

Beyond Borders: A Magical Journey

By: Riya Sharma



Truly blessed to have experienced this sight! Shot by Riya Sharma, unfiltered and unedited on iPhone 14 Plus. Starting from left: Jupiter (planet), International Space Station (satellite), and Messier 42 (Orion Nebula).

Finally, it was May 5, 2023, when the U.S. Consulate said, “Thank you, your visa is approved.” Those ten seconds will remain forever in my heart as pure magic! My decision to visit America was motivated by my mother residing in Nogales, Arizona. A month later, I explored a lot of cities, but Niagara Falls has been my most favorite adventure until now. As time passed before my visa expired, finding a budget-friendly university became urgent. That is how my mom discovered Arizona State University at Lake Havasu City. I completed the Duolingo English Proficiency Test and took Immunization Booster Shots.

It was August 17, 2023, the beginning of Fall Semester at ASU. The eco-friendly environment and the outstanding faculty caught my attention. Dr. Eric Aurand’s flexibility in assignment submissions and exams eased my journey in MATH 117. Professor Ray Anderson’s expertise in HIS 101 helped me understand the Israel-Palestine war history. Dr. Jenna Lowder’s ENG 101 & 102 courses improved my writing and research skills with diverse topics and creative presentations. Dr. Michael Shreeves, my favorite male professor, not only taught PSY 101 &

350 effectively but helped me a lot individually. Dr. Sharon Harvey holds a special place in my heart. Her wisdom and thoughtfulness have always helped me. Whenever she visited our house, she and her fiancé always gave us something special.

Speaking of the food services at ASU, Havasu, it is bland and unhealthy, but I am blessed to have a sister who cooks for me. We have our own apartment near the ASU campus, we walk every day to college, we make our meals, we keep our house tidy, and of course we work on the never-ending research papers. So far, my favorite thing to do at ASU is to play piano in the Student Center. Another favorite thing to do in town is sky-watching. I am an astrophile, and the Universe is everything to me. I follow a ritual of walking every day at night just to admire Sirius (second brightest star), Jupiter, and the International Space Station. I am really blessed and grateful to study at ASU and live in Lake Havasu City.



Riya Sharma combating Arrow weed, an invasive species, for ASU 101 project near the Arizona State Park.