





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 Unforgettable Experiences at TMDU



Su Su Lei Mon
3rd year student, Department of Neurology and Neurological Science, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences (from Myanmar)



ABOUT SEVEN YEARS ago, I came to Japan for a vacation and I immediately fell in love with Japanese culture and manners. On returning to Myanmar, I started searching for a suitable university in Japan where I could pursue further studies in medical science. Coincidentally, not only did TMDU come up as the top choice for graduate studies but also a high school senior of mine was attending TMDU at that time. With his help and guidance on everything from applying to enter TMDU and deciding on a major to applying for a visa, I was accepted by TMDU as a research student.

Thanks to my many unforgettable experiences at TMDU, I have memories that I will always cherish. I chose to major in neurology and neurological

science as I wanted to become a neurologist in the future and neuroscience research in Japan is very advanced and cutting-edge. Even now, I think I made a great choice as it taught me even more than I expected and gave me experiences in neuroscience that I could not have had in Myanmar.

Arriving in Japan and adjusting to a new lifestyle was challenging for me even with all the support I received from seniors, but it was exciting and full of pleasant surprises. Leaving my life and friends back in Myanmar, I found my first friends, international and Japanese, here at TMDU. Some of them, I am certain, will be with me for the rest of my life. I tried wearing a yukata for the first time, gave my very



Wearing a yukata for the first time

first presentation in Japanese, and met mentors who helped me with research and offered advice on my future career.

I recall how impressed I was the first time I looked around the university and the hospital. Myanmar, as a developing country, should take note of the advanced, systematic and clean working environment and follow the example. When I graduate and return to Myanmar, I would like to relay information to my colleagues and friends about the healthcare system in Japan. Another noticeably good thing about the Japanese medical system is National Health Insurance, which I found convenient and is affordable for people from all walks of life. If possible, I would like to see my country develop a similar healthcare system.

To conclude, TMDU is more than I could ask for as someone studying abroad for the very first time. The foreign student support section and the healthcare center are always there to help us whenever we need assistance and advice. The li-




Successful completion of the Japanese language class

brary is always open as a haven for new students who have yet to settle into their laboratories and offices. There


were, of course, struggles but there are also good memories and good people. So I would like to thank TMDU for giving

me this wonderful opportunity and also for allowing me to express my gratitude through this article.

Report 02 TMDU— Highway to Ultimate Success



Mohamed Moustafa Mohamed Ali Said
3rd year student, Department of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences (from Egypt)




Mohamed Moustafa Said, 3rd year student at TMDU, from Egypt

IN 2006, I earned my bachelor's degree in dentistry from Mansoura University, Egypt. As I have always been passionate about prosthodontics, I joined the Prosthodontics Department at Mansoura University in 2009 as a teaching assistant where I had many tasks to perform such as research, teaching and clinical work. During that time I decided to go overseas to seek more advanced dental education. I worked hard on my profile and myself in general in order to be a candidate worthy of joining a prestigious prosthodontics program.

In 2010, I received an offer from the University of Hong Kong (HKU) to study for a master's degree in oral rehabilitation for two years. During my studies at HKU, I had the chance to visit Tokyo for two weeks as an exchange student. That was enough time for me to be inspired by Japan and Japanese people and to decide to continue my studies in Japan. After gaining my master's degree, I moved to Tokyo to study for a doctoral degree in maxillofacial prosthetics at TMDU. Being at one of the world's leading universities and working in state-of-the-art facilities has

given me the opportunity to boost my research experience. I also have clinical access to a wide variety of cases that have provided me with valuable clinical knowledge in the field of maxillofacial prosthetics. It has been a blessing to join the maxillofacial prosthetics department because the professors' and other members offered me their utmost help and support. Their encouragement has been invaluable in helping me accomplish my goals.

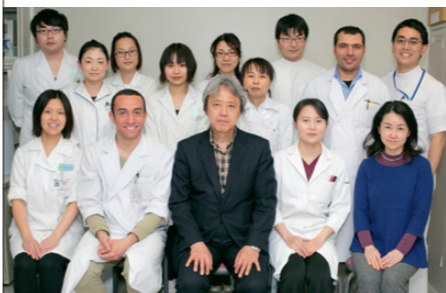
While studying at TMDU, I have published research in top impact factor journals on prosthodontics and presented my work at several international meetings. I was honored to receive the digital poster award at the American Prosthodontics Society meeting in Chicago in 2016.

I am also proud that we recently received a Joint Egyptian Japanese Scientific Cooperation Grant (2017 call), which is funded by the Science and Technology Development Fund in Egypt and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. In November 2017, I accompanied other members of the maxillofacial prosthetics department to Egypt where we attended a seminar in Cairo orga-

nized by the Prosthodontics Department of Mansoura University within the framework of this grant. The seminar was highly successful and members of both teams and young researchers in Egypt who attended this event were delighted by the presentations given by experts and professionals in the field. I had the honor of establishing a bridge between my department in Egypt and my current department in Japan to exchange knowledge and experience between members of the two teams in the field of maxillofacial prosthetics.

Maxillofacial prosthetics is a rare specialty in Egypt and this motivated me to learn more about challenging cases in the field. In this way, I have been able to acquire skills and enrich my experience in order to take this knowledge back to my home university in Egypt and get the most benefit for my community. I hope to be able, with the help of my colleagues in Egypt, to raise the standard of dental services for patients and enhance the support offered to both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

On the other hand, my life in Japan during the last four years was wonderful and had a huge influence on my personal development. I enjoyed every single moment of this unforgettable journey. I made many new friends from Japan and other countries, and experienced many new things—visiting new places, home stays, hot springs, cherry blossom, and last but not least enjoying Japanese food.



My welcome party in the Department of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, Tokyo



Japanese and Egyptian team members and young researchers during the seminar in Cairo