

Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme Testimonial – Pascoe Grima

Studying abroad is something I would gladly recommend for those wanting to challenge themselves, open new horizons, seek new experiences and connect with others. It offers the perfect opportunity to combine educational development with personal growth. The Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS) has helped make this possible.

Three years ago, I decided to pursue the Master of Arts in Arabic Studies at the University of Vienna. This proud institute offers a great environment, led by many experienced professors for those that wish to delve deeper into Middle Eastern Studies. The learning outcomes of the course revolve around obtaining greater insight on the political, economic, social and religious forces that make up Middle Eastern affairs.

My thesis aimed to analyse the Saudi state's rhetoric on state-society relations, which have historically been determined by conservative Wahhabi doctrine. To this end, the material contents of Saudi Secondary and Highschool textbooks were carefully analysed. The study found that classical Wahhabi teachings are still wholly represented in the textbooks. At the same time however, economic development, national security and a strong Arabic as well as Saudi identity are recognized as main pillars to the modern Saudi state.

Knowing that the Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme was propping up my studies made a big difference. Studying abroad is quite a costly endeavour and for many of us it wouldn't be possible if not for external financial support. I encourage everyone with similar ambitions to apply for TESS and make the most of the scholarship schemes out there. You never know which doors will open up!