

Q

Could you please briefly tell us about your current situation, such as where you are and what kind of research you are doing?

A

I'm currently working as a data scientist at the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) in Bangkok. My current project focuses on evaluating the efficacy of Malaria drugs currently being used in several countries in Africa.

Q

What have you learned about One Health in Graduate school that you find important? Additionally, please share if there have been any changes in your perspective compared to before you started studying it.

A

I already knew about One Health since my undergraduate studies and that it should be applied when solving problems. However, during my time in the Graduate School I find that the One Health approach is actually difficult to execute. It requires more effort from more people. It requires collaboration and negotiation. It requires understanding the different needs of different people and different perspectives of experts with different skills. I learned that One Health requires scientists and researchers to do the things they were not trained to do: communicate.

PIANTHAM Chayada

WISE 1st graduates, Bioresource Division



Q

The most memorable part of the WISE program activities. (Either good or bad).

A

The most memorable part of WISE activities was meeting students from different countries with different backgrounds. It was such a great opportunity to talk to these fellow students from different laboratories and nationalities. Otherwise, we wouldn't have opportunities to see and work with each other since our research did not overlap.

Advice for juniors

Enjoy life. Don't make your PhD studies the whole part of your life. It may feel like your research is the most important thing and you should be dedicating all your waking energy to it. I'm sorry but it is not. It is just for you to get a degree to further do more important things. So, don't forget to do other things while you're walking to that goal. Enjoy the seasons, the food, the culture, the scenery, the company, and everything else. Also, I realized after graduation how comforting it was to be a student. You have a personal adviser dedicating their time to make sure you're on the right track. It's okay to make mistakes. The point is for you to learn the skills, not your results. Go easy on yourself, and enjoy that too.

Other things to say!

I was told that if you want to be able to save the world, you need to take care of yourself first. Stay healthy both physically and mentally. Then, and only then, you can go save the world.