



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
A Kaleidoscopic Adventure



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Department of Systems Neurophysiology(from Vietnam)

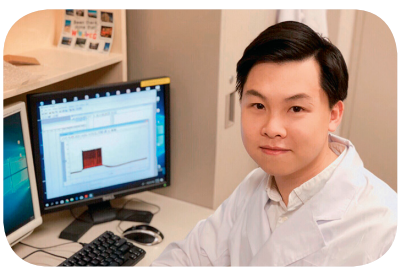


AS WELL AS being one of the world’s most popular tourist destinations, Japan is an incredible place for scientists and researchers to work. So far, my time in Japan has been a most rewarding and memorable experience for me.

More than 3 years ago, I participated in TMDU’s International Summer Program 2015 (ISP 2015) as an undergraduate student. I concluded that TMDU would be an excellent university at which to pursue doctoral research since many researchers are engaged in top-level projects at TMDU in various fields of the medical, dental and related sciences. Moreover, TMDU strongly supports international students and global research. During ISP 2015, I vis-

ited TMDU’s Systems Neurophysiology Department where Professor Izumi Sugihara, the head of the department, showed me around, introduced laboratory activities and explained the department’s main research themes. I became greatly interested in the research at TMDU and decided to join as a PhD student after graduating as a medical doctor from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMP) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in 2016.

“The mysteries of the three pounds of matter between our ears,” as we fondly refer to the brain, inspired me. To understand the underlying mechanisms of different molecular expressions in the brain, especially the cerebellum, is what fascinates me. By applying that exciting information concerning various molecular expression patterns, I want to investigate and clarify the cerebellum’s algorithms that contribute to learning and memory. The experience of doing research has greatly exceeded my expectations because I have had the chance to perform sophisticated electrophysiology in patch clamp experiments,



Viet T. Nguyen-Minh, 3rd year graduate student of Systems Neurophysiology Department at TMDU

gather recorded results, analyze data and discover new findings. I enjoyed every moment spent in the lab with Professor Sugihara, who has been my supervisor, and other extremely helpful and inspiring professors, seniors and colleagues. During the past two years my career has progressed in exciting ways. I have published my first original research in the Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience journal and presented my research at neuroscience and physiology conferences. In particular, at the 75th Fujihara Seminar, held at TMDU toward the end of 2018, I had an opportunity to listen to, meet and discuss with leading Japanese and foreign cerebellar researchers. This symposium was highly informative and a source of inspiration and new ideas for my current research project.

TMDU is creating a collaborative working environment as well as providing necessary support for international students living in Japan. I was fortunate to join TMDU’s intensive Japanese lan-



Afternoon tea with members of the Systems Neurophysiology Department


guage program. In addition to giving me the opportunity to learn a new language, the course offered insights into Japanese culture, history, and traditions. On the Japanese class’s study trip to Hakone, I saw many beautiful sights that I will never forget. Besides time spent at the university, I love exploring Japan and Tokyo, going around the

beautiful city, visit charming hidden places and distinctive modern buildings, taking fantastic photos, and tasting delicious Japanese cuisine.


Studying in Japan is an absolutely kaleidoscopic adventure. I have had a wonderful time both academically and in terms of the non-academic aspects. It will surely give me a solid foundation

for my subsequent career as a neuroscientist. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor for giving me this wonderful opportunity to study for a PhD. at TMDU. I would also like to thank all the people who have supported me, including my seniors and friends, for giving me this special experience.

Report 02
Studying at TMDU through My Eyes



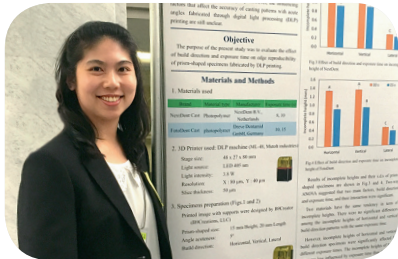
Patcharanun Chaiamornsap
3rd year graduate student
Department of Advanced Biomaterials(from Thailand)



HAVING GRADUATED FROM Naresuan University with a doctor of dental surgery degree, I then specialized in prosthodontics at Chulalongkorn University. During these formative years, I was trained by leading experts in the dental field in Thailand. Coincidentally, most of the dentists who trained me received their doctorates from TMDU. Learning from them inspired me to pursue further studies in dental health at TMDU with a view to eventually improving dental education in Thailand. They explained what it was like to study at TMDU, which is regarded as one of the finest dental universities in the world. I had also noted that most dental materials are manufactured by Japanese companies. Hence, I felt that studying in Japan would be a great opportunity to deepen my knowledge of dental materials and technology. The training, knowledge, and skills gained at TMDU would be beneficial not just for me but also to others interested in the field of dental materials. Further, given the relative proximity of Thailand to Japan, it was practical and ideal to study at TMDU since family members and friends could easily visit me to alleviate any homesickness I might experience.

ment of Oral Biomaterials Development Engineering. In these two departments, I am studying the effects of build condition and angle acuteness on edge reproducibility of dental casting patterns fabricated using digital light production (DLP), which is a type of 3D printing technology. DLP, which is commonly used in the engineering field, has entered widespread use in the dental field too, particularly for developing dental prostheses. Furthermore, as part of my research, I have opportunities to visit several Japanese dental laboratories and manufacturers of dental materials and 3D printers. I regularly attend undergraduate classes together with dental technicians. Moreover, I have given oral and poster presentations on my research results at academic and scientific conferences.

Aside from my dental studies at TMDU, attending Japanese language class has been one of my most memorable experiences. I am grateful to TMDU for offering this opportunity for international students to make their lives in Japan easier. I also have chances to meet and become friends not only with Japanese students but also with students from various other countries, which stimulates the sharing and exchange of cultural experiences. Besides guiding me academically, my professors have been father figures to me during my



Poster presentation of research results for the Japanese Society for Dental Materials and Devices

stay at TMDU.

After receiving my doctorate from TMDU, I will return to teaching at Naresuan University where I intend to impart my knowledge of dental materials and prosthodontics in the training of excellent dentists capable of improving the oral health situation in Thailand. Moreover, I will continue my research on dental materials so as to contribute to progress in the field of dental research in my country. I will also seek to forge and enrich collaborative research and training between Naresuan University and leading dental universities overseas, especially TMDU. Furthermore, by pursuing an active role in the Dental Association of Thailand as well as the Thai Prosthodontics Association, I want to share what I learned, in both the academic and technological spheres, during my time in Japan.

TMDU has greatly facilitated my academic progress, particularly in dental materials research. It has provided me with an environment in which I am encouraged to embrace challenges, excel, and address adversity, supported by the guidance of Japanese dental experts. I will forever be grateful to TMDU for enabling me to hone my expertise for my subsequent career in dental science.