

What is it like to be an out-of-state student?

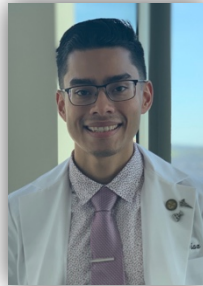
MITALI DOSHI



HOMETOWN:
LOS ANGELES,
CA

UNDERGRAD:
UCLA

RONY DIAZ



HOMETOWN:
DALLAS, TX

UNDERGRAD:
TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY

DIANA SIBAI



HOMETOWN:
HOMS, SYRIA

UNDERGRAD:
MOUNT HOLYOKE
COLLEGE

Why UMass?

M: Being from out of state, I hadn't even heard of UMass before applying to medical school. But when I got an interview, I started researching and learning more about it. From all the schools I interviewed at, UMass stood out to me. The campus was beautiful, the students seemed friendly, and the faculty were very welcoming. I could see myself being happy here, and now I can confidently say I made the right decision. I love the community, my friendships, the excellent professors and mentors, and all the opportunities to learn through clubs and interesting electives.

R: UMass really stood out to me during my interview. The faculty and students made me feel like I was part of their community before I was even accepted. The number of students that reached out to check up on me was surprising compared to other schools. Ever since, UMass has provided a great community, great relationships, mentors, and professors that genuinely want me to succeed in medical school.

D: Since I went to school nearby, I already had an established support group close to me which was really comforting. I went to an undergrad that had a strong sense of community and I knew I wanted that in the medical school I attend. I can honestly say that I felt this at UMass more than any other place I interviewed at.

What is it like to live in Worcester?

M: Worcester is a lot different from where I grew up in LA, but it is nice in its own way. Everything I need is nearby, and I'm only an hour away from other cities such as Boston or Providence. The suburbs nearby are also nice and offer a lot of activities to do. Worcester definitely gives off the New England vibe, which I like, and I love experiencing all four seasons!

R: Living in Worcester has been great. There is plenty to do in the city and the surrounding New England cities and states adds plenty of indoor and outdoor activities. Also, if you like sports, Boston is close and has great sports teams (Dallas is still better though).

D: Worcester is cool. It gives off this interesting small town and established city vibe. It's quite enough to remain focused on school and busy enough to find fun stuff to do in your free time. Also, the food scene is lit.

How have you dealt with the transition of moving?

M: It was a little difficult at first coming to the east coast and knowing no one in Massachusetts. But soon enough, school got busy and I made friends. Learning how to deal with snowy winters and finding things to do for fun around here were new for me, but my fellow classmates from the area were a huge help. Of course I still miss home and old friends/family, but I make a priority to still keep in touch with them to remind me of my life outside of this campus as well. Once I got settled in everything got better, and I know it's going to be a great 4 years.

R: I figured moving from TX would have been difficult, but the support system here at UMass made it such an easy transition. You truly have the support of ALL your classmates and professors to help you in your transition.

D: My family currently lives in Miami. Being far away from them is definitely difficult at times and being so busy makes finding time to connect challenging. Like with any transition, I personally resort to friends and family for support and make this a priority. I also became more aware of the time slots in my day (like walking to and from class) where connecting is ideal and starts my day off on the right foot.

Did you attend SLD? What did you think?

M: Yes I did! It was great to visit the school again and learn more. It made me very excited to attend UMass!

R: Unfortunately, I was not able to attend SLD, but I reached out to the admissions office and students about any questions I had. Everyone was very responsive.

D: Yes, I did! I was able to get all the concerns I had addressed while also having a blast with my future classmates. SLD really confirmed that UMass was the place for me.

If you have any questions at all about what it's like to be an out-of-state student, please don't hesitate to contact any of us at mitali.doshi@umassmed.edu, rony.diaz@umassmed.edu, or diana.sibai@umassmed.edu!