



Full name: *Manami Goto*

What subject did you study? *PhD Arab and Islamic Studies*

Year of Graduation: *2019*

Current Job Title: *JSPS Research Fellow (Postdoc)/ Honorary Research Fellow*

Current Employer/Organisation Name: *Tokyo University of Foreign Studies/ University of Exeter*

You can find out more about Manami on her [Linkedin Profile](#) or Twitter [@MGGulf](#)

Can you give us an overview of what you have done since you completed your research degree?

My PhD degree was awarded on March 25, 2019, and I started my postdoctoral position at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in Japan from April 1, 2019

How did you become interested in the area that you work in?

I was looking for a research position which enables me to work on my publications and provides me with freedom and financial support to conduct further research in the field. My current three-year postdoctoral position in Japan was exactly what I wished to have for my next career after completing my PhD and I was also hoping to be back in Japan for a few years to do networking in order to know researchers who are working in the related fields in Japan

What do you enjoy most about your research degree?

I think I enjoyed meeting with other students and scholars who are working on the Arab and Islamic Studies but from different perspectives. Especially getting through tough times during my writing-up stage with other PhD students has mentally helped me a lot

What skills and experiences have been most useful for your career?

I think gaining skills and experiences that make you stand out from other scholars is the key. In my case, I learned Arabic and Persian and have spent almost 5 years in the Gulf region before completing my PhD. I have also interviewed more than 300 local women for my PhD research. I think both language skills including communication skills and the field research experiences in the Gulf attests to my strength as a researcher in the field

What advice would you give to a current PGR who wishes to pursue your career?

Gain as many skills and experiences as possible, which will lead you to the career you want. Be specific and special in your field and think about what makes you different and outstanding!



What are your plans for the future?

I am planning to turn my PhD thesis into a monograph and publish at least three journal articles during my postdoctoral period in order to get a job in academia after this position

Do you have any tips or advice for beginning a career or working in your industry/sector?

If it is possible, try to publish at least one journal article and present your research in various conferences/workshops during PhD studies. Networking will help you to have more options in your career!