

My Laidlaw Journey: from Windsor to Sydney

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Leadership Training in Windsor

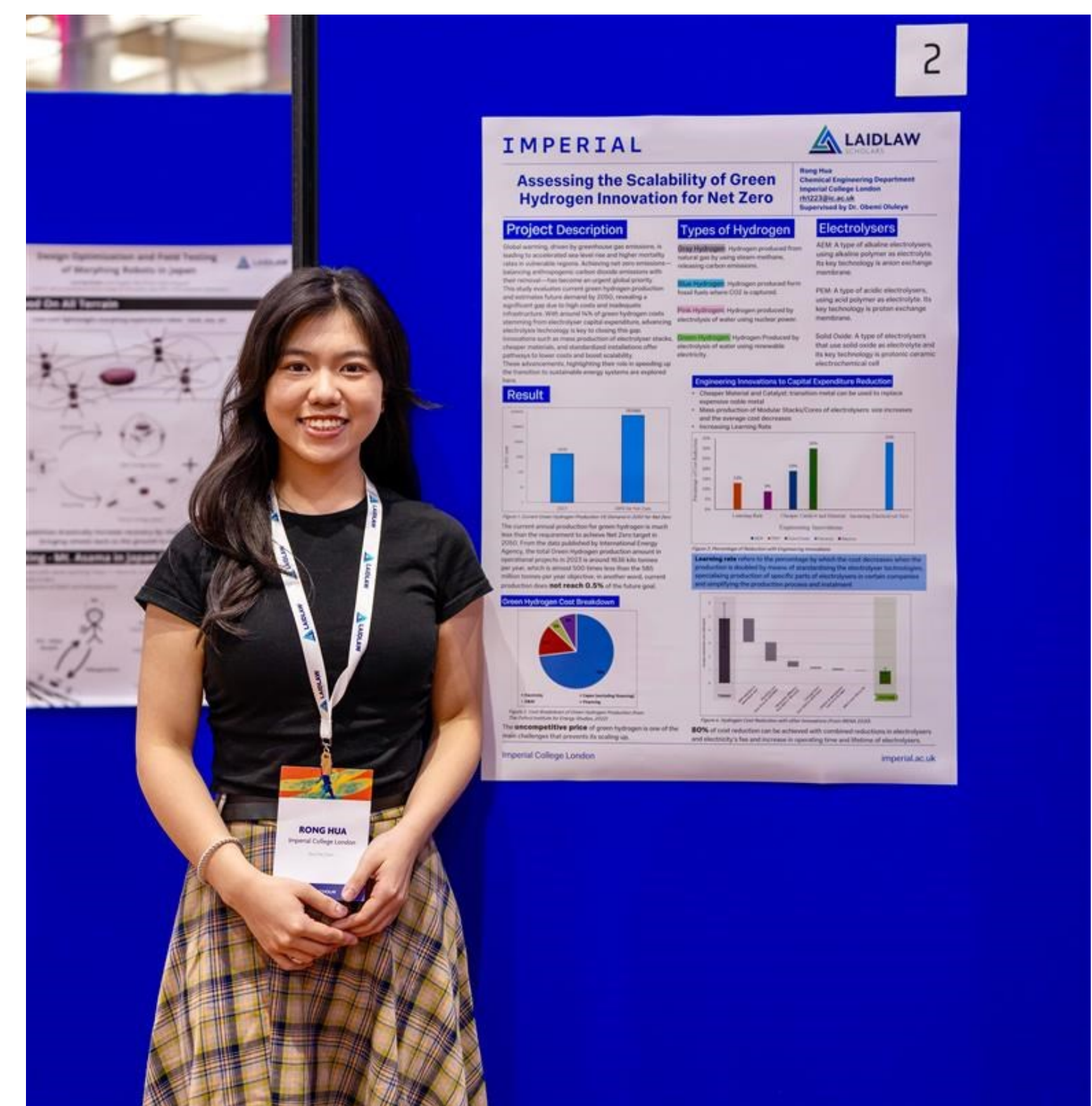
It was where I first met my fellow Imperial and UCL scholars and began building trust with them. The weekend became the foundation of both our friendships and our growth as developing leaders. We shared our personal stories during introductions, practised meditation, and walked through the forest while listening to each other's goals and interests, offering thoughtful feedback along the way.

The most memorable activity was when we were all blindfolded, holding onto a single rope, and asked to form a perfect circle without being able to see. It was chaotic, funny, and unexpectedly meaningful—an exercise that brought us closer together and showed the power of communication and teamwork.



Leeds Conference and Poster Exhibition

The Leeds Conference was another wonderful opportunity to connect with Laidlaw Scholars from around the world. We met students from The University of Hong Kong and the University of Toronto, and it was an honour to present my Laidlaw research findings to such an inspiring audience. I enjoyed hearing their thoughts, answering their questions, and engaging in meaningful discussions. It was also lovely to meet students from Leeds who shared an interest in my topic, and to learn about the incredible research projects others completed over the summer.



Leadership in Action with Sydney's Animals For Everyone (SAFE) Rehoming

During my time at SAFE, I cared for over 80 cats and supported more than 20 successful rehoming. Working alongside compassionate staff and volunteers, I learned what true care, patience, and responsibility mean in animal welfare. Every cat had a story, and through daily cleaning, feeding, adoption support, and coordination, I was grateful to play a small part in their healing and rehoming journeys.

SAFE taught me the value of teamwork, trust, and shared commitment, not only to animals but also to a common mission. I was deeply inspired by the warm-hearted volunteers, from high school students to university students and retirees, who dedicate their time every week with such consistency and kindness.

This has been one of the most meaningful opportunities during my university journey, allowing me to travel to a brand new country and contribute to the animal welfare field that I am truly passionate about. I am sincerely grateful to the Laidlaw Programme for making this life-changing experience possible.



What Leadership Means To Me Today

Right now, leadership means taking responsibility even when no one is watching, and no recognition is expected. It is about showing up consistently, doing necessary work with care, and supporting others so that a shared mission can continue smoothly. Through my experience at SAFE, I have learned that leadership is not about giving instructions, but about service, patience, and trust. It means staying calm in uncertain situations, listening to different people, and putting the needs of animals and the team before personal comfort. Leadership, to me, is quiet but steady. It is built through reliability, empathy, and commitment over time, and it grows from actions rather than titles.

Final Reflection

- Being **ambitious**. Daring to dream big while staying prepared for change and uncertainty.
- Being **brave**. Willing to step into challenges, face difficulties directly, and work through complex problems rather than avoiding them.
- Being **curious and confident**. Always looking for better solutions, asking questions, learning from others, and believing that I am capable of making a difference.