Graduation Class Speech – 2019
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Good evening to our esteemed faculty members, distinguished guests, ISGS family and fellow graduates.

I am honored to be here today, not only as part of the audience, but also to have the opportunity to say a few words to all of you. Even though, I am pretty sure you will get distracted before I even go halfway through this speech.

A famous Chinese proverb says, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”. What happens when you have an extra helping hand at the start of your journey?

We all are aware that ISGS was that helping hand, our safety net. From receiving of applications to sending admission letters, from helping to find accommodations to register for orientation course, from arrival to Kaiserslautern to residency issues, the entire staff of ISGS has worked tirelessly to make sure that all international students have a smooth transition from living in their countries to building a life in Germany with an enjoyable study time (as much as that can be).

We created new bonds with people from different countries, backgrounds, cultures, religious beliefs and lifestyles. We enjoyed exploring enchanting and historical places in Germany, while strengthening the fragile bonds previously created. We enjoyed the Christmas parties, while singing carols, making cookies and having a drink or two. We enjoyed gathering during German Course break and having coffee. By the way, coffee was free. Who doesn’t like free coffee? Jokes aside... None of this would be possible without our ISGS family. Thank you ISGS for being part of our journey and letting us experience a fulfilling time. Let’s give a huge round of applause to the ISGS staff for making us feel right at home, even though international students tend to be not one of the easiest bunch.

Aside from ISGS, another heartfelt thank you goes to TU Kaiserslautern and its faculty members. TU Kaiserslautern was a platform for broadening our horizons. As we embarked in our scientific route, we were offered state of the art facilities, the flexibility to choose the
courses we liked more and the possibility of a constructive discussion with respected professors and other future colleagues. Not only has TUK provided a unique research environment, but at the same time helped us develop soft skills such as teamwork.

Fellow graduates, today we can proudly say that we achieved something. We are ending our journey in TUK, more prepared than before, to move on to another part of our lives.

Usually, I would have to share my life experience or a success story. Oh boy, let’s not even start on that line. What I want all of you to keep in mind is, sometime you don’t need an inspirational story from someone else. You can find it by going back and reminding yourself that you have done the impossible to sit here today. Don’t take it for granted.

From my personal experience, I wanted to give up plenty of time, but there was always something holding me back. Mostly, I was scared to be labeled as a failure. But as J.K. Rowling said, “It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not lived at all – in which case, you fail by default.”

As we graduate today, we are going to face plenty of challenges. Failure may be part of the challenges ahead, but that’s normal. We can try and try until we achieve something for ourselves be it small or big. Celebrate your achievements and, while you are at it, enjoy the journey.

Thank you!