

**Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur**

**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**HUM PALS: PEER ACTIVE LEARNING FOR SCHOLARS**

**Report of the session conducted on**

**November 22, 2022**

The Seventeenth session of HUM PALS was conducted on November 22, 2022 from 11:00 am onwards to continue the spirit of self-learning, re-learning, and co-learning that builds the foundation of this noble and novel initiative undertaken under the aegis of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The session was opened by Student Co-Ordinator of HUM PALS Mr. Mohit Joshi, who introduced the speaker for the session ó Ms. Riya Chawla. Ms. Riya Chawla has an extensive experience in guiding the professionals and students aiming for various Higher Education Opportunities abroad.

The topic under discussion was óPersonal Statements & Statements of Purposeö. The presenter started her presentation by explaining core concepts of Personal statements & Statements of Purpose (SoP) in lucid language in order to engage scholars. She delved upon the foundational premise of her topic by elaborating on the difference between the SoP and Personal Statements. The presenter then explained every aspect of writing the SoP, by drilling down deeper in Do's & Don'ts of SoP, Formatting & Styles, Structures & Deconstruction of the structures and Tips and samples to follow while writing the SoP. Further, she emphasized on importance of reading and research in writing statements of Purpose. The speaker expounded the significance of the online learning platforms like coursera in hosting the courses focusing on developing necessary skill sets for writing SoP and personal statements. She also recommended few courses to the audience that comprehensively covers the art & craft of writing the essays for Higher Education opportunities abroad.

Ms. Riya Chawla elucidated the structure and steps for writing the SoP. She delved deeper into the intricacies of structuring an ideal statement of purpose by elaborating the STAR technique for deconstructing the content of SoP. Additionally, speaker enlightened the audience about three segments of Statement of Purpose ó Introduction, Body and Conclusion. She delved deeper into each of the segments using the sample statement of Purpose specific to a branches Humanities, Social Sciences and STEM. The session was concluded with discussion on the questions that an ideal SoP should answer. Ms. Riya described the points like who, how, what and why of the key concepts to be elaborated in SoP. She also discussed about the tone of essay, chronology and methods in detail. The speaker made the session interesting by depicting anecdotes from her past experiences. She ended the presentation by opening the session for open discussion on her topic.



The all-inclusive presentation by the scholar prompted many queries which led to an active discussion and debate among the scholars and the faculty members. The questions were asked pertaining to how a beginner with no past experience can make their SoPs and personal statements interesting. There was active discussion on the significance of community services, Extra curricular and online courses in writing an eye-catching attention seeking statement of purpose.

Ms. Heena Choudhary, Student Co-Ordinator HUM PALS closed the session by thanking the speaker for engaging the scholars in the insightful session. Dr. Nidhi Bansal, Assistant Professor, DoHSS, felicitated the speaker with a certificate of appreciation and a memento. The session ended with a group photograph.

The HUM PALS session provided platform for deliberations on application procedures around the world. Discussions about the ideal SoP and personal statements and the Do's and Don'ts a professional must follow while showcasing the relevant skill sets for the opportunity ensued crucial dialogues on the trends and practices that are being followed while applying for Ivy League institutes.

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