

**Dear Andy,**

This is you from the future, writing to you from 2024. You're currently an IT professional, and as I reflect on the time you spent at Baker House (Now "Lá: lem te Baker") from 2015 to 2017, there's so much I wish I could tell you.

If I could give you one piece of advice during your time at the residence, it would be to embrace the uncertainty. I know how challenging it was, especially in those first few months when everything felt overwhelming—new country, new people, new routines, and a new level of academic pressure, away from your family. But it was precisely these challenges that shaped who you are today. The late-night study sessions that tested your endurance, the social dynamics that pushed you out of your comfort zone, and even the moments of self-doubt—they all contributed to the resilience and problem-solving skills that have become your greatest strengths.

There was one particular moment at Baker that changed the course of your journey. It was the first time you volunteered in the residence under the guidance of Christine, the manager. This would lead to you becoming more open to people; how you connect and how to work as a team. These would then turn into valuable skills for your job today, as you are now part of a big IT team.

Since your time at Baker, you've grown in ways you never imagined. You've learned that growth doesn't happen without discomfort, and that failure is always a lesson. One of the key lessons you've carried with you is the importance of adaptability. In your personal and professional life, being able to pivot, learn, and adjust has been a game-changer. It has allowed you to navigate the complexities of the IT world and to rise to the challenges that are thrown at you.

To the new residents of Lá: lem te Baker, I would say this: don't be afraid to take risks and make mistakes. The challenges you face now are not obstacles, but opportunities for growth. Every experience, no matter how small, is a part of your journey. Embrace them all. And, take this opportunity to make friends and memories with them.

Looking ahead, the future is full of possibilities. You've set your sights on expanding your expertise in IT, with the possibility of specializing in networking, and you are doing so well your managers are happy with your performance.

Don't give up, Andy. You got this!

On that note, I shall leave you with the words of Staind's "So far away":

*Now that we're here*

*It's so far away*

*All the struggle we thought was in vain*

*All in the mistakes*

*One life contained*

*They all finally start to go away*

*Now that we're here it's so far away  
And I feel like I can face the day, and I can forgive  
And I'm not ashamed to be the person that I am today*

Warm regards,

**Andy Sew Chung Hong**

(Your Future Self)