

Message from a former Student from Sri Lanka



Name : Lasith Gunawardena
Interdisciplinary Graduate Faculty of Science and Engineering
Course : Electronic Information Systems
Graduated : March 2016
Nationality - Sri Lankan

My Experience at Shimane University

I entered Shimane University as a MEXT Scholar from Sri Lanka in 2010, from the time I set foot in Matsue, the staff of the International Student Section of Shimane University were very supportive and helped me to accustom to life in Shimane University. In 2016, I graduated with a Doctor of Engineering degree, specializing in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI). My time at Shimane University was a transformative period that shaped my academic and professional career. The university provided an intellectually stimulating environment with world-class research facilities and an exceptionally supportive faculty led by my professor - Prof. Masahito Hirakawa. The collaborative culture encouraged innovation and knowledge exchange, allowing me to explore novel interaction techniques that have significantly contributed to my field. My research contributed to a Patent in Japan with my Sensei.

Beyond academics, I actively engaged in cultural exchange programs, volunteering with the Shimane International Center, Matsue Police and Shimane Police, and SUIA (Shimane University International Students Association) to support international students and contribute to the local community. The Japanese Language classes I followed at Shimane University contributed to my experiences, permitting me to immerse myself in the beauty of Matsue and its citizens. Shimane University provided the perfect platform for both academic excellence and personal growth. The strong research culture, combined with Japan's rich heritage, made my journey an unforgettable and deeply rewarding experience. I highly recommend it to students seeking a globally connected, research-intensive learning environment.

Bio:

Lasith Gunawardena is a Professor and Head of the Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. At present, he spearheads the University's Innovation Arm - Invention, Innovation and Venture Creation Council (IIVCC) as its Co-Chair. He also serves on the Board of Directors at ORCID Inc., Advisory Board of STEMUp Foundation, and is the Crossref Ambassador for Sri Lanka. Previously, he has held the positions of Chairman, IEEE Computer Society Sri Lanka Chapter, Honorary secretary for BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, Sri Lanka Section. and General Secretary, Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists. He presently chairs the judging panel of Sri Lanka's National ICT Awards, NBQSA as its Chief Judge. His Research Interests include Research Data Management, Information Systems, Educational Technologies, Human-Computer Interaction, Information Security, and E-Governance.



Name: Amanda Perera

Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology

Graduated: September, 2022

I started my academic journey in Japan in 2020 as a Master's student and MEXT scholar at the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Shimane University. During the challenging Covid-19 period, the International Student Division at Shimane University provided invaluable support, helping me navigate life in Japan between 2020 and 2022. I graduated with a Master's degree in the Science of Environmental Systems in 2020 with extensive research experience gained from the world-class research facilities.

Beyond my studies, I actively participated in various cultural activities across Shimane Prefecture. I also worked as an International Dormitory Tutor, assisting many incoming international students in settling into their new life at Shimane University. Currently, I am pursuing a PhD in Geology at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. I am also an active member of the Early Career Researchers group of the International Continental Drilling Program (ICDP). My research interests span paleoclimatology, stratigraphy, sedimentology, cyclostratigraphy, organic geochemistry, and environmental sciences.