

A Remarkable Journey,

If I have to summarize my experience of the last 3 weeks in a few lines, I would say,

I stepped into the classroom,

Like a bird expecting to be taught to fly.

But stepped out journeying through,

An unforgettable experience,

Which taught me to soar beyond the sky.”

That is how remarkable my journey was through this incredible enrichment program, which was hosted by Alfaisal University. I realize that there was not a single day of this program when I wanted to risk on missing out on a lecture or activity for the last 3 weeks. Thanks to AUEP, I spent my summer gaining an extensive amount of information in an enjoyable way. In particular, the “Beautiful mind” program has created a spark of curiosity in my mind and kindled my eagerness to keep acquiring knowledge every day.

Within a span of just 3 weeks, we learned about the structure of the brain, its diseases that affect the brain, mental health, addiction, neuropharmacology and about conducting research. Studying the mysteries of the human brain was just as fascinating as it was terrifying, considering we know very little about this marvelous entity. The method of having quizzes conducted on every topic, was amazing and made sure that we imbibed all the information without fail. Interestingly, the whole process of conducting research was taught in a very simplified way and has given me the confidence to conduct a few on my own. And last but not the least, the lab sessions held almost every day were a blast. Learning how to use lab equipment and conducting small experiments on our own was in my opinion, the highlight of the program.

In the course of 3 weeks, this program has managed to teach me several skills. Not only scientific and research concepts, but also how to work as a team and how to go about dealing with situations professionally. We were encouraged to embrace our beautiful minds and put our skills to the test with team workshops and experiments every day. The icing on the cake was of course the instructors and our wonderful volunteers. They were all very down to earth and made sure that the last 21 days were among the best in our life. No doubts were left unanswered, and no minds were left uninspired.

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn”, and I have indeed learnt a great deal during this program through the active involvement of program coordinators, instructors, volunteers, and my colleagues.

By Prashanthini Sundar