

# CUC Summer Program 2025

July 28 – August 7

## Student Magazine



## Voices of Overseas Participants

1. Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences	WEISS GAYANE……………p.4
2. Leshan Normal University	ZHANG, PENG……………p.6
3. Sir Padampat Singhanian University	SADHNANI LAWANIYA……………p.10
4. Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology	GATT NICOLE……………p.12
5. The College of Management Academic Studies	AVITAL NERIYA……………p.16

## List of Participants

大学(英名)	大学	申込者(LAST/FIRST)
Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences	ローゼンハイム応用科学大学	WEISS GAYANE
		BENGER LENA ANGELA
Chonnam National University	全南国立大学校	KWON GITAE
		PARK HYEWON
Panyapiwat Institute of Management	パンヤピワット経営大学	SIRIPIN CHATTAWAN
Leshan Normal University	楽山師範学院	ZHANG, PENG
		GAO, JINGXIONG
Sir Padampat Singhanian University	サー・パダンパット・シンハニア大学	SADHNANI LAWANIYA
		JAIN PALASH
University of Nebraska	ネブラスカ大学オマハ校	EVANS AYDEN CONNOR
		PARKER CHARLOTTE
Shanghai Lixin University of Commerce	上海立信會計金融学院	CAO, JIAHAO
		JIANG, YANRU
		DAI, YUYAO
		ZHANG, DING
National Taipei University of Business	国立台北商業大学	KUO, YA-CHING
		LIM, ZE-WEI
		CHEN, SHIN-YING
		MAO, CHIEN -KAI
Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology	MCAST	GATT NICOLE
		SISCAR JOHN CLIFFORD
The University of Guanajuato	グアナフアト大学	MORALES BARBOSA EDGARDO MARTIN
Hanyang University	漢陽大学校	KIM YEBEEN
		JEON HYONWOO
The College of Management Academic Studies	COMAS(経営大学)	AVITAL NERIYA
		BITTON NETANEL

## Schedule

	Noon		Afternoon	
7/28			15:00~ 17:00~18:00	Check-in Orientation 1【iSquare】
7/29	10:00~11:30 12:00	Orientation 2【Building 1:1212】 Welcome Party【Main building 7th floor】	13:30~17:00	Activity1 CUC Student Program【Gymnasium 2nd floor】
7/30	9:30~11:00 11:10~12:40 12:40	Lecture【Building 1:1211】 Lecture1 Lecture2 Lunch	13:30~17:00	Activity2 Yukata experience [ HUB 3rd floor and iSquare]
7/31	9:30~11:00 11:10~12:40 12:40	Lecture【Building 1:1208 or 1211】 Lecture3 Lecture4 Lunch		Free
8/1	9:00~18:00	Activity3 Bus tour(Visit to Ezawa Fruitland)		
8/2		Free		
8/3		Free		
8/4	9:30~11:00 11:10~12:40 12:40	Lecture【Building 1:1211】 Lecture5 Lecture6 Lunch	13:30~18:00	Activity4 Visit Asakusa
8/5	9:30~11:00 11:10~12:40 12:40	Lecture【Building 1:1208 or 1211】 Lecture7 Lecture8 Lunch	13:30~16:00	Presentation Preparation
8/6	10:00~11:00 11:00~13:00	Presentation Preparation 【Building 1:1101】 Group Presentation【Building 1:1101】	13:30~15:00	Farewell party【Main building 7th floor】
8/7	~10:00	Check out【iSquare】		

## Unforgettable Experience in Japan – CUC Summer School Program

As a student of TH Rosenheim, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the CUC Summer School Program in Japan – and it was truly an unforgettable experience!

From the very beginning, the program brought together students from different countries and cultures, creating an inspiring environment for exchange and collaboration. I was able to meet amazing people from all around the world, learn from highly talented professors, and work on exciting projects. One of the highlights of the program was presenting our cultures in the form of festivals. My team, which included students from Germany, India, Japan, and Taiwan, chose to showcase Oktoberfest and German Christmas markets with videos and stories, while others presented their cultural festivals. In the end, our presentation was selected as the best, and we were so proud of this achievement! 🇩🇪

Another unforgettable part of my experience was wearing a traditional Yukata and visiting the historical district of Asakusa. Walking through the streets, surrounded by traditional architecture, made me feel as if I was experiencing Japanese history and culture firsthand. These cultural activities allowed me to deepen my understanding of Japan beyond the classroom.

One of the most unique experiences was our visit to a blueberry farm owned by Mr. Sadao Ezawa. His farming method, called the Spartan Method, focuses on planting directly in the ground, without peat moss, artificial watering, or pesticides. He only uses organic fertilizers once a year, which results in blueberries with stronger roots, richer flavor, and larger size. The blueberries were so delicious, even bigger than 100-yen coins! Mr. Ezawa even gave us a chainsaw show, which was both entertaining and impressive. During our lectures, we were asked to find creative solutions on how to attract more visitors to the farm, considering that it is located in a rural area where cars are necessary to access it. We also learned how blueberries are processed into vinegar and jam, making us realize the potential for expanding local business opportunities.

The lectures were equally enriching. We discussed economic trends in Japan, compared GDP growth across different countries, and explored possible ways for Japan to improve its economy. A particularly interesting case study was about Yakult – how the company started and grew into a worldwide brand. It was fascinating to see how cultural, social, and economic factors influence business success.

At the end of the program, we prepared group presentations, where we were encouraged to be creative in how we showcased our diverse cultures. The festival theme we chose was both educational and entertaining, and it was wonderful to see the cultural richness of all participants. Winning the presentation competition was the perfect ending to an already inspiring experience. Afterward, we celebrated together and received thoughtful gifts from the organizers.

I am extremely grateful for this unique opportunity to travel to Japan, broaden my horizons, and form new friendships. This program not only allowed me to gain academic knowledge but also gave me a deeper cultural appreciation and unforgettable memories. I would like to sincerely thank the CUC Summer Program 2025, especially Irina Kaputova, Takuya Miyanara, and all other professors and organizers who made this possible. It was a true joy to be part of it!



## An Unforgettable Journey: Ten Days of Exploration, Friendship, and Farewell

University Name: Leshan Normal University

Full Name: Zhang Peng

The moment I stepped off the plane, exhaustion wrapped around me like a heavy blanket. After hours of traveling, my legs ached, and my eyes felt dry from lack of sleep. Yet, as I walked through the airport terminal, a surge of energy replaced the weariness. Everywhere I looked, there were faces from across the globe—smiles, gestures, and snippets of unfamiliar languages weaving a vibrant tapestry of diversity. It dawned on me then: this was no ordinary trip. Over the next ten days, I would be part of a far larger community, surrounded by people who, like me, had come to learn, connect, and explore. That initial excitement, sparked by the sight of so many cultures converging, set the tone for the unforgettable journey ahead. ■



One of the most meaningful aspects of the program was its approach to group work. Each morning, as we gathered for classes, the instructors would announce new team assignments. At first, I'll admit I felt some worry—would I communicate smoothly with new teammates? Could we collaborate effectively? But these doubts faded quickly. Being grouped with different people constantly pushed me out of my comfort zone, leading to deep interactions I might not have sought otherwise.

Take our final day's PPT presentation, for example. My group included students from Japan, Taiwan (China), and South Korea. Our task was to explore the cultural differences between Japan and our home countries. Initially, I worried about communication barriers, but we soon dived into lively discussions. By the end of the session, we were more than classmates—we were friends, bonded by shared curiosity and a willingness to learn from one another. This pattern repeated throughout the program: each new group brought fresh perspectives, inside jokes, and unique skills, making every class feel like an adventure. I came to realize that diversity fuels creativity; when people from different backgrounds collaborate, they don't just share ideas—they challenge each other to think differently,

resulting in richer, more innovative outcomes than any single perspective could achieve.

Beyond the classroom, the housing arrangements held a pleasant surprise. The dorm assignments were thoughtfully planned: though I'd initially felt inconvenienced by not sharing a room with familiar peers, this setup proved perfect for meeting new people. I stayed in a traditional tatami room with three other participants. Before arriving, I'd fretted about sleeping on the floor. Having grown up with a soft mattress, the idea of lying on a thin futon over straw matting sounded uncomfortable at best. How wrong I was.

On the first night, I carefully spread out my futon beside my roommates'. The tatami floor felt cool and smooth beneath me, and as I settled in, the room struck me as unusually peaceful. No creaky bed frames, no bulky furniture—just the soft rustle of futons and the gentle murmur of roommates chatting. Amazingly, I fell asleep almost instantly, lulled by this unfamiliar yet cozy environment. In the days that followed, the tatami room became more than a place to sleep: we gathered there after class to share snacks, stayed up late swapping travel stories, and even competed in efootball games. The room's simplicity fostered closeness—without the barriers of separate beds or private spaces, we felt like a tight-knit family. By journey's end, I understood that adapting to new things isn't just about comfort; it's about opening yourself to experiences that teach flexibility and gratitude. That minimalist tatami room became a symbol of how stepping outside routine can bring unexpected joy.

On the second day of the program, a few newly met local friends took us to nearby Ichikawa. None of us knew the area well, but that only added to the adventure. We wandered through typical narrow Japanese lanes, soaking in the local atmosphere—people moved quietly, walking at a brisk pace, a stark contrast to what I was used to.

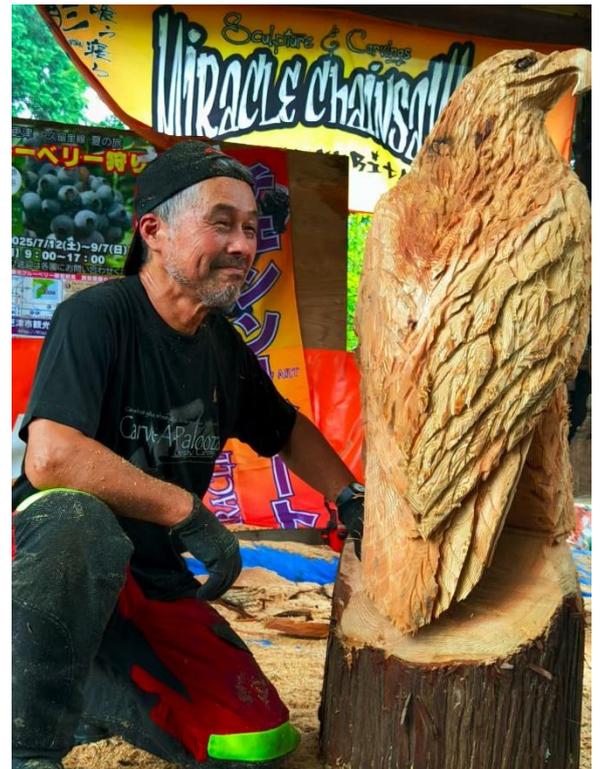
Sitting around a low wooden table, we ordered tempura rice bowls, and our conversation flowed as enthusiastically as the drinks. Our local friends shared tips for living conveniently in Japan and took us to a 100-yen shop to buy daily necessities. As we walked, an unexpected sense of belonging washed over me. This wasn't a superficial tour—it was a glimpse into the daily lives of locals. By the time we returned to the dorm, I reflected on the day, feeling deeply fulfilled. Moments like these—spontaneous, natural, and full of connection—taught me that the most precious memories often arise when we let go of expectations and embrace the unknown.



A few days later, the entire group took a bus to a blueberry farm on the outskirts. The morning ride was a bit bumpy, but we kept busy with games and quizzes led by our guide. When we arrived, the sky was overcast and a light rain fell, yet our spirits remained high. I struck up a conversation with a quiet girl seated next to me on the bus. She was shy, so our chat was brief, but she mentioned feeling nervous around older students. I shared stories of my own high school days—mistakes made, lessons learned. In that moment, I realized age is just a number; connection thrives on shared passions and honesty.



In the afternoon, as the rain intensified, we huddled under a shelter to watch a local artisan at work. Standing in an open space with a chainsaw in hand, he began carving a block of wood with remarkable precision. The tool's buzz echoed across the farm, but his movements were mesmerizing—steady, deliberate, as if he could see the sculpture hidden within the wood. Within minutes, a shapeless log transformed into an eagle with outstretched wings, rainwater glistening on its carved feathers. The group erupted in applause. Watching him wipe sweat from his brow, I felt profound awe. This was more than skill—it was artistry, focus, and deep respect for his craft. It made me reflect on the value of passion: whether carving wood, studying science, or connecting with others, wholehearted dedication creates something transcending the ordinary.



No trip to Japan is complete without visiting historic sites, and our excursion to Sensoji Temple in Asakusa was a highlight. Stepping through the iconic Kaminarimon Gate, with its massive red lantern swaying gently in the wind, I was immediately struck by the temple's serene beauty. The grounds were bustling—locals in kimono, tourists taking photos, monks walking quietly—but there was a sense of peace, as if the temple itself were a sanctuary from the world's chaos.

My group explored the temple together: we admired the intricate architecture of the main hall, lit incense and made wishes at the altar, and browsed Nakamise Street, where vendors sold hand-painted fans, rice crackers, and more. We also tackled the scavenger hunt tasks assigned by our instructor. Guided by our Japanese classmates, we completed the challenges—and even became the group with the most checkmarks. Taking first place filled me with joy.

Later, back at the school, we prepared our final presentation on cultural differences between Japan and our home countries. Standing before the group, our nerves melted as we fed off each other's

energy, sharing anecdotes from our explorations and answering questions confidently. The applause at the end wasn't just for our presentation—it honored our collaboration, late-night preparation sessions, and the bonds forged along the way.

As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun, and never was that truer than during these ten days. It felt like yesterday that I'd arrived at the airport, tired yet excited; now, I was packing my suitcase, scrambling to squeeze in last words with newly made friends.

On our final evening, we gathered in the common room, sharing trip photos, exchanging contact info, and promising to stay in touch. Despite our efforts to focus on the future, a quiet sadness hung in the air. We all knew goodbyes were inevitable—even with social media and plans to visit, these ten days could never be relived.

As we hugged goodbye, I realized how much these people meant to me. They weren't just travel companions—they were witnesses to my growth, fellow adventurers, and friends who accepted me fully. The next morning, as I rode the bus to the airport, gazing at the city that had briefly felt like home, gratitude filled me. This journey taught me so much—not just about different cultures and new skills, but about the power of human connection. It showed me that even in a world that often feels divided, people from all walks of life can come together, learn from one another, and form lifelong bonds.

Ten days may seem short, but the memories, lessons, and friendships will stay with me forever. This journey isn't just a chapter in my life—it's a reminder of how beautiful life can be when we open our hearts to new experiences and cherish the people who make them meaningful.

时光匆匆，才刚认识不久就得分别，舍不得大家！

# EXPLORING JAPAN THROUGH THE CUC SUMMER EXCHANGE PROGRAM



This program has truly been a life-changing experience for me. I gained valuable knowledge and personal growth through it. Initially, I was nervous about managing everything on my own, as it was my first time traveling solo without my family. However, this journey helped me build some of the best bonds of my life. I met wonderful people who were supportive, caring, and open-minded.

I also had the opportunity to deeply explore Japanese culture and interact with its people, who impressed me with their discipline, organization, and kindness. From sharing meals together to collaborating on presentations, and from exploring different cities to discovering Tokyo, every moment was enriching and memorable. The teachers were equally encouraging—their interactive classes and constant support made the learning experience even more meaningful.



One of the most valuable lessons I gained from this program was the importance of staying active in our daily lives. It felt like a journey of personality development, helping me grow both personally and socially. I also learned to broaden my perspective by being more open to accepting and appreciating different opinions and viewpoints.



A truly memorable experience for me was wearing the traditional Japanese attire. Since I have always loved dressing up, this opportunity was especially exciting and unique. It allowed me to immerse myself in the cultural tradition in a way I thoroughly enjoyed and will always cherish.

The CUC exchange program gave me the opportunity to explore and appreciate the rich and beautiful culture of Japan. Through this experience, I realized how people from different backgrounds may have diverse perspectives, yet at the core, everyone shares the same values of kindness, care, and love. One of my most cherished memories from the program was visiting Asakusa, a place that beautifully reflected Japan's cultural heritage and

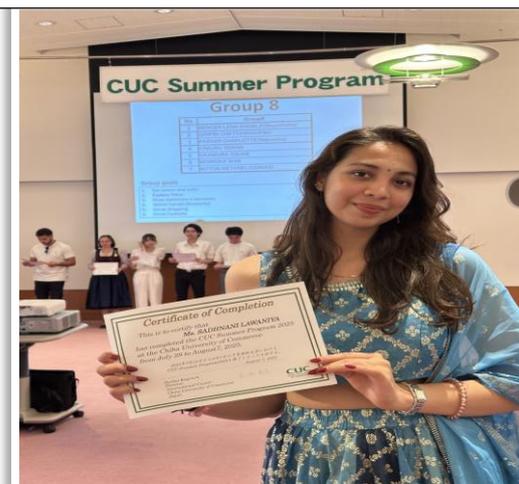


Since I enjoy public speaking and giving presentations, this program provided the perfect opportunity for me to work in a team and confidently share my ideas and thoughts. Collaborating with new teams and meeting different people made the experience even more enriching. I am truly thankful to CUC for giving us this wonderful opportunity to explore such a beautiful place, interact with diverse individuals



In conclusion, this exchange program has been a truly transformative journey that allowed me to learn, grow, and connect with amazing people while experiencing the beauty of Japanese culture. The memories, lessons, and bonds I have made here will always stay with me, and I look forward to carrying these experiences into my future endeavors.

**University : Sir Padampat Singhania University**  
**Report by : LAWANIYA SADHNANI**



## CUC Summer Programme Report

Nicole Gatt

28<sup>th</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Business Enterprise

Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology



MCAST

### Introduction

My experience at the CUC Summer Programme was both enriching and challenging, offering me the chance to learn academically, explore Japanese culture (and a healthy dose of culture shock), and connect with students from around the world. Overall, I am very grateful for this opportunity. It was an experience that helped me grow both academically and personally, and I believe it will continue to influence me in the future. I leave with stronger intercultural awareness, a deeper understanding of Japanese society, and many unforgettable memories. I brought back a little piece of Japan back to Malta with me, in the form of experience and feedback, so that we can hopefully welcome Japanese and international students to Malta with a great summer programme in the near future!

### *Arrival*

On the first day, after a long journey, I was very tired but excited to begin. Even though I was exhausted, I appreciated the warm welcome and the opportunity to meet other international students. We were warmly welcomed at the airport by the Japanese students, staff and other international participants. We had 2 hours of free time to explore the airport, which was nice, but I was ready to get to the school, as I was very excited (and needed to rest).

Upon arrival we had our first orientation. Everyone gave a small introduction about themselves, where they are from, what they study and their hobbies. This created a good foundation for the days to come. People were already socialising and making friends, it was nice to see.

### *Lecture Report*

During the CUC Summer Programme, I attended a variety of lectures that introduced us to different aspects of Japanese society, culture, and business. Each lecture had its strengths, but also areas where improvements could make the experience even more engaging for international students.

#### *Ezawa Fruitland and Social Business (SAITO, Noriko)*

The first lecture introduced us to Ezawa Fruitland's unique cultivation method, which uses minimal water and fertilizer to bring out the natural sweetness of blueberries. It was fascinating to see how innovation can be applied to agriculture while also contributing to the local community. The experience was made even more memorable when we later visited the farm and enjoyed products like blueberry shaved ice.

#### *Japanese Enterprises Overseas (FUJITA, Tasuku)*

Another memorable lecture focused on Japanese companies expanding into international markets. Through the case study of Yakult in the Philippines, I gained insight into how businesses adapt their strategies to succeed abroad. A fun highlight was the quiz on global population sizes, which helped me understand the scale of opportunities in emerging markets (I was surprised by the population sizes part!).

### *Designing a School Curriculum (TAKAHASHI, Yuri)*

We also had the opportunity to design our own ideal school curriculum in groups. This activity encouraged us to think creatively and exchange ideas from different cultural perspectives. It was inspiring to see how education is valued around the world, and to imagine what the “school of the future” could look like. Presenting our ideas gave everyone the chance to contribute, and it was one of the moments where I felt the strongest sense of teamwork across cultures.

### *Education and Poverty (NGUYEN, Thuy)*

This lecture explored the connection between education and poverty. Through case studies and examples, I learned how access to education can transform communities and open up pathways to a better future. This session reminded me of the power of education not only in academic terms but also as a tool for social change.

### **Cultural Exchange and Experiences**

A big part of what made the CUC Summer Programme unforgettable were the cultural experiences and excursions that went beyond the classroom. They gave us the chance to see Japan from the inside; not just as visitors, but as participants.

The yukata experience was my personal highlight. Learning how to wear traditional Japanese clothing, followed by hands-on cultural activities like origami and fan decorating, gave us a deeper appreciation for traditions that are still cherished in Japan today. I have personally made origami before and it was a nice activity to do indoors, since it was very hot! These sessions blended creativity with cultural learning and left lasting memories for everyone. It also gave us the perfect opportunity to make some homemade souvenirs.

A fun aspect of the program that allowed us to unwind and socialise outside of the classroom was the sports day. It created a fun and cooperative environment which was perfect for ice-breaking early on in the programme. It was interesting to see how the games were divided into boys’ and girls’ teams, which is quite different from what I’ m used to, in Malta we would usually just all play together, especially in games like dodgeball.

Excursions offered further opportunities to explore Japan firsthand. The trip to Asakusa was a chance to witness Japan’ s rich cultural heritage, while the visit to Ezawa Fruitland (the blueberry farm) was nice. Seeing the unique cultivation methods, making blueberry jam, and tasting the fresh products was a fun and memorable cultural exchange.

The farewell presentations and closing party brought the programme to a memorable close. Working in international teams gave us the chance to reflect on our own cultures and share a part of our heritage with others. For us Maltese students, this was especially exciting, as many people had never even heard of Malta before. It became almost a running theme that I was constantly explaining where Malta is, but I was grateful for the opportunity to introduce our culture to new friends. Despite some language barriers and the usual challenges of teamwork, every group still managed to deliver an interesting and creative presentation. It was inspiring to see how much we had all learned and how proud everyone was to represent their country.

### **Conclusion**

Looking back, the CUC Summer Programme was a unique and unforgettable experience that blended academic

learning with cultural immersion. The lectures gave me valuable insights into Japanese society, business, and education, while also encouraging me to reflect on global issues from new perspectives. The cultural activities and excursions allowed me to actively experience traditions, explore new environments, and connect with people from all over the world.

There were moments of challenge; from language barriers to adjusting to new customs, but these were part of the learning process and made the experience even more meaningful. I grew not only in knowledge but also in intercultural awareness, adaptability, and teamwork.

What I will take away most from this programme are the amazing friendships formed, the memories of exploring Japan, and the pride of sharing my own culture with others. Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this journey. We will see you in Malta!



**Figure 1 :** I really enjoyed participating in the lectures at the CUC Summer Programme; from taking notes and sharing ideas to presenting alongside my new friends from around the world. Working together and learning from each other.



Figure 2 : One of the best parts of the CUC Summer Programme was the amazing friends I made along the way. Grateful for all the laughs, adventures, and memories we shared, these are connections I'll carry with me long after Japan.



Figure 3 : Exploring Tokyo was an unforgettable part of the CUC Summer Programme ; from the bustling streets and neon lights to quiet temples and hidden corners. Every day brought something new to discover, and the city's energy made the whole experience even more memorable.

Name of University: College of Management Academic Studies

Full Name: Neriya Avital

### **CUC Summer Program 2025 – Reflection Report**

Looking back on the CUC Summer Program 2025, I can honestly say it was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life so far. When I first arrived in Japan, I was both excited and nervous, not knowing exactly what to expect. Very quickly, I realized I had joined something truly special – a program that combined academic learning, cultural discovery, and real friendships.

The academic side gave me a lot to think about. Listening to Japanese professors and working together with students from different backgrounds opened my eyes to new perspectives, especially in economics and business. I learned not only facts, but also new ways of approaching problems, and I really appreciated the chance to see how ideas are viewed outside of my own country.

At the same time, the cultural side of the program made just as big an impression. Exploring Japanese traditions, visiting historical places, and simply sharing meals together created moments I will never forget. I especially enjoyed the conversations with Japanese students – sometimes about serious topics, sometimes just about everyday life – which made me feel connected beyond the classroom.

What surprised me most was how quickly strangers became friends. In just a few weeks, I built connections I truly hope will continue into the future. This sense of global community is something I will always carry with me.

Overall, this program gave me confidence, motivation, and inspiration. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent my university, and I know that what I learned here – both inside and outside the classroom – will help me in my studies and in the career I hope to build.

