



# A nomadic journey

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From a young age, we are taught how to hold our breath under water. Plug your nose. Don't inhale. Come up for air. Never, ever breathe it in. We always imagine what it would be like to breathe underwater. For Ihsan Zulkifly, it was a reality.

## **A nomadic journey**

Ihsan described his life story as nomadic, and I couldn't agree more. His story started in Malaysia, where he was born. At the age of three, his family moved to the United Kingdom (UK), where his mother completed her degree and his father worked. Within the UK, they moved to a handful of cities; Manchester was ultimately his favorite.

"My family could never pick a place to stay and live there. We always had to be on the move," he said.

Living in the UK granted Ihsan independence. His journey to school consisted of taking two buses and a tram, or trolley, which

was a very common mode of transportation among students. His daily trip to school would often take up to 45 minutes. After nearly 10 years of living in the UK, his family was on the move again. In 2012, they moved to the United States after his father's job at Cummins moved them to the company's headquarters in Columbus, Indiana.

When it was time to choose a college, Ihsan made one of the shorter moves in his lifetime—just 50 minutes east to Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington. At IU, Ihsan is earning an undergraduate degree in healthcare administration and a minor in human resource management. He chose Cook for an internship because it provides him experience in both.

At Cook, he is a Human Resources intern. This summer, he was responsible for developing a dynamic calendar tool that categorizes and automatically updates the Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion (DEI) events across the globe for Cook employees. Ihsan will be attending The Ohio State University in the fall to pursue his master's degree in healthcare administration.

## **All things water**

When you ask an Indiana resident what hobbies they have, you wouldn't expect them to say scuba diving. At least, I know I didn't. Whether it be scuba diving or fish keeping, Ihsan has some unique hobbies.

Ihsan initially became interested in scuba diving when he studied abroad in South Africa. He joined some of his tripmates in snorkeling while the others went scuba diving. The scuba divers excitedly described the marine animals they saw, and Ihsan was hooked. After a year of saying he was going to do it, he got scuba certified from a class he took at IU. In this semester-long course, the students met twice a week at the pool in the fieldhouse where they would learn the necessary

scuba diving skills needed to make the dive in fresh or salt water.

"Before my scuba diving class, I wasn't really a strong swimmer. They teach you to become a strong swimmer. I actually failed the swim test like twice during the class," he said, "The coolest thing ever was definitely taking my first breath underwater and then when you look up and see the water line and it's moving, it feels like you're on a whole different planet. I'll never forget it. The feeling of breathing under water for the first time is really cool."

Throughout the semester, they took trips to the local abandoned quarries that are now used for scuba diving. Other than fish, the scuba divers are greeted with sunken boats and statues, which makes the experience even more exciting. When he can't scuba dive, Ihsan still gets to enjoy a part of it at home as a fish keeper.