

Global China Studies

An Elite undergraduate program

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2015

I have some good news to share with the students of our Global China Studies (GCS) Program. Last year, we did well in our student admission exercise. The number of our band A applicants have significantly increased. The employment rate of the graduates of our first batch of students is 90%, with 10% pursuing for full-time further studies or returning to their homeland. We have gained new internship partnerships in media, politics, social enterprise and the cultural sector. We have a student who joined the Administrative Service (AO) Summer Internship Program of the government, which is really an achievement. Another student has gone to Inner Mongolia to do her internship. In addition, with the generous support of Mr. S. C. Liu, students of the GCS program will benefit from sponsorships for international learning experiences such as exchanges, internships, conferences, seminars and competitions. All these news are encouraging to our program. I sincerely hope that our students will continue to work hard and also enrich and enjoy themselves by engaging in various co-curricular activities through which their skills and personalities will be developed.

Professor Simon Wong,
Associate Dean (UG), SHSS

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South Asian—HKUST Intercultural Summer Camp, 2015

I was very honored to organize a 2-day camp to serve teenagers from South Asian Countries. During these days I did not only have a better understanding towards those teenagers but also fulfilled my curiosity about their culture. Our society have conducted a small scale exhibition at our school related to ethnic minorities in late April this year and I became interested in those countries and I wished I could have a chance to meet some of them in order to learn more about their daily lives. I admired their attitudes towards their own cultures and they paid as much respect as possible to them although they were currently living thousands of kilometers away from their motherland. Their aspiration to carry on their own culture from past generations greatly impressed us.

— Law Kin Hey

Through the Summer Camp, I have learnt how to communicate and have cultural exchange with ethnic minorities. Seldom do I have chance to talk with ethnic minorities, but after this event, I have known more about their background, such as culture, tradition, leisure and social status. Besides, I was shocked by the fact that only 3% of ethnic minorities have the opportunity to enter a university, in contrast to the statistic that 14% of local students getting into tertiary education. It is not difficult to imagine that their social mobility is low and inter-generational poverty may become a vicious cycle in Hong Kong. Therefore, in my opinion, the government should implement more policies that increase ethnic minorities' access to education and enhance social mobility.

— Conway Wong

Internship

Hang Seng Bank



Taking a gap year to work in the One-year Internship of Hang Seng Bank has been the most challenging and exciting experience for me. I worked as an intern in the commercial banking talent acquisition department. My job

duties include handling hiring requests from businesses, recruiting the right candidates, follow through all recruitment stages and participating in various human resources projects. My job required constant communications with headhunters, businesses, recruitment managers, candidates and colleagues from other HR departments. It enabled me to widen exposure in the bank and brush up my client-servicing skills. I was surprised when I faced higher pressure at work than I experienced as a student at school. But through adapting to the new environment, I gradually acquired project, time and stress management skills, which are very beneficial to my study and future career. I am very glad that my school department has been very supportive of students taking internship opportunities. Department staffs were in contact with me all along and offered me workplace and career advice. The school encourages us to take more internship opportunities to explore our talents and interests in different career field. The one-year internship has encouraged me to challenge myself, step out of my comfort zone and live my university life to the fullest!

– Leung Nga Yan, Joanna

Administrative Officer Intern

I am really glad to have the valuable opportunity to work as an AO intern. During my three-month internship in the Narcotics Division, I have performed two major tasks. The first task was to carry out research on ketamine, which is the most commonly abused drug among the youths in Hong Kong. However, it is not under the international control and is only subject to national control. As a result, my research focused on finding more evidence to support that ketamine could fulfill the criteria for listing it on the international convention. At the end of my internship, I am asked to present my findings on this topic. My second task was to update and beautify the web-portal of the Narcotics Division's website and the Drug Information Centre's website. I have carried out regular checks on the websites to ensure that the information on the web is updated. If the information is outdated, my role will shift to work as a coordinator, which means that contacts have to be made with different teams for collecting the latest information. At the same time, I am responsible for drafting the FAQs on the websites. For the Drug Information Centre's website, I am responsible to give some new suggestions in improving the layout and content inside the web. Certain posters are also constructed for providing anti-drugs to parents. Apart from the above 2 job duties, my daily works includes undergoing research on certain other issues, to make anti-drug posters, powerpoint etc.

As a summer intern, I am glad that I could have the opportunity to participate in the regular meeting of the Action Committee Against Narcotics. As an observer, I have learnt a lot throughout the process like how different stake holders could negotiate and comprise. Other than that, there are still many other learning opportunities. For example, the opportunity to participate in one of the biggest event of the Narcotics Division held on 27 June, which is a day after the International Anti-drug Day. Prior to the event, I could attend their regular meeting for preparation and organization. There are also a variety of visiting programs that all summer interns are requested to participate. We visited to the ICAC, Tuen Mun District Council etc. One of the most unforgettable experiences was that I visited the CS's residence and had an afternoon talk with her.

This experience of working as an AO intern has been very unforgettable and rewarding. Through directly immersed in the government and working closely with AO, I understand more about the administrative work of the government.

– Lau Wing Yue, Victoria

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC)

For the opportunity to understand more about the business industry, I decided to apply for a gap year, and to intern in The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) after I finished my sophomore year of university study.

Over the year, I had the pleasure to work with Regional Teams from Europe, Asia Pacific, Americas, as well as the Middle East. This internship was radically different from my past experiences with other institutions. It is the diversity of responsibilities that keeps me excited every day: From developing and deploying new platforms and tools, to managing global wealth sales business performance review, my role has put me on a sharp learning curve.

While HSBC has great expectations of their trainees, it also provides ample development opportunities to its people. Through series of trainings, forums, mentorship programs, and networking events, I was

given great exposure to both the commercial and operational aspects of the business.

I am very thankful for being a Global China Studies (GCS) Student at HKUST. Not only for having the School's full support on academic and internship matters, but the GCS Program also equipped me with project management, problem-solving and people skills, which are transferable to all other contexts.

– Wong Pui Ka, Clare



Li & Fung (Trading) Company

This summer I had the opportunity to work as a summer intern for Li & Fung (Trading), one of the most reputable Hong Kong companies around the world. I worked in the Human Resource department along with the Compensation and Benefits team.

I find this one of the most fruitful experiences in my university life because it gave me an insight into working for a big multinational company. First of all, I learned new things about working in the Human resources including how does benefits (such as insurance, annual leaves, retirement plan, health benefits etc) work. Secondly, working in a business

environment I learned how to be more organized, meticulous and multitasking. Even my skills in using excel improved a lot during the time there. I was pleasantly surprised by the friendly attitude of my co-workers. We often participated in events together such as lunches, basketball games or happy hour gatherings. In Li & Fung, there is a very good mix of local and non-local workers and the working environment itself is bilingual as people use Cantonese and English equally often.

After taking this internship, what I want after graduation is to pursue a career in business. I strongly believe that both HKUST and GCS had already prepared me well for by developing my skills, knowledge, analytical and critical thinking. I feel privileged with my academic background that established my personality and exposed me to so many opportunities for development.

– Petar Zdravkov Petrov

Education for Good

This summer, I was given an opportunity to work for Education for Good (EFG), a company that has been dedicated to nurturing social entrepreneurs through tailored education programs.

I would like to summarize my EFG internship experience as “exploring uncertainty and being innovative”. I was always encouraged to think creatively, and to come up with the novel way to develop our projects. I assisted with doing research and promoting social business incubation program “Future U”, CSR tour program, and social entrepreneurship policy proposal. I am certain that I have greatly expanded my horizons with personal development. On top of that, as a foreigner, I was afraid that it would be challenging for to communicate effectively with colleagues and staff at the workplace. But, I was warmly welcomed and there was always good interaction among members. Through EFG experience, I have improved my communication skills as well as my great confidence. I was lucky to kick start my work experience with EFG. I hope that more students will engage in internship programs in GCS.

– Eunji Shin, Darcy



Teaching at Cambodia

I worked as a buddy teacher to assist the teacher in English and Maths for 2 months in Cambodia. This was really an unforgettable experience to stay in a developing country for a long time. Also, the kids here are very cute and eager to learn and speak English with me. I was so surprised that most of the students can speak English very well and they do not feel shy even they may speak wrongly sometimes. Therefore, I had a really great time with the kids and I love them very much. Besides my volunteer work, I also went to one of the World Heritage—Angkor Wat. It is very magnificent and I was so amazed that the people from a thousand years ago could build such a massive building. Overall, I really enjoy these 2 months and I would love to go back again soon.

– Li Kwan Yau, Tiffany



Non-Academic Awards Spotlight

Sheren Ku, Final-Year Student from GCS, was the runner-up in the “Student” Category for the 2015 Young PR Professionals Competition



From left to right: 2015 Young Public Relations Professionals Competition winners, Sasha Alwani, Scarlett Au, Abby Cheng and Sheren Ku

Our GCS student Chau Ching Lam, has brought home several medals with her swimming teammates in the Tianjin-HK Sports and Cultural Interflow Trip 2015 (Swimming Team! Congratulations!!

- 1st Runner-up of Women 50m Freestyle
- 2nd Runner-up of 100m Freestyle
- 1st Runner-up of 4x50m Freestyle relay
- 1st Runner-up of 4x50m Medley relay



Chau Ching Lam with the swimming team, 3rd of first row from left.



Our GCS student, Ip Tsz Ki, has won Hong Kong Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award 2014-15

GCS Exchange

@Sciences Po, Paris

In the past 6 months, I believe I have been through the most important time in my whole university life. I am very glad to study at Sciences Po, a top university in France.

Living in Paris has taught me a lot of things. The differences in language and living style were the barriers to me at first, but soon after they turned out to be one of the most valuable assets I have gained during the exchange. I definitely became more independent and improved time management, crisis management, and communication skills. In addition to studying hard, I also traveled across Europe. It is so exciting to relate everything what I studied through books before to the actual things.

The best thing that exchange has given me was not only from the classroom, but also from the friends I have made, the little things that I learned from living and traveling. This exchange experience has undoubtedly expanded my horizons and global exposure.

– Chan Sin Mei



@Seoul National University

Exchange in Korea is the most impressive experience I have ever had. It not only allows me to meet friends from various countries, but also enables me to understand myself in a deeper way. Korean is the first language that I learnt besides Cantonese, Mandarin and English.

Another kind of knowledge that I acquired is about their history and culture. As I had a chance to study two courses related to history and culture respectively, I have gained insights into Korean history from Stone Age period to 2014 and also a wide variety of culture including food culture,

language and architecture. Through attending lectures and fieldtrip organized by the professor, I have broadened my horizon towards Korean culture and history. In addition, I become more mature, patient and independent. During my exchange, I faced a lot of difficulties including language barrier, getting lost and adjusting to the cultural differences. Nonetheless, I overcame these barriers by myself successfully. All in all, exchange is such a precious opportunity that allows me to become a well-rounded person and explore the world.

– Ng Kai Sze

@York University, Toronto, Canada

Before going on exchange, I was a very quiet girl who was a bit afraid of trying new things. Being told to get out of my comfort zone, I aimed at making friends with English-speaking people only and trying things that I have never done before.

I had a group of very good friends who come from various countries ranging from Brazil to Pakistan. I learned a lot of things that I was not interested in at all before. Moreover, I was inspired by our conversations very often. Taking the viewpoints towards arranged marriage as example, before this exchange, I would have believed that women who were confined to arranged marriage only should feel bitter or constrained. But after the exchange, I found that my Pakistani friend actually enjoyed it as she thought it was a surprise given by her parents and she was looking forward to it. Ever since then, I always make sure that I contemplate on different viewpoints or cultures in a critical way.

This experience from my exchange was so impressive that it made me become more brave and be receptive of new things!

– Chong Hok Yin



@ Leiden University College the Hague, The Netherlands

The 5 months in the Netherlands has been a very rewarding experience for me. Academically, studying in a liberal arts environment in Europe has allowed me to view and think of global issues in a different perspective. I am especially impressed by the atmosphere of active discussion and sharing of different opinions in the Dutch classroom. Throughout the exchange I found myself being more able to express my own opinion and share my ideas in an academic setting.

Outside of the classroom, I have met and befriended with my Dutch classmates and other people I have met in school activities, exchange students gatherings, and during my travels. I have come to know more about people of different nationalities, and learnt not to perceive others because of our different habits, lifestyles, and attitude towards different aspects of life from my own "Hong-Konger perspective", but to appreciate different people's cultural backgrounds, personal experiences and upbringings. I believe that after these 5 months, I have grown into becoming more outspoken, understanding, and independent person.

– Law Ho Ching



@Tsinghua University

This is the first time I go to Beijing. I acquire the knowledge of the development and the overall situation of my motherland only from the textbooks and reports. I was excited to have opportunity to go to Beijing with the university students from Hong Kong. And the most interesting part of this summer exchange is that we went to different places of interest, such as the Summer Palace, the National Museum, the Forbidden City and so on. From the visits and travels, we get to know about the historical traces and monuments. All in all, this exchange was an unforgettable experience. I received good care from Miss Wang and the assistants of this program, they really took care of us, regardless of the difficulties we encountered during this trip. And we also felt the warmth from the people from both Mainland and Hong Kong. I hope that friendship between us will last even as the exchange camp ended.

– Li Siu Suet



@National Taiwan University

I had spent the whole regular semester in The National Taiwan University in Taiwan for exchanging and studying purposes, I approached to many things that I never experienced before during the exchange period and it was overall a wonderful journey. I have taken five courses during this semester in the host university, the content of these courses are quite impressive to me. I am impressed by the diversity of courses that organized by the host University such as courses of geography, Chinese law history and archeology.

In addition to studying, I have traveled to different tourist spots in leisure time and participated in some competitions held by the dormitory office. I observed that the attitudes towards life among Taiwanese in Taiwan are different from those in Hong Kong. Unlike Hong Kong people, Taiwan people seem not to care about the speed, they walk slowly, work carefree, with less pressure. All in all, I enjoyed the days spent in Taiwan and the host University, and I am convinced that all I have learned and explored from there would be useful to the rest of my student life.

– Hui Kai Yan

