



澳門科技大學
MACAU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Speech at the Opening Ceremony 2026/2027

Representative of the Teachers

Professor Li, Xiaodong

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Honorable Chair Professor ZHU Jian-Kang, President of Macau University of Science and Technology,

Distinguished guests, teachers, students, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

I am Li Xiaodong from the Faculty of Innovation Engineering. It is a great pleasure to join you today as we celebrate the beginning of a new academic year. As a university professor, I was honored to receive the Teaching Excellence Award this year. Many people congratulated me on this achievement. However, I have always believed that the greatest reward for a teacher is not an award, but seeing students grow, find their direction, and realize their dreams.

Today, I would like to share three simple messages with you.

First, pursue growth, not just grades.

Over the next few years, you will gain new knowledge, develop professional skills, and face many challenges. But the most valuable outcome of university is not a transcript. It is discovering your passion, cultivating independent thinking, and building your character. Years from now, you may not remember every lecture or every exam, but you will remember how you grew and who you became.

Second, be brave enough to try and brave enough to fail.

University is one of the best times in life to explore new possibilities. Get involved in research, innovation projects, competitions, internships, and community service. Do not let the fear of failure keep you from seizing opportunities. In my experience, the most successful students are not always the smartest. They are often the ones who are willing to challenge themselves and keep moving forward when things become difficult.



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Third, in the age of artificial intelligence, learn to think independently.

AI can help us acquire knowledge, analyze problems, and even complete many complex tasks. Yet no matter how advanced technology becomes, the most precious human qualities remain curiosity, creativity, a sense of responsibility, and the ability to think independently. Use AI wisely, but do not depend on it. Embrace technology, but continue to think critically. Pursue success, but never forget your responsibility to society.

Dear students, university is not only a place to gain knowledge. It is a place to shape who you will become. I encourage you to stay passionate, be bold in exploration, dare to innovate, and strive to become the best version of yourselves. And when you graduate a few years from now, I hope you can proudly say: “I did not just earn a degree. I became a better person.”

Thank you, and welcome to the university family.