

International students from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, North America, Latin America and just about everywhere else in the world are studying at TMDU. What are they studying? What are their aspirations? International students currently at TMDU report on their life here.

Reports by TMDU Overseas Students

Report 01
Fruitful Experience at TMDU

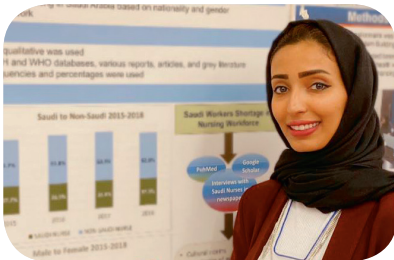


Rueda Saleh Alojaimy
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(from Saudi Arabia)



IN VIEW OF the challenges that lay ahead, starting with the Japanese language and ending with a different culture, it was not an easy decision for me to choose Japan as a country in which to study. I was eventually drawn into this Japanese adventure. It has been a journey of change because the struggles I experienced took me out of my comfort zone. I thought many times of giving up studying abroad and doing something else, but one day I came across an inspiring quote, “There are hidden blessings in every struggle.” This insight calmed me for a while. I have recently been discovering these hidden blessings, one after another, as I

look back on my experience. My story began in 2016 when I received a Saudi scholarship to study in Japan. As a scholarship student, I had to study Japanese for at least one to two years as a requirement of my scholarship. While studying Japanese, I sought to identify the universities ranked highest internationally that addressed my field of interest. TMDU came out at the top of the list and I decided to try to enter this excellent university. In early 2018, the TMDU chapter of my life started. I passed the entrance exam and was accepted by Prof. Nakamura’s lab in the Global Health Entrepreneurship Department. As a master’s student at TMDU I have had valuable opportunities to study various subjects and new topics that have enabled me to enrich my knowledge of international health and related global issues. Moreover, I have been able to explore Japanese campus life from my perspective as an international student. Prof. Nakamura offered me the precious opportunity to participate in the clinical rounds of the Infection Pre-



Rueda’s picture in the poster presentation at Kochi conference 2019

vention and Control Department at TMDU Hospital. This clinical experience allowed me to distinguish the differences between Saudi and Japanese hospital environments and enabled me to deepen my understanding of the role of the Infection Prevention and Control Department while helping me with my research thesis. TMDU also helped me overcome my anxiety about speaking in public by giving me a chance to make a poster presentation at the 2019 conference of the Japanese Society of Public Health . At TMDU, where one encounters people from diverse backgrounds whose beliefs differ markedly, I am learning how to manage these differences with others and get everyone on the same page. I am also learning how to broaden my future career path instead of narrowing it by restricting myself to work in hospitals. TMDU opened new doors and invaluable opportunities for me to participate in the activities of Saudi organizations in Tokyo as a student. I



Infection control team members in the clinical round at TMDU hospital

entered TMDU with a simple dream, but day by day my goal expands, becoming clearer and more significant. TMDU was the key to changing my mentality and personality in positive ways. As TMDU became my second home, so the members of my lab be-

came my second family. Many thanks to my second home and my second family! I am deeply grateful to TMDU and Prof. Nakamura for making this journey so fruitful in such a short period of time. In my professional and personal life, I will reflect on all the les-

Report 02
Memoir of TMDU: A Step Worth Taking



Jason Hou
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I SAT AT my desk with research articles scattered before me. Highlighter markings and handwritten notes covered each page, hinting at my hard work and commitment. Those articles weren’t mine, but it made a nice headrest. I laid relaxed as I began losing myself in reverie. “Yes. I’d love to come along!” A graduation party was being hosted that evening for the seniors. It was the perfect opportunity for me to become familiar with my colleagues on my first day in the Department of Oral Implantology and Regenerative Dental Medicine. We gathered at a rental near Akihabara. It was a long room with three tables aligned and the kitchen at the entrance. A unique but familiar aroma caught my attention as I entered. Baked dough with a pleasant smell of cheese, hints of tomato followed by sweetness. It was Teriyaki Chicken Pizza! I happily grabbed a few slices and enjoyed the meal on the side since I couldn’t participate much. Communicating was a disaster since my Japanese language

skills were so poor. Drinking with my low alcohol tolerance would be disastrous so I had to perfectly calculate my intake. As time passed, empty cans of beer littered the room and language became universal. From a sober person’s perspective, we would appear as fools speaking gibberish, but to us everything made perfect sense. That night ended better than I had expected. I got back home knowing two things: 1) I wouldn’t regret coming to Tokyo and 2) I messed up my calculation. A few months later, I attended a Japanese course offered to international students. I joined without hesitation with a goal in mind: I had to get to JLPT N6! Imamura sensei, our Japanese teacher, was extremely interactive and had a great sense of humor that made learning the language enjoyable. Insights into Japanese traditions, culture and tourist sights made learning more practical for both working and touring. “冬休みはどうしますか” asked sensei. One by one, students answered in Japanese their plans for the upcoming winter vacation. Winter Illuminations, stunning and bright LED illuminations that light up every part of Tokyo was my planned destination. It was a spectacular view that exceeded my expectations. Never before had I seen such a beautiful and well-organized public display of lights. It was an experience that made me think of Tokyo as the top winter



House party: the end of a Japanese course and the beginning of a new semester

sons I have learned. May all my fellow students whose chapters at TMDU are approaching a conclusion experience joy and accomplish much. And may those students who are about to commence their chapters at TMDU get off to a good start.



A selfie with TMDU at Yushima Gate. Say Cheese!

paradise. Looking around my surroundings, I realized my life here was all thanks to my best friend who had introduced me to TMDU. Japan, a country of innovation with its focus on science and technology, was the ideal place for me to utilize advanced technology as an aspiring student of the therapeutic benefits of nanoparticles in implantology. My research on nanoparticle-coated implants to prevent the complication of peri-implantitis was made possible by my supervisors. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Kasugai and Prof. Tamura. Every moment spent working together was a step toward success, and knowing that I had their support to the very end encouraged me to reach higher. Finally, studying a doctoral program at TMDU influenced my personal growth. Strengthening my skills in decision-making and problem-solving, which I believe are the foundations for becoming an outstanding practitioner, facilitated my professional advancement as a dentist. Furthermore, TMDU has widened my knowledge in the field of dentistry and implantology, which I believe will potentially open unforeseen subsequent opportunities. TMDU, the place that cultivates professionals with knowledge and humanity, was the springboard that I will never forget.