“Oxford: The City of Dreaming Spires” is indeed a city of dreams. My time at this magical place was short, but enriching. The two months of Trinity Term gave me sufficient memories and experiences to cherish for my whole life. I remember how ecstatic I was on hearing from St Catherine’s that I have been selected as a Keating Scholar for Visiting Students Programme. As I write this, it’s been a month since I returned from Oxford, however, hearing its name makes me just as excited as I was on the first day.

Usually, new places are a goodie bag of good and bad experiences, however, student life at Oxford is an exception to this. It was more of a thrilling roller coaster ride which only went all the way up since the first day. Thanks to St. Catherine’s College and benevolent Mr. Giles Keating for the scholarship and for sponsoring almost every expense possible. The Betty and Donald Keating Scholarship is the best thing that could have happened to me as it has provided me with an opportunity that I would have otherwise been bereft of.

In my term time, I studied Behavioural Economics with Ms Silvia Palano from Brasenose College and Knowledge & Reality with Dr. Andrea Christofidou from Worcester College. Each tutorial was an intense session of brainstorming, ideas, arguments and case studies. The critical nature of tutorials is the best thing about Oxford’s academic system. Unlike most colleges that I know of, learning is an experience in Oxford. Cycling through the old alleys to various magnificent libraries with millions of books; swiftly going through the reading list in gardens, cafes and libraries and then crunching all the self-learnt theory into a critical essay. There is a lot more that goes into it than you imagine. This way of studying opened up my thoughts as I could feel the freedom that I was now presented with to express my views and logic using the ways I feel about it and reflect on it. It made sure that the theories just don’t stay in those books as theories but also stay in my memory with a real connection to the world around me.

Oxford life doesn’t stop there. I attended seminars and talks by Nobel laureates, politicians, and businessmen. There are clubs for almost every activity. I participated in Cha Cha dance Cuppers and reached semi-finals. I was part of St. Catz Cricket team which reached the semi-finals too. I would often spend time in the JCR which is out rightly the best thing about Catz.

The people I’ve met, the experiences I’ve had and the memories that I’ve made; everything will be treasured by me for the rest of my life. Oxford has surely changed my life in just two months and I’m glad it happened. Just thinking about the opportunity that I have received and the experience that I have had, leaves me overwhelmed.