has been affected or whatever um.

**Tushar Bhatt**: I feel it's still because I feel like i'm more focused like, then I would be at school, like school school because that's just me at home, like in my room and stuff like when I was at dorms I was like with my friends and stuff so it was different but we're still working but um.

**Tushar Bhatt**: But now I have like my family guys so that takes some of the focus a little bit like like, if I have a plan for the day and then i'm like okay I gotta stick to this, but then I lose time in the day, I want to make it up at night.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So the focus is there, but it's just difficult to get results if that makes sense.

**Tushar Bhatt**: That just goes up as online in general, like tests and exams it's hard to do well that's the thing.

**Tushar Bhatt**: yeah.

**Interviewer**: No, I definitely get that.

**Interviewer**: Alright next question um, So do you believe that the quality of your education has changed and explain why or why not.

**Tushar Bhatt**: whatever I do is on my part, so i'm responsible for that, but i'm terms of quality of education, I think the content and stuff they're presenting is the same like nothing's changed.

**Tushar Bhatt**: In terms of the standard the university holds I think there's still like that that's one of the things they feel like every school is to emphasize it, but I don't know what other schools are like, but I know you have to like really been like you're like this is the like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: we're like proud of our standards and. Whatever for a reason right so let's try to keep that well we're in this difficult time period.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So quality of education, I would say stay the same.

**Tushar Bhatt**: In terms of like the flow of information and like how everything works yeah I can use improvement, but like I guess that comes with time, like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like not like everything's cool when you intellectual and then you fire up the slides and.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Presenting to like 500 people.

**Tushar Bhatt**: yeah, but when you're on zoom when you're talking to a screen and, like you, like are they even watching like what's going on.

**Tushar Bhatt**: it's different so I get where they're coming from um.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So yeah i'd say the like I don't feel like i'm.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like i'm being fleeced or anything like a big reason but um yeah, so I think yeah the standards up there still quality of education yeah.

**Interviewer**: Okay.

**Interviewer**: All right, um so your ethnic background, he said, India right.

**Tushar Bhatt**: yeah South Asia yeah.

**Interviewer**: And what's your gender identity.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Male

**Interviewer**: Alright, and the next um so who do you live with that home.

**Tushar Bhatt**: My father, my mom, my dad, the older brother, younger sister nothing.

**Interviewer:** So, as a member of your household what are some things that are required of you to do so, this includes like your household duties your errands like babysitting giving rides etc.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Okay um.

**Tushar Bhatt**: This is a tough one, because when I came home, I was like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: I was always wanting to make.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like my room like this, my room like my dorm so like I could sort of control

**Tushar Bhatt**: But then being at home with like my om like she'll come in the House and just scream at the top of her lungs like whoever's home right and I'm like okay.

**Tushar Bhatt**: I'm like and now it's come down to the point, like I've tried, the whole posted know on the wall like don't disturb or whatever doesn't work.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Because he doesn't pass the door she's screaming from downstairs up, so I was like Okay, does it work and then I tried sending a message you know what's happening like okay I'm in class so that does it work.

**Tushar Bhatt**: And then I tried.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So, household duties so basically yeah so I was like okay my mom knows like i'm a full time students have she's like go and study and don't tell me anything else.

**Tushar Bhatt**: But then obviously there's like we're all home so like dishes pile up and stuff and so like my my tentative duties like always the dishwasher so like I was going to check like what's going on but.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like I can't sit back and so now, if my mom's doing something even if i'll do something like I still hope but it's literally whenever i'm out, so I come out of my room like a couple hours a day, and then i'll do a dishwasher or something while i'm there.

**Tushar Bhatt**: And then the rule I like to do like I used to so my sister like cheese in high school like we like I used to drive to school and we used to drive all the time.

**Tushar Bhatt**: In together, and then I went to university and now, now that i'm back oh so yeah it's gonna be cool i'll drop you off every day this and that.

**Tushar Bhatt**: And then the first day I was like okay I can't do it just because of how much work and stuff so now, I made it done my last class of the day, ends up Friday at 2pm Pacific and she ends at three.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So I usually only do pickups on Fridays.

**Tushar Bhatt**: that's just my sister and then errands and stuff it's like during winter break goes all over else like whatever you want let's go just because I know, had nothing like to do so, I was like Okay, let me do stuff all icon.

**Interviewer**: Alright, so the next set of questions are like pre pandemic questions so um how many hours, did you spend on campus each week?

**Tushar Bhatt**: I lived there.

**Interviewer**: Oh yeah that's OK, so my what I meant was like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Studying is that the studying question.

**Interviewer**: Like not in your room so like not in your dorm so like in class studying.

**Tushar Bhatt**: In the library stuff okay um geez.

**Tushar Bhatt**: I mean, how many classes, a day and then okay like you know I could just eyeball it based on this year so like three hours of class a day times by five.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So that's 15 hours and then give or take, and this one's always tough how many hours, do you study a week right and i'm like don't like be up because, like there's always there's no right answer.

**Tushar Bhatt**: You know I just eyeball 25 hours just.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like that might be really, though, and I might be slacking but i'll take my chances.

**Interviewer**: Okay, and like what resources, did you use while you're like standing at school, so did you use like academic Center library helps study spaces laptop Rentals stuff like that.

**Tushar Bhatt**: yeah all those things, I think.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Okay, specifically the writing one they're always hype it up, I forget the name, the drop the name so much, how do I not know it's like academic skills lab or something.

**Interviewer**: In the library?

**Tushar Bhatt**: No, no, no, no, no, no that's a different place that's a different place okay.

**Tushar Bhatt**: i'm talking about the place where you're like okay here's my paper, can you help me out and then they're like Okay, you have to book an appointment I don't know what it's called but yeah there's a lot like that, and then.

**Interviewer**: I know who you're talking about

**Tushar Bhatt**: Basically, I had like a bunch of papers to write and I used that.

**Tushar Bhatt**: The library of course past exams and stuff to.

**Tushar Bhatt**: fill out those things that become less relevant now just a side side note, just because there's so much harder but i'm still helpful, though I always look at i'm just like okay.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Especially I mean for finals I feel like it's helpful, but like midterms it's kind of tough but yeah.

**Tushar Bhatt**: library stuff there's a desk there to the library like big round desk I forget what they even do, but I went there and I was like someone needed help with it was a I think it was referencing question or something.

**Tushar Bhatt**: yeah something like that, and then yeah all those resources, that the campus offers, most of them, I think.

**Interviewer**: Okay, all right.

**Interviewer**: um and I guess it's a critical question are you currently employed.

**Tushar Bhatt**: No

**Interviewer**: All right, and I guess the next set of questions um, I guess, just like a personal experience so um so here's like this is a two part question so.

**Interviewer**: Do you think that your professors are are being are doing enough to be accommodating to you and other students and then, if you like, feel comfortable like explain an instance where they have.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Okay, so.

**Tushar Bhatt**: This was another question in those in those survey. It's tough to quantify just because, like I don't want to take the chance and be like okay we're gonna make it 10 times worse now and you tell us like if, like how much better, it is does that make sense.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like accommodating is only like sort of relative right.

**Tushar Bhatt**: In general I think like I mean I assume you guys are talking about like deadlines and like emergencies and stuff like that

**Tushar Bhatt**: So what i'll say is, I think it balances out like i've had some professors like extraordinary really.

**Tushar Bhatt**: accommodating like i'll give an example and i'll give her a shout out Prof S (Name hidden for confidentiality) she teaches bio 209 and 202 she is probably the most accommodating

**Tushar Bhatt**: hey I know there's talk about diversity stuff and she's like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Listen guys like whatever happens, like take care of yourselves, before anything else that's, the only thing I remember her saying, but the entire lecture was just based on that she had this entire thing set up like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: she's like she's like listen up and she's like yeah listen look forget the rest of the books i'm gonna just give you like the chapters forget the rest of the chapters i'm gonna give you.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like you're a couple of things to like articles about the coronavirus if you guys are interested and the final is optional, so if you need it for you grade take it if you don't, don't take it.

**Tushar Bhatt**: you know what I mean like like they've all been generally accommodating like I said, but some have just gone like to another level.

**Tushar Bhatt**: which I appreciate, but uh but yeah like a final be optional is insane I don't think i'll get that that for a while, after this but yeah.

**Tushar Bhatt**: yeah like so it was like that was probably an instance, but like yeah other instances like what Prof (name hidden for confidentiality) she was like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: What she does is she basically gives you the 100% breakdown like she tells you you're 100% distributed to wherever you want, and then i'll make the grades work so she's like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Okay, we have three tests.

**Tushar Bhatt**: pick whatever you want, and then come tell me what it is and I was so weird it out, I just did the default when I was just like okay like I don't want to be.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like it's kind of one of those things where it's like you don't want it, like you, don't realize how easy low key easy it is to have this stuff decided, so you know what you have to focus on.

**Tushar Bhatt**: yeah where they like you choose that you like, oh no I can't screw this up, but anyway so she's been really accommodating in terms of like, break down deadlines like she'll just like you know that week where it was like this one big deadline, she's just like I'd rather everyone's cramming it and now, before Tuesday she's like just get it in before the final which was on December 22 I think.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So she's like. Tushar Bhatt: she's like the great shot today, but just get it in as soon as you can there's no like strict deadline

**Tushar Bhatt**: But on the syllabus it was listed out like December 4 but she's like December is great shot so just do it, you haven't told them and then don't worry about it and then.

**Tushar Bhatt**: so she was pretty accommodating like that I think about the profs.

**Tushar Bhatt**: This looks bad now because I thought there were more but. genuinely generally they've been really solid no one's been like dismissive of the time, like everyone's been like yo we get it like don't worry about it.

**Tushar Bhatt**: I got sidetracked again The point is, is there anything they could do better um see that's the thing like I don't know.

**Tushar Bhatt**: The genuine gems are generally accommodating of like deadlines and time differences and stuff at least what i've seen like I don't know how it works and other factors, maybe they're different and stuff but from my ones they're kind of like Okay, we kind of let you do your own thing just make sure you get stuff in on time.

**Tushar Bhatt**: I can't really think of anything that that they're doing wrong like oh my gosh it's so legal would have not I don't think so.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like the fact that the record lectures, in itself, is just like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: The game is genuinely a game changer.

**Tushar Bhatt**: In general, like seriously they've been they've been accommodating in general, I mean they do I feel like they're doing the best.

Tushar Bhatt: Like no I don't know if anyone really like zoom, but we can have to be.

**Interviewer**: Okay, no that's good thank you

**Interviewer**: The next question is actually last question for you um so overall do you think UTM overall is doing enough to accommodate the students and explain why or why not.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Oh yeah in general I think again it's tough to compare just because I don't know really what's going on with other schools but. I get emails like once a week from like the dean's office and they're like listen like we're doing this, this and this and i'm like, why is the Dean emailing me like it must be important right, but the fact that I keep getting emails i'm like okay cool.

**Tushar Bhatt**: But I think what they're doing is like kind of like ensuring students that they're still thought about if that makes sense, like it's not like they just shifted to the background, because, like everything's online you don't really know, but I feel like they're trying to build a school environment, I think, as best as it can within again within reason I think that's the key like they're they're like yeah i'll do this and that but, like we need you guys to meet us halfway kind of thing.

**Tushar Bhatt**: they've been doing their part, like I don't think they've cut corners or anything which is always good.

**Interviewer:** Okay that's good yeah yeah.

**Interviewer**: And so you think, do you know of any other ways that they could like can improve at all, you know what is.

**Tushar Bhatt**: I don't know what could be better. I really don't know like it's tough because.

Tushar Bhatt: I have assignments, and like lectures, which are all recorded so it's like you don't want everything that the University has been built on to go out the window because we're online right yeah but at the same time it's like. I’m sure they brainstormed like, how do you maintain the integrity of the school and like UOFT was never easy before before pandemic and everyone's like oh it's so hard now I never was working this like obviously you weren't working as hard right.

**Tushar Bhatt:** Like kind of like when you sign up you know what you're getting into or you don't but you get used to it, but so I think, maybe our school compared to others

Tushar Bhatt: We just said that what's new like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: That like a it varies like it's consistent across faculties great like i'm sure every year 50 students could say like listen like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like like there's no such thing as a bird course like that's a consensus, but like kids will come in from first of all, do you know any good bergquist.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Maybe in a way, like schools prepared us better because they're like listen we're not gonna like things are never easy before and I was just another like obstacle, but we come through so that's kind of like might be their message to us.

**Tushar Bhatt:** yeah so in terms of improvement, I don't really know honestly like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: I can never I can never come up with this stuff like maybe in the heat of the moment when i'm getting like bad the are done by then like do this do that, but right now I don't know.

**Interviewer:** No worries at all.

**Tushar Bhatt**: What I can say is that they're consistent.

**Tushar Bhatt**: it's never like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: One courses this easy and the other one is insanely hard it's more like.

**Tushar Bhatt**: Like it's all relative like relatively equal,

**Tushar Bhatt**: But there are like quizzes that you care about you work hard to find things that that.

**Tushar Bhatt**: yeah.

**Interviewer:** Okay um is another question there anything else you want to add like you want to see anything.

**Interviewer:** Any comments.

**Tushar Bhatt**: So anything to add I don't know.

**Tushar Bhatt**: good job.

**Interviewer**: All right, i'm going to stop the recording now.