

# Manjot Pal

*Country of Origin: India*

*Degree: B.S., Computer Engineering and  
Computer Science*

*Graduation Date: May 2015*



*Employer: Microsoft*

*Position: Program Manager*



## **What do you do in your current position?**

Being a program manager entails talking to your product users, which requires user research. Then, you come up with design concepts to see if they resonate with users. You repeat that over bunch of times to refine the concepts and then create a technical spec for engineers. While the product is being developed, you need to tackle technical challenges that might come along by collaborating with design research and engineering teams.

## **How did you find your position?**

Engineering career fair.

## **Which career services did you find helpful at UW-Madison?**

Engineering Career Services (ECS).

## **Other than your degree, what skills or experience made you competitive in the US job market?**

Start up and entrepreneurship experience.

## **What advice do you have for current international students?**

I would advise students to know about the companies before they meet them at the career fair - at least major products/businesses the companies have. Always ask questions about the company (ex: how does the company plan to tackle the upcoming start up X? Or, what's Microsoft's strategy for mobile phones since it has lost ground in the market?) Ask tough questions.

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