



Midhun Mohan, 2019-2020 Open Gateway Fellow at International House, UC Berkeley



¡Hola!!! This is Mikey and before I speak about myself, I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the generous donors, the professors and the staff from my home department (Geography/Earth System Science), and the members/staff of I-House financial aid department, grant review committee and Berkeley graduate program, for their open-handed contributions, consideration, time and support endowed upon me. I am honored to have been awarded with the Open Gateway Fellowship at the International House and I assure you that I would give nothing but my very best to promote diversity and live up to the expectations set by the global housing

community at UC Berkeley.

As an avid traveler, a photographer, and a pencil artist, I have always been curious about capturing and modeling the environmental changes and associated human interactions happening around me. This nomadic lifestyle has enabled me to step outside my comfort zones and live and work with people from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds. In the past 6 years, I have been to over 20+ countries and have lived in very diverse geographical locations – in countries such as India, United States (including California, which is my favorite state!), Chile, Thailand and Spain – with regards to various internship, research and volunteering opportunities. These experiences have made me very versatile, flexible, communicative, open to alternative perspectives and appreciative of open discussions and exchange of ideas. The International House at Berkeley is an amalgam of global cultures and ethnicities and I perceive it as the perfect space to stretch my horizons of knowledge and views of the world. Given my previous global living experiences and exposures, I intend to instill the traits of discipline, perseverance and networking, and a passion for environmental conservation and travel, in the minds of people I touch, for enriching their multicultural experience at I-House.

From a personal standpoint of view, I am a firm believer and advocate of the “experience-lifestyle” and would not trade experiences for anything else! Inclined to be a lifelong learner, every day I am striving to observe, learn and improve as well as trying my best to encourage people to become their best versions – in their own unique ways – in life. Few other activities that make my soul sparkle are reading, writing, listening to the rain, hiking lush mountainous terrains with no pre-set plans and having late night deep conversations with friends on topics revolving around the universe, subconscious mind, law of attraction, karma, etc.

In the coming years, I am planning to invest a major part of my research time studying and understanding the Amazonian rainforests and their response to climate change. At I-House, I look forward to meeting up with a lot of likeminded and/or curious students and having scintillating conversations that could help me garner fresh outlooks for addressing prevalent environmental issues and ignite new global outreach endeavors for conserving existing forested landscapes. In sum, I am very excited to join the I-House community for a fun-filled, exciting, educating and adventurous student life!



The Open Gateway Fellowship was established by multiple donors to support a term endowment fund for US or international first-year incoming Ph.D. student with demonstrated financial need.

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