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When I started at HBS a year ago, I thought it would be mostly a tremendous professional training ground - I get up in the mornings, go to great classes, participate in the case discussion, take notes and learn, and this would help greatly to prepare myself for the next step in my career, I thought. It is true - I learned a lot in my Required Curriculum (RC) courses - from Finance I and II to Leadership and Organizational Behavior. Engaging professors combined with a bright section would turn even the most technical cases into interesting, at sometimes even thrilling, discussions.

However, there is another layer to HBS I did not anticipate going in - the people at HBS. It's the people that make HBS a unique place - and every academic and social event very special. Exemplary of this is my RC year highlight - Field II. During Field II students are assigned into small groups to work on a business problem for a Global Partner firm in an emerging market. The experience culminates in a multi-day visit to the Partner's sites, where the work is finalised and presented to senior management. The idea behind Field II is to train students to develop new ideas using the human centered-design framework, navigate through an unfamiliar geographic context and further develop client skills.

My Field II project took me to Delhi in India. After spending a few days at home with family in Germany, I boarded the plane to Mumbai to celebrate New Year's Eve with a few friends from HBS. From there, I flew to Delhi where - after a day of excursions including a visit to the Taj Mahal - I started the project with Good Earth - a leading brand in Indian luxury retail. The entire experience was made special because of the people at HBS - starting with the staff at GEO, who organised every minute detail and ensured that everything went smoothly, the professors and Indian second year students who prepared us for working in a new environment, to my classmates, who became dear friends. Our main contact at the GEO was an HBS alum, who shared his MBA experience with us and gave us some valuable advice. Overall, receiving this level of insight into to the societal workings and business culture of a country in such a short amount of time, would not have been possible if it was not for Field II.

Coming to HBS, I was very set on pursuing my passion for healthcare technology. Unlike some of my classmates, who use business school as a platform to explore different career paths and industries, I held fast to my initial plan. This summer I started to work for Verily (formerly Google Life Sciences / part of Google X) in product management. Verily works on 10x moonshot technologies that aim to improve human health. It was the logical next step, where I could leverage my previous experience as a Product Manager for a leading European health-IT company and my training in the sciences. The summer has been great so far. It is rewarding to see that my work can significantly improve the health millions of patients. Although California has treated me well with its constant sunshine, I cannot wait to get back to Soldiers Field to start my second year at HBS in the autumn.

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Best wishes,  
Rohan