

King's College London Undergraduate Summer School

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Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the generous support I have received from the Tazaki Foundation. From July 14th to 25th, I attended Drug Discovery course at King's College London. These two weeks will undoubtedly have a positive impact on my future research and career development.

The United Kingdom, home to King's College London, is a global leader in the pharmaceutical field and offers an excellent environment for both education and research. I am interested in pharmaceuticals and am currently working on a graduation research project related to the screening of middle-sized molecules. However, I lacked knowledge about the overall process of how effective compounds are formulated, their safety is confirmed, and they are brought to market. This programme helped me fill those gaps, broadened my perspective, and motivated me to continue my research.

I was also inspired by the approach to fostering a scientific environment. Many national museums are free to the public, and volunteers enthusiastically explain exhibits and interact with visitors, serving as excellent examples of science communication. How can we make specialised knowledge, which can often be closed off, accessible and engaging? As someone who aspires to become a researcher, I was reminded of the importance of outreach activities that connect science and society.

Furthermore, this programme allowed me to experience the power of diversity. I enjoyed discussing with talented students from around the world every day, generating ideas from the combination of different perspectives. It was also a great experience to broaden my horizons by sharing information about the curriculum and career plans of students from other countries. Diversity is a complex concept in modern society, but I realized that an environment with diverse individuals does not belittle anyone's roots. Instead, it brings about growth in various ways by encouraging mutual respect for each other's backgrounds and teaching us what cannot be imagined.

During these two weeks, I was able to confront issues that are unavoidable for those who aspire to become researchers, such as knowledge of the pharmaceutical field, connecting science and society, and diversity in academia. I will continue to think and act sincerely, and strive even harder to become a scientist who can contribute to Japan and the world.

This opportunity was made possible through the support of Tazaki Foundation. Living in London for two weeks, far from Japan and in a city with high living costs, would have been impossible without this support. In the future, I hope to become a part of the support network myself by dedicating myself to my studies.

Once again, I sincerely thank you for this opportunity.