Endeavour Experience

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While reading for my Master's degree in Energy Technologies with the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge, I was exposed to a broad range of energy-related research which was being conducted across the campus. I was fascinated by the ongoing topics, the revolutionary ideas, and the pioneering technologies that were being developed. This led me to apply for a PhD position within the Reisner Lab, a research group based in the Chemistry Department at Cambridge, which is interested in the chemical aspects of energy and sustainability, in particular the conversion of solar energy and renewable electricity into fuels and value-added chemicals.

The group is highly interdisciplinary, and focuses on aspects of electro- and photocatalysis at the interface of synthetic chemistry, material development, nano-science, chemical biology and engineering. A central theme is the study and mimicry of natural processes, such as plant photosynthesis and enzymes, to produce 'solar fuels', that is, chemical feedstocks which are synthesised through chemical pathways that are powered by solar irradiation. The research group was also a very multicultural environment, with postdocs, PhD and Master's students coming from all corners of the world. In this sense, not only was the breadth of scientific study and conversation broad, but I also had to chance to discuss and learn about peoples' different roots, background, and diversity.

The Endeavour Scholarship Scheme has allowed me to complete my PhD at such a prestigious university and in an area that is not only of interest to me, but which is of the outmost importance in this current age – for that, I am truly grateful. Acquiring this PhD has allowed me to further develop my scientific and communicative skills, to prepare me for the next stage of my career. It will surely prove to be a valuable asset for working within the R&D sector, to partake within the growing and emerging markets related to renewable energies and sustainable chemical synthesis and manufacturing.

I am an avid supporter of such scholarship schemes as they allow individuals such as myself, who have aspirations, ambitions and intellectual dexterity, to continue studying and researching to a higher degree. I strongly urge the Ministry of Education to continue to expand, promote, and support Maltese citizens in pursuing a higher-level education at a foreign institute or university. This will hopefully allow as many candidates as possible to experience what I have gone through, and to engage in a global network of likeminded students and researchers.