

Manisha Kulthe

Manisha Pramod Kulthe completed her internship at Quickheal. But it was her dream to get a proper confirmed job at Quickheal and people do say that usually interns are given a job at the same company. But Manisha does not dare to hope so.

Before Manisha became a Lila Fellow, she tried hard to get a job. After her graduation, she applied to several places and got through to the final round each time – and then did not get a job. It was terribly frustrating, especially since Manisha was determined to do her Masters on her own money. Her uncle had sponsored her graduation, and was willing to support her right through her post-graduation as well. He was willing to pay her fees; he knew how difficult it was for Manisha's parents.

“Even my parents wanted me to go ahead and do my Masters immediately,” says Manisha, pride and shyness mingling together in a while. “But I refused. I told everyone that I would do my Masters on my own money.”

So, Manisha took a year's sabbatical. She finished her graduation and tried to find a job. “I applied to so many places, and I kept feeling that this time I would get through. But somehow, I could never crack the interview!”

Ultimately, she got the opportunity to teach and, at the same time, she started teaching tuition. That was the only way in which she could begin to earn money and work towards doing her Masters.

That was her plan – until she became a Lila Fellow.

And then, new avenues opened before her. “First of all, they gave me the scholarship,” says Manisha, all reserve leaving her voice for the first time. “But more than that, they encouraged me to do everything. Especially the way in which the LPF train girls to communicate in English and to develop interview skills... What can I say? I had applied to so many jobs and had not got through. After the LPF programmes, I started getting through interviews!”

Manisha speaks warmly and at great length about the whole process involved in getting her job at Quickheal. “I was the first person from my college to get a campus placement,” she says, with a smile.

The selection process was long and tough. For six months, the company grilled the twelve candidates who applied for the job. This time, Manisha was far more confident. After her Bachelors, she had received many rejections, but now with her bag full of newly-acquired skills, she was determined to get through.

“I was the only girl who applied,” says Manisha. “For six months, I was so scared. I wanted the job so much. After all the training programmes, I had a little more confidence, but then I was still afraid. Twelve students had applied, and I was the only girl!”

Twelve students applied and only three were selected. And this proud, confident young Lila Fellow was one of them.

Even though she is nervous about whether the company will really retain her, Manisha knows that statistics say that the likelihood is high. That is why their selection process for interns is so long and thorough. Almost superstitiously, though, Manisha changes the subject immediately. Having mentioned her job aspirations, she says instantly, "But even to get to this stage, it has been possible only because of the LPF."

Manisha knows that working part-time while doing a course as stressful as an MCS is very hard. That is why she took a year's break to work and save. The LPF made her path smooth, though. It gave her the chance to concentrate on her studies, while grooming her to launch herself into a career that had seemed closed for so long. As statistics proved, her internship is converted to her dream job, her life is made...!