

Dear Tazaki Foundation,

I am Manami Otsuka, a second year student from the GLP-GEfIL Program at the University of Tokyo. With your kind support, I had the privilege of participating in the Exeter College Summer Programme (ECSP) at the University of Oxford, during the Summer of 2023.

I want to express my profound appreciation to your foundation. Studying in the United Kingdom has always been a dream of mine, which was only made possible because of the generous scholarship you have provided.

Over the brief period of six weeks, I underwent an intellectually and socially enriching experience that have left an indelible impact on my personal growth. The program consisted of over 100 students from universities worldwide, offering a diverse, yet specialized range of courses. I chose to take “Introduction to International Law” and “Histories of Migration”, in hopes to explore my interest on discrimination and inclusion. The course followed the structure of the Oxford undergraduate program, consisting of lectures, tutorials, and seminars (for 5 weeks), followed by presentations, final three hour examination, and 2000-3000 word essays per module. The rigorous and intense workload has allowed me to rediscover my passion for learning. Despite the specialized nature of these courses, the essay assignments allowed me to connect the content to my own interest. For example, researching immigration restrictions for individuals with mental disorders contributed to my understanding on discrimination against the disabled. Here, our granted access to the extensive resources of the Bodleian Library allowed my in-depth exploration of the subject matter. Overall, the academic aspect has not only provided me a wealth of knowledge, but has also strengthened my motivation and passion for learning.

During the program, I was able to meet and interact with such amazing people. The demanding workload encouraged lots of cooperation and bonding among classmates during the week. The friendships extended to infusing color into the organized events in between, and the day trips during the weekends. There were so many organized events offered, including punting, mini-golfs, soccer matches, as well as coffee and library sessions leading up to the exam week. Outside of these events, taking walks with friends in the morning through the beautiful city of Oxford became a simple, yet joyful routine. Listening to the diverse stories and interests which my friends kindly shared with me, I felt so inspired to go back to my home university to further pursue my learning. Further, throughout the entire program, I felt really blessed of being able to establish these friendships.

This experience was unforgettable– motivating me to continue growing as a student, and an individual. Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to your foundation for providing me with this remarkable opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Manami Otsuka



