

Training update

Timothy

Timothy from Zambia is now four months into the third year of his 3-year diploma course with Mobility India and is enjoying his clinical placement. Despite Covid restrictions, we did manage to get him home to Zambia for an extended break over Christmas 2020 but he will not be home again until he qualifies in July 2022. This is Timothy's own account of his first two years.

Going to college is a dream for every youth in Africa who believes in education and expect to enjoy college life to the fullest, but studying abroad as an African it's a different case.

I joined Mobility India (MI) in 2019 to pursue a 3-year diploma in prosthetics and orthotics, I was so excited in knowing that my dream has come true and I wanted new experience in broadening my knowledge in this particular field of study.

So far, I have spent 2 years in India and my experience is one of maturity and learning to handle problems as they come along. The beginning of my course was amazing, meeting new people from different countries with different languages and culture – it was pleasant experience.

In addition to prosthetics and orthotics sciences at MI we also take some basic chapters in related subjects such as anatomy and physiology, pathology, applied mechanics etc. to help students have an overall understanding of the services.

After a few days I started socialising with friends in campus and we started going out visiting historical places and playing games, it was a great chance of learning and understanding their culture and behaviour.

Food was the major challenge that I faced in early days of my stay in India, it was difficult to adapt to Indian dishes.

The communication barrier is one of the challenges that I face as not all friends are able to speak and understand English well. Especially when I go off campus communication is difficult and it's for that reason that I had to learn some common words in their language, but I found it interesting and it gives greater sense that I am in a different part of the world.



Towards the end of my first year covid-19 started spreading in India and the government ordered first nationwide lockdown. This was new and the biggest unexpected challenge that changed everything academic programmes inclusive.

Mobility India introduced online learning and advised us to stay in campus except local students who could travel to their homes. At first, it was very scary but nothing I could change about the situation – the only possible solution is to accept it and follow preventive measures and move on.

However, the learning system switched to online classes and it was quite difficult to adapt to this new system of leaning, at times as I experience I was losing concentration and facing technical issues with a lot of distractions.

At the start of my second year everything seemed okay, we resumed physical classes and we gained confidence that things are getting back to normal. It was until mid of the second year when the second wave of covid-19 hit India again and we had to get back to online classes, we managed to carry on till end of second year when the situation got stable.

Currently am in my final year, in clinical practice. It's time to identify my weakness and work out on it along with preparation for the final clinical ISPO (International society for prosthetics and orthotics) exam.