

About Me

by Gopalakrishnan Aiswarya Mamparambath

About me

My name is Aiswarya, also known as "the girl with the longest name" (Gopalakrishnan Aiswarya Mamparambath). I'm a Pre-Masters student; very friendly and cheerful; and always have a tremendous amount of energy! if I am not wearing a mask, there will always be a smile on my face. Despite hailing from India, I was born and raised in Dubai, UAE, where I've been exposed to a great variety of cultures.

Extra-curricular Activities

Classical dancing

Trained in 3 Indian classical dance forms (Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam) for over 18 years, backed by over 100 trophies since the age of 11. This has given me a keen eye for perfection and precision.

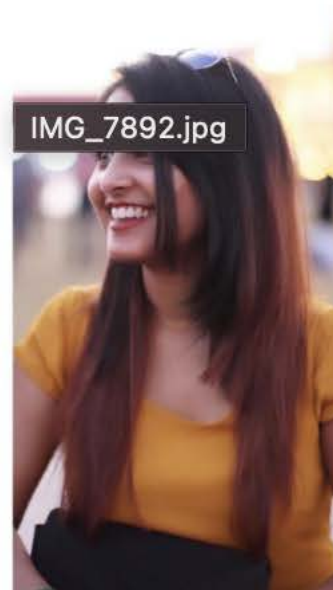
Mono acting

The art of acting pushed me to learn different human natures, physiques, and how they behave, which helps me understand the different needs of different clients while designing.

Chess

Having been trained in chess makes me an intelligent strategist and patient

Ash (Aiswarya)



Me during an on stage performance.



Education

2017 - 2020 BA Hons in Architecture University of Nottingham, UK

2016 - 2017 Foundation in Architecture American University of Sharjah, UAE

2016 81% in Grade 12

CBSE 2014 10 CGPA in Grade 10 CBSE

Personal statement

I completed my undergraduate degree in architecture. Although the program did not align with my interests and aptitudes as I mistakenly expected, I was committed to seeing it through to the end and adopted some valuable skills as a result. These include my keen eye for precision and detail as well as my ability to think critically about fulfilling the demands of a client. The book MBA Day by Day by Chris Dalton, which supplemented my interest in pursuing fashion management, argues that an integral part of being a valuable manager comes from making decisions under uncertainty, and the architecture program has also helped me build this skill. Additionally, during my undergraduate study I worked a part-time job at The Garden Dessert Lounge in Nottingham, where over the course of one year I progressed to a managerial role which allowed me to demonstrate the knowledge and skills I had built in a professional, real-world setting. I exhibited successful leadership and problem-solving abilities, and strongly believe that I would excel on the fashion management course.

Personal Development

by Gopalakrishnan Aiswarya Mamparambath

Concentration and Listening Skills

Diagnosed at a younger age with ADHD, I have found it harder than most of my classmates to concentrate in class for longer periods. I have strived towards improving my concentrations skills by engaging in class and asking doubts.

My strategic management tutor, Mr. Tolulope Fadipe said in feedback: "Very proud of you as one of my engaging students. You are always ready and willing to learn."

I believe I have become a good listener and have been taking criticism well from tutors and classmates alike.

Cooking skills

I am proud to have finally learnt to cook various dishes with the help of my roommate Jannah Aboelghar. She taught me how to cook various Egyptian dishes and I in turn taught her to cook some delicacies of India.

My roommate and I



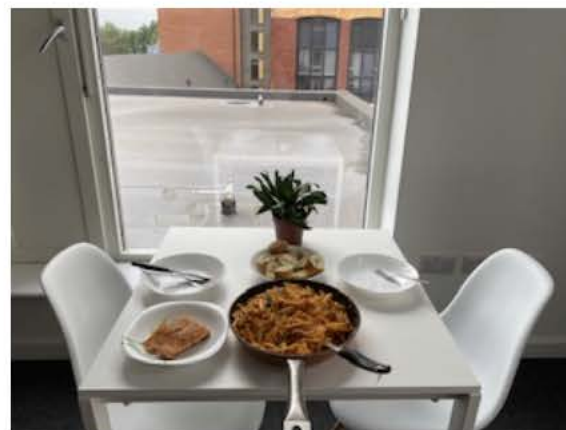
Cultural exchange

Fortunately, I was able to find my best friend in my roommate this year. We enjoyed cooking various dishes from both cultures together and helped me come out of my shell and build my confidence. I was able to understand various cultures and norms of different countries from the friends I made at college. This awareness helped build my general knowledge.

My friends I made from college



Cooking



Academic Exploration

by Gopalakrishnan Aiswarya Mamparambath

Introduction

An intuitive curiosity for different forms of self-expression has been an integral part of my personal identity from a young age; I developed this curiosity over the course of two decades through training as a professional Indian classical dancer. Like many others, I have always been captivated by the vivid colors of traditional costumes worn by dancers during performances – this motivated me to pursue a career in fashion management.

Pre-Masters

Coming from a science background, I had very little idea about the business world. The modules I took in my Pre-Masters study at Nottingham Trent International College (NTIC) – Research Project, Project Management, and Strategic Management – have collectively built a strong foundation in business for me. The Research project module allowed us to choose a topic to conduct research on and I chose to conduct an investigation into the successes and limitations of fashion trend forecasting methodologies in western societies. I strongly believe that this research project supplemented my own and others' interests in the Fashion Management discipline. The project management module assigned us projects based on emerging technologies in our field of study chosen for the coming year. Similarly, the strategic management module required us to conduct case studies on failed businesses and critically analyze the international expansion of various businesses – for which I chose companies in the fashion industry.

Presenting a Project Pitch in class



Studying



An excerpt from my academic work

An excerpt from a literature review I wrote for my research project module – one of my best academic works.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear that forecasting fashion trends are an essential and potentially fruitful procedure for fashion businesses today. We have seen that technological advancements – particularly the internet – enable the immediate and widespread sharing of ideas that lead the fashion industry to undergo continuous transformation; in combination with the increased unpredictability brought by COVID-19, fashion forecasters' expertise is more valuable than ever. Forecasters may conduct research into a variety of domains using a variety of methods; they integrate hard data from technical practices with a more open-ended and creative flair. Across all domains, colour appears to play a central role in the psychology behind consumer behaviour, which subsequently informs the focus of fashion forecasting. However, despite the fact that a considerable body of research has been afforded to emphasising the importance of colour, it appears that a more concrete and sustainable methodology for colour forecasting in fashion is lacking in the literature (New Cloth Market, 2010). Further research should be conducted to illuminate a more robust system for accurately predicting colour trends in fashion. Given the extreme irregularity of the contemporary fashion market, I believe these studies should prioritise quantitative artificial intelligence systems for gathering data, which are more reliable than their qualitative and outdated statistical counterparts, and thus more suitable for the current commercial environment.

Tutor Feedback

This is an excellent piece of work, demonstrating an already sophisticated knowledge of the area that you want to research.

The only criticism, I would have liked to see more research literature. Also, not all the referencing is complete - books need information on the publisher and location (city of publication).

Communicative Abilities

by Gopalakrishnan Aiswarya Mamparambath

Employability skills

One of the main reasons for choosing Nottingham Trent University as my progression university is because of the reputable employability team. One thing I lacked from my under graduation degree is employability skills and I was determined to improve my employability skills. I have attended one on one sessions with an employability team member and also have attended some webinars and events organized by the employability team. I

GoToWebinar - The Evolution of Employment: Job Searching During Covid 19

Creative Futures 2021: Creative Industries Federation (CIF) Membership Showcase

ASOS Webinar - Employer Session

Creative Futures 2021: NTU's Enterprise Award - Develop your creative thinking & innovation skills

Lounge Underwear Webinar - Employer Session

I would also like to add that although my application to the Grads4Notts scheme was unsuccessful, it helped me learn various skills about writing an application and the process behind it.

Overall, it improved my communicative abilities when it comes to a professional setting.

Organising out of college events

Studying as an international undergraduate in Nottingham for the last 3 years was an exciting and challenging experience. Over time, I've developed a great familiarity with the city of Nottingham, which helped me to connect with and support many international students' individual journeys at NTIC. I have organized many out-of-college events to help my fellow classmates to get to know each other better and form friendships. I also helped them get familiarised with the city of Nottingham by accompanying them for their first grocery shopping, organizing dinner parties, and inviting KAPLAN students in my accommodation - Radford Mill - for a table tennis match amongst each other. Along with my roommate Jannah Aboelghar, I also organised a trip to Nottingham Castle for some of our college friends who are new to Nottingham.

Table Tennis match



Dinner with college friends



Grads4Notts Application

Grad4Notts application

My motivation for pursuing this challenge derives from personal experiences in my homeland of Kerala, India, where I have spent over two decades training as a professional Indian classical dancer. Perpetually enthralled by the striking garments that performers wear on stage, I now aim to capitalize on my passion for exploring different forms of self-expression, by building a career in fashion management. Therefore, I hope to expand my knowledge of key systems within retail, and I believe this challenge will provide me with a range of valuable insights to bring forward on my journey.

Furthermore, I am confident that I possess the acute cultural awareness that appears to be fundamental to this challenge. Despite hailing from Kerala, I was born and raised in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where I have witnessed globalization at its most rigorous, and been exposed to a great variety of cultures. This is enhanced by the three years I spent as an international student in the UK, and recurrent attendance of Asian Society events held by the University of Nottingham. Hence, I seek to translate this international experience of the world not only to my work on this challenge but to all of my future undertakings within the fashion industry.

In addition, it appears that this challenge aligns perfectly with my aptitudes for effective research: I have received extremely promising feedback from conveners at NTIC for a research project on the impact of technological advancement on forecasting fashion trends in western societies and beyond. I successfully reviewed and evaluated vast quantities of literature, and synthesized the most insightful points of information into a coherent, informative, and digestible report.

Likewise, I performed meritoriously as an intern at Dhanalakshmi Weaving Works in Kerala in the summer of 2019, demonstrating an informed understanding of KPIs and retail supply chain processes. Having shadowed the company director throughout the two-week internship, I also feel primed to develop the skills that will ultimately allow me to revitalize Kerala's degrading handloom industry, for the benefit of local communities - I believe that engaging with the retail business on this challenge will facilitate my growth towards achieving this goal.

Finally, working part-time at The Garden Dessert Lounge, Nottingham, for the duration of my undergraduate study allowed me to cultivate proficiency in customer engagement. I assisted with brand promotions and marketing campaigns, which ultimately enabled the business to reach a tangibly wider audience. Furthermore, after two years I was promoted to a managerial role for my dedication to enhancing the business's marketing strategies and sales prospects.

Overall, my diverse cultural background – in combination with my aptitudes for commercial skills like marketing, KPIs, and customer engagement – allows me to confirm, with unwavering conviction, that I would excel as a member of this challenge.

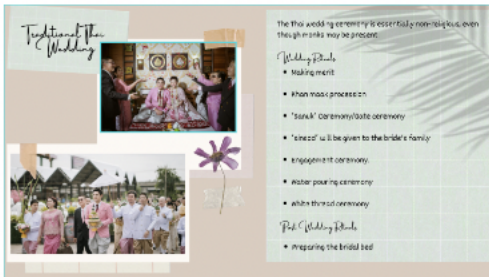
My friends and I



Knowledge, Skills and Experience

by Gopalakrishnan Aiswarya Mamparambath

Excerpt from the presentation



Time Management skills

Time management issues have held me back on occasions although the content of my ideas was quite sound. At NTIC, juggling the role of a student representative and having Multiple assignments due on the same day has challenged me to manage my time very well. Especially working in groups, I have had to manage my time in order to work well with others.

Picnic Day



Applied Learning Week

During the Applied Learning Week (ALW), a project – 'Our Community NTIC' – was handed to us. This project required us to concentrate on a specific community or multiple communities to enable us to do understand various cultures; it helped the multi-cultural community at the college to interact and find out more about each other's cultures and traditions. I had an opportunity to lead a group of 6 to do a project on 'Wedding Traditions Around the World', which enabled us to understand the 6 different wedding traditions of each of our respective communities. This included the traditional food served at the wedding, the traditional attire worn during a wedding ceremony, and the traditions of the wedding itself. This helped me develop my leadership skills, communication skills, teamwork skills, research skills, and presentation skills.

The link to the presentation is given below.

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Leadership skills

I have assisted student welfare officer, Ms. Laurie Clark, in organizing a couple of events for the NTIC students. The 'Best friends day' event was organized by my friend Jannah Aboelghar – a fellow student representative – and myself. This event involved many games and icebreakers. Every student enjoyed this event and made many new friends. The next event we organized was the 'Picnic Day', which involved various food, refreshments, and many games that helped students get to know each other while enjoying a sunny day in the park.

The student representative training also gave us insights into the role of a student representative and it prepared us for the role with the skills required.

Excerpt from the presentation



Games on the 'Picnic Day'



Best Friends day



Leadership and community

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I have combined my application for the leadership and community award as I have written a concise and cohesive version of my colourful experiences at NTIC that has helped me grow in various areas of my life.

Introduction

I believe that I have always been a friendly, talkative, and highly enthusiastic person; however, I have faced the greatest challenges within leadership roles. Despite my passion for management, I previously chose to pursue a career within architecture, largely due to a fear of one day having to take on the role of a manager. I have always found myself shying away from leadership roles and choosing instead to be a follower. Being taunted regularly in high school for being the shortest girl convinced me that no one would ever take me seriously. Moreover, coming to the UK all alone and having to build my life from scratch again was extremely difficult and daunting; unlike other university students, I did not try any societies or clubs, and I was always silently sat at the back of my classrooms. As part of my architecture degree, I was required to present my designs in front of the whole class and various professors four times per semester. The idea of speaking in front of many people and the belief that I do not speak English very well was extremely frightening, to the extent that I used to skip university specifically on the days of presentations.

Although the architecture program did not align with my interests and aptitudes as I mistakenly expected, I was committed to seeing it through to the end and adopted some valuable skills as a result. The book MBA Day by Day by Chris Dalton supplemented my interest in pursuing fashion management. Although I had very low self-confidence, I chose to go with what I have always wanted to do but was too afraid to take the risk – Fashion Management.

When I joined Nottingham Trent International College, I was determined to pursue as many opportunities as I could. I remember reading about the student representative elections and thinking that I would brush past it since I believed that it would be impossible for me to excel in any leadership role. However, I pushed myself to attend the session about the role of a student representative by Ms. Alicia Cope; following the session, I felt extremely anxious and excited in equal measure. Writing a manifesto took me quite long since I didn't have any past experience from school or university. Although, during my undergraduate study, I worked a part-time job at The Garden Dessert Lounge in Nottingham, where over the course of one year, against my prior expectations, I succeeded in progressing to a managerial role, which in return would help me become the person I am today.

After finally rereading my manifesto for what seemed like the 100th time I submitted it and hoped for the best. I had traveled to the UK before the announcement of the student representative election results. I was sharing my apartment with a fellow NTIC student who was also running for a student representative position. We became friends effortlessly and on the results day was overjoyed for each other as we had both become student representatives at NTIC.

Meeting such a confident and kind girl allowed me to be more confident myself and having the support of a friend on this journey was vital in shaping me into the person I am today. We would discuss ideas for various events, we would come up with ideas to gain feedback from our fellow classmates so that we can do better. The many opportunities I have received after becoming the student representative have highly help me grow personally and also in the course that I have chosen.

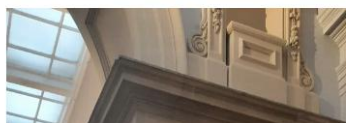
Ash



Ash



Vian and Jannah



Being a positive influence on others

I have tried to check on my college classmates when we are doing assignments so that if they need help or support I can be there. I have also reached out to them individually letting them know they can approach me if they have difficulties dealing with any instructions

Rahil and I



Faith and I





given in class or in the college.

Rahil and Philip



Videocall



Planning and organising resources

During the Applied Learning Week (ALW), a project – ‘Our Community NTIC’ – was handed to us. This project required us to concentrate on a specific community or multiple communities to enable us to do understand various cultures; it helped the multi-cultural community at the college to interact and find out more about each other’s cultures and traditions. I had an opportunity to lead a group of 6 to do a project on ‘Wedding Traditions Around the World’, which enabled us to understand the 6 different wedding traditions of each of our respective communities. This included the traditional food served at the wedding, the traditional attire worn during a wedding ceremony, and the traditions of the wedding itself. This helped me develop my leadership skills, communication skills, teamwork skills, research skills, and presentation skills. This project helped me improve my communication skills while helping me set a specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-specific goal and achieving it with the combined effort of my group. This was one of the five group projects I led. I managed to communicate with my fellow classmates outside of the projects to help them understand the UK culture and make new friends by initiating conversation during the regular video calls we organized for the group project. This way, many of us had already made meaningful connections before arriving in the UK and then taking the friendship further.

The link to the presentation is given below.

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Hosting an Event



Hosting an event



Explaining the rules to students



Making decisions and Delegating



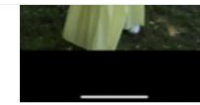
Working with student welfare officer Ms Laurie Clark on various events and collaborating to come up with ideas for events has been an incredible journey. I can confidently say that I have learnt a lot of event management and organising skills from Ms Laurie Clark.

I have assisted student welfare officer, Ms. Laurie Clark, in organizing a couple of events for the NTIC students. The 'Best friends day' event was organized by my friend Jannah Aboelghar – a fellow student representative – and myself. This event involved many games and icebreakers. Every student enjoyed this event and made many new friends. The next event we organized was the 'Picnic Day', which involved various food, refreshments, and many games that helped students get to know each other while enjoying a sunny day in the park.

My fellow student representatives and I are also hosting a few other events in the coming days.

I also redirect students who come to me with doubts to respective student welfare officers who can help them out directly and encourage students to do so they are more comfortable communicating directly to the college staff which will help them in their future studies. After each student representative meeting with the staff, I do let my fellow classmates and students about the discussions and the decisions made during these meetings and help students understand the reasoning behind certain decisions made by the staff.

The student representative training also gave us insights into the role of a student representative and it prepared us for the role with the skills required.



Event



Experiences

Being a student representative at NTIC has opened doors to various opportunities. I have had the privilege of representing NTIC in a focus group held by HEPI who was working on a research project to understand the expectations of international students on the types of employment/careers support they want from their university while they are on their degree programme match with the feedback from international students, who are already on their degree programme on the support they have been able to access and how this matched with their expectations. UKCISA helped source the students who are already on their degree programme and Kaplan Pathways provided students, across a number of their colleges, who were yet to start their degree programme. The format was a focus group, held by an external company, which took place on Wednesday 9th June at 10 am. Attendance in this gave me a chance to shape the future.

I also got the opportunity to be part of a photoshoot for Global Lounge and NTIC where these photos will be used for marketing, social media, leaflets and prospectus' for future students

The opportunity to be part of a mini-review video where I represent NTIC & their values and share my insights into my time at the college.

These experiences have helped me improve my communication skills have helped improve my confidence while speaking in front of a crowd.

Presenting

