



# TIEC GAZETTE

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## University Express Assists Students Seeking U.S. University Admission

Shin Horikawa studied English for six years in Japanese middle and high schools. But at the Tokyo University of Science, he concentrated on his major, materials engineering.

“My English was very poor,” he recalls of his language skills at graduation.

Now, however, he is beginning Ph.D. studies Auburn University, one of five U.S. universities to which he gained admission.

He has received a fellowship to research fluidics for medical applications.

He expects to remain in the U.S. for at least four years.

Horikawa attributes his transformation largely to his studies at University Express, a TIEC program for international students who wish to improve their English-language and study skills as they prepare for admission to

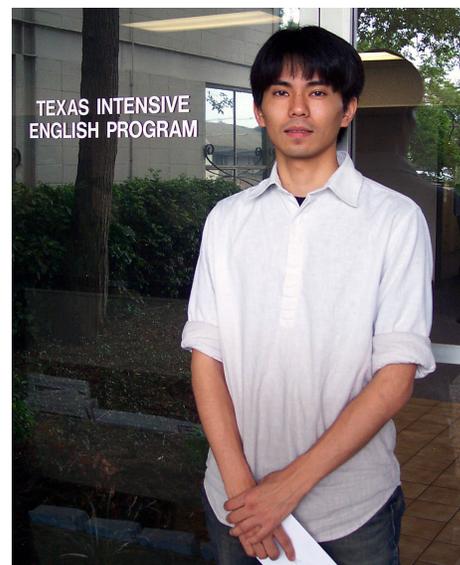
competitive U.S. universities.

“At the time I started at University Express,” Shin recalls, “I couldn’t understand what my teachers said.

“But the teachers taught me seriously, and it was very helpful.”

Other U.S. universities that recently have accepted University Express students include Ohio State University, Baylor University, the University of Maryland at Baltimore, and St. Edward’s University.

University Express offers a comprehensive program of tutorials, study skills instruction, test preparation, intercultural communication,



Shin Horikawa will study at Auburn University following his University Express experience.

and university placement services.

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Dr. Liliana Pérez Nordtvedt (UT-Arlington) spent three weeks teaching international business in Morocco under a TIEC-sponsored program. “Every professor should have an experience like this one,” she says. “We in the U.S. are much too domestically focused, both politically and commercially.”

## International Education also Teaches the Teacher

At first glance, students at the International Institute for Higher Education in Morocco (IIHEM) in Rabat behave just like students at an American university.

“Students enjoy time visiting together between classes, talking on cell phones, checking e-mail, and getting something to eat in the cafeteria,” notes Dr. Liliana Pérez Nordtvedt.

The Assistant Professor of Management at The University of Texas at Arlington spent three weeks recently, along with Dr. James Bell, Professor of Management at Texas State University, teaching at IIHEM under a TIEC-sponsored program.

The Moroccan students, however, brought a world of understanding to Dr. Nordtvedt’s international business class that she does not find at home.

“Their knowledge of international business is generally better than that of their U.S. counterparts,” she explains, “and they appear to be more exposed to world affairs and to other cultures.

“All of the students speak at least three languages (including English) which, I think, increases their appreciation for and understanding of other cultures.”

For the teacher, the exposure also enhanced her international awareness. “This experience broadens your knowledge of the world by *experiencing* the world,” she notes.

Specific to her profession, Dr. Nordtvedt adds: “I have broadened my cultural fluency which, as an international business scholar, is extraordinarily important to me. As an educator, I always learn more about motivating students by interacting with people from diverse backgrounds and with different interests.

“Perhaps the most memorable thing about our visit to Morocco, and this is the case in every city we visited, is fact that Moroccans are warm, friendly, open, and tolerant people.

“My experiences in Morocco will benefit me in the classroom, in my research, and personally as a citizen of the world.”