

Study Abroad Return Report

Host University: Dalian University of Technology (DUT), China

Program: "Intelligent Futures" 2026 DUT International Summer School

Period: July 27 – August 9, 2026 (2 weeks)

1. Program Overview

From July 27 to August 9, 2026, I participated in the "Intelligent Futures" 2026 DUT International Summer School, hosted by the School of Future Technology at Dalian University of Technology. The two-week program combined academic tech lectures and a lecture series on China's development, hands-on cultural experience sessions, a corporate site visit, and a city tour, giving participants a well-rounded view of both cutting-edge research and everyday life in China.

2. Academic Lectures

Two lectures were especially relevant to my field of study and are the academic core of this report.

Prof. Dato' Ir Dr. Mohammed Rafiq bin Mohamed Dato' Abdul Kadir delivered a tech lecture titled "Engineering the Future of Health Care" at the School of Future Technology. The lecture examined how engineering disciplines are being integrated into modern medicine, from diagnostic devices and biomedical sensors to system-level approaches for improving patient outcomes. For a life science student, this session was a valuable reminder that health care innovation increasingly happens at the intersection of biology and engineering, and that future researchers in this space benefit from being conversant in both fields.

On August 6, as part of the Lecture Series on China's Development, I attended a session titled "Inclusive Public Health Systems: China's Practice to Advance SDG3 (Good Health and Well-being)." The lecture outlined how China has expanded access to public health services, strengthened primary care infrastructure, and worked toward equitable health outcomes across different regions as part of its contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 3. As someone studying life sciences, I found this lecture particularly useful for connecting laboratory-level knowledge of health and disease with the larger policy and systems context in which health care is actually delivered.



3. Cultural Experience

Beyond the academic program, several cultural experience sessions allowed us to engage directly with local traditions. In one session, our group learned to make traditional Chinese dumplings (jiaozi) from scratch, from preparing the dough and filling to folding and cooking the dumplings, which was both a hands-on cooking lesson and an introduction to a dish central to northern Chinese food culture. In another session, we practiced Chinese calligraphy and foil-burning art, learning basic brush techniques and character strokes under the guidance of instructors.



4. Corporate Visit: Marine Ranch

As part of the program's corporate visits, our group toured the Xinyulong National Marine Ranch, a large-scale marine ranching operation. The visit included an overview of how the ranch manages marine ecosystems for sustainable fishery production, combining aquaculture technology with ecological conservation.



5. City Tour

During the city tour, our group visited Xinghai Square, one of the largest city squares in Asia and a landmark of Dalian. Walking through the square gave us a chance to experience the city's urban planning and coastal scenery, and to see how the local community uses public spaces for leisure and recreation.



6. Conclusion and Reflection

This two-week program at Dalian University of Technology offered a well-rounded combination of academic exposure, cultural immersion, and industry insight. The lectures in particular helped me connect my studies in life science to broader engineering and public health perspectives, reinforcing the idea that meaningful scientific progress depends on both technical innovation and the systems that deliver it to society. Overall, the program was a valuable opportunity for both academic and personal growth, and I intend to apply the broader, systems-level perspective I gained here to my future studies and research.