

Dear Tazaki Foundation,

I am Chaehyun Kim from the GLP-GEfIL program. With your generous scholarship, I was able to participate in the Pembroke College Summer Programme and fully enjoy not only the Cambridge experience but also the UK experience. My hopes for studying at the Pembroke College Summer Programme were to experience a different academic system and learn diverse culture.

I took three classes in total: Sustainability, Employability: Personal Branding, and behavioral ecology. All three classes were comprised of 12 lectures and 8 seminars in total, where lectures were delivered through the professor explaining theories and case studies through PowerPoints and seminars were more based on student discussions, presentations, and field works. This was a different method of learning for me as at the University of Tokyo classes would usually be either in the form of a lecture or a seminar, not both. Something that I enjoyed a lot through this way of learning was during the behavioral ecology course, where some seminars were conducted outdoors as fieldworks. In these outdoor seminars, we walked around a park or along a river to find various behaviors performed by wildlife and the professor would explain to us how such behaviors might have been driven evolutionarily.

While the weekdays were busy with lectures and seminars, the weekends were busy with trips to different parts of the UK. Every weekend, I went to two-days trips to various parts of the UK – I went to London, Brighton, Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Mt. Snowdon – with my friends. It was fascinating to see how different cities in the same country can have differences in architecture, especially their colors, and how such differences could make the cities hold different atmosphere. Travelling around the UK has definitely added to my UK experience to not only understand their academic aspect but also their cultural aspect. Having been studying over the weekdays and travelling over the weekends for the whole 6 weeks, I am confident to say that I had enjoyed the Summer Programme to its fullest potential.

One thing that I am the most grateful for and is unforgettable is the people. First of all, the professors I met were some of the most supportive, respectful, knowledgeable, and passionate professors I have ever met. They always encouraged us to ask questions or share our opinions during the lectures no matter how lame or repetitive it may sound – I still remember my professor responding to my question with “thank you for making the class livelier by asking a question”. Second of all, the friends I have met at the programme were all enthusiastic about learning, open for diversity, and excited for exploring the unknown. They were also some of the people who allowed me to grow into a stronger person.

Participating in the Pembroke Cambridge Summer Programme has truly been an unforgettable, precious, valuable, and a grateful experience. Thank you, Tazaki Foundation, for giving me this opportunity. I am now more excited to pursue my studies in environmental sciences and I also hope to make your sponsorship meaningful.

Sincerely, Chaehyun Kim

