

Sabla Al Nouri, Class of 2008
Synopsis of Interview on May 20, 2008

Attended a presentation at International school (high school), applied and was accepted. From Syria, but never lived in Syria. First lived in Kuwait, then UAE for 7 years, and now Qatar for 10 years.

Choose TAMUQ because she wanted to stay in Qatar with family. First year at Texas A&M, was in the second group of students. 60 students seemed like a lot after attending high school with small groups (10 students). Using large lecture halls at TAMUQ with larger group of students was a very new experience, then got used to it quickly.

High school very different from university. Texas A&M very unstructured compared to earlier school experiences. Can organize the way you want it, but must figure out how to do it on one's own. It became part of daily life.

Graduated with highest honors, Worked very hard. Had set a personal goal to graduate with highest honors, and achieved it. Has always had high standards. As eldest daughter, there is no prior role model for her or parents. Now siblings must live up to this standard.

Memorable experiences

While at TAMUQ, had the chance to get to know more about the country (Qatar). Didn't have many Qatari friends before TAMUQ, now have good friends. Lectures seemed like a small discussion session, small friendly environment. More individual attention, able to know professors.

Orientation was a big first impression; first time to be so active, learning about campus life.

Graduation was another new beginning. Planning to continue education in graduate studies at TAMU, combined Master's/PhD program in September, in a research field. Hopes to be the first doctoral student at TAMUQ. Hopes abilities will be up to the challenge.

Changes over four years in TAMUQ

Every year at convocation shows how many more faculty are present each year. During first year, all 60 students studied same courses, then over time, as specialization in chemical engineering results in upper level courses, class sizes get smaller. Have matured as a person. Want to continue to expand knowledge, look every day for something new.

Advice for new class

Give it all you've got, and enjoy your college life.