

Professional Science Master's Scholar

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PSM Degree
US University
Date of Completion
GPA

Professional Science Master's in Bioinformatics
University of Delaware
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Professional Science Master's in Bioinformatics

My program is an emerging field that combines biological and computational disciplines. Under the program, I received training in experimental, computational, and mathematical disciplines which are needed to pursue this field. My program was tailor-fitted to allow me to gain knowledge and experience in applying bioinformatics methods, tools, and databases in solving modern biotechnology and biomedical science problems.

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

The highlight of my study was working with people from diverse backgrounds. This allowed me to reevaluate my approach to problem solving. My PSM in Bioinformatics allowed me to work with people from Philosophy, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Accounting, Mathematics, and other fields of study. Each discipline was taught in a way that was different from my field of study and it has allowed me to expand and enrich my problem-solving skills. I never enjoyed group work but the people from my department were all responsible and inquisitive that it allowed me to enjoy the tasks that were bestowed upon us.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

One of the most important life lesson that I have learned from studying in the US is living a more well-balanced life. It is easy to get stuck with the routine of your daily life and not explore other activities that might enrich one's own life. I tried to break the monotony of my week by joining and attending different events and it was one of the best decisions that I made. This allowed me to become a more well-rounded person and meet different people from diverse backgrounds that made my study abroad more colorful and worthwhile.

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

I believe that innovation economy is the future of Southeast Asian countries, and several countries have shown how it could develop a country. By adding to the pool of people who have obtained post-graduate degrees, I hope to be able to add to the resources required to establish research and development departments in the Philippines. I hope that by being an active member of the scientific community I would be able to influence both the private and public sectors to increase their interest in funding STI research.

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

In the next ten years in the field of STI, I hope the Philippines would have an automated system for storing, safeguarding, and analyzing knowledge. A database for scientific research done by the Filipino scientific community would ideally help improve communication and collaboration from within the community itself. A central repository would also allow easier access to information allowing science educators to have the necessary resources in their work. A commitment between the public and private sectors will hopefully improve research and development interest and support.

Juan Paolo is currently pursuing his PhD degree at the University of Greenwich in the United Kingdom. As a PhD student researcher under the Department of Agriculture, Health and Environment, he is working on a project whose main goal is to analyze sequence data and elucidate underlying speciation across the Bemisia tabaci (whitefly) species.