

Professional Science Master's Scholar

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PSM Degree

Professional Science Master's in Applied Biosciences

US University

University of Arizona

Date of Completion

May 2017

GPA

3.50

Professional Science Master's in Applied Biosciences

The goal of the interdisciplinary program in Applied Biosciences is to fundamentally train us to think out-of-the-box in answering scientific questions so we can provide multidimensional solutions to promote inclusive economic growth in the Philippines through research and technology innovations.

As a PSM student, what was the highlight of your study?

The PSM program was unique and novel in the department during the time when I enrolled. The main highlight during my study was that I was able to craft my curriculum to suit my career goals back here in the Philippines and, at the same time, managed to still conduct a published research project similar to traditional program students. On top of that, I was not only academically challenged but I also learned to develop positive personal traits and enhance my collaborative interaction with various international networks back in the States.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

At the time when I applied, I was one of the young aspiring fresh graduates who was lost in the misfits of the Philippine job market. I worked in the government financial policy field for quite a while. When I heard about the PSM scholarship that aims to bridge the field of business and science, I knew that this was the perfect opportunity to get reconnected back to my original passion to do science.

How would you use your degree to contribute or influence economic growth in the country?

For me, the biggest challenge right now is to maximize my contribution as a young and aspiring researcher in the Philippines and promote awareness for various research focus that are frequently undermined in the country, and at the same time, be a resource person for novel research pursuits that the Philippines can potentially venture in the near future.

As a young scientist, what do you envision for the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the next 10 years?

I can't really tell at this point, I still have much to learn about the scientific atmosphere in the Philippines. But ideally, it would be great to see an innovative and scientifically competitive Philippines as a pioneer for development in Southeast Asia. Personally, I would love to see the smile in people's faces when I tell them that my occupation is a "researcher" which means an actual career to innovate instead of the usual stereotype of an academic researcher.

Joji is currently working as a Research Fellow with a Philippine-California Advanced Research Institute (PCARI) - funded project at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

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