

My Ball State Story: Ahmed Alshammari



My name is Ahmed Alshammari. I am from Saudi Arabia. I was born and raised in Riyadh, which is the capital city of Saudi Arabia. I pursued my Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. Within 5 months after graduating, I was able to find a job as an Assistant Teacher in the same university I graduated from. This job was my dream because it provided me with a scholarship to complete my graduate degrees in the U.S. Thus, with the belief that education is not limited, from day one in my job, I started working on my application to get an admission from an American university in order to be able to come to the United States.

When I came to the United States I only knew a few words in English, so I was placed in an English program at Florida State University, where I spent almost 8 months learning English in order to be able to start my Master's Degree. During this time, I have become more proficient in reading English. Thus, I started reading about American universities all around the states in order to choose which university would be the most appropriate for me to earn my Master's Degree. Among these universities, Ball State University triggered my attention as a best choice for me in terms of the Political Science Department's faculty, staff, and curriculum for the MA program.

Thus, I decided to apply for admission to BSU, and I received a conditional admission on passing a placement test in English. Passing this placement test was not that easy after just studying English for 8 months, so I continued studying English at Ball State University for an additional 4 months before I became qualified in terms of language to start my Master's Degree.

My experience as a graduate student in the Political Science Department cannot be written in a few short sentences because in all honesty, this experience was rich in knowledge, learning, and intellectual development. During that experience I had the honor to study and learn from Dr. Nisikawa, Dr. Friedman, Dr. Chang, Dr. Frankland, Dr. Regan, Dr. Hall, Dr. Taylor, and Dr. Vandiver. I have studied with these professors in a different variety of classes such as research methods, comparative politics, European politics, Russian politics, American politics,

international relations, and public policy. After having completed these classes with these amazing professors who are proficient in their specialties, I am confident of having the right tools and methodologies to explore the varied approaches and theories to continue researching and expanding my knowledge in Political Science.

Currently, I have been accepted for the Ph.D. program in the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds, UK and started another exciting academic journey. My last word is that I am really thankful to all my compassionate professors and the department's faculty and staff as a whole for providing this informative educational experience and helping me to overcome any difficulties. (Spring 2019)