

# Global China Studies

*An Elite undergraduate program*

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2016



GCS service learning program at Yim Tin Tsai Hakka Village, Spring 2016

This year, 2016, marks the fifth year anniversary of the launch of the Global China Studies (GCS) undergraduate program, offered by the School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS). Now in its sixth year (beginning September 2016), the program continues to go from strength to strength.

The quality of our new student intake remains high, the courses we offer to our students are diverse, and perhaps most important of all, our students continue to help make the program shine! To cite a few examples of our students excelling in terms of their performances: They have undertaken internships in a broad variety of leading local establishments (including the HKSAR Government), broadened their horizons as a result of their

overseas exchange experiences, and one student received a prestigious non-academic award.

We look forward to seeing the new, incoming cohort of GCS students continuing to exceed their previous cohorts, both in terms of their in-class distinctions as well as their out-of-class performances. Both venues serve to offer unique learning experiences for our students, and we look forward to reporting their achievements in future newsletters! Until then, please do take a few moments to read about some of the memorable experiences of our current students as they have ventured far and wide—both physically and intellectually.

**Professor Naubahar Sharif,**  
Acting Associate Dean (UG), SHSS

## Global China Studies Newsletter

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## Non-Academic Awards Spotlight

The final-year GCS student Yung Tak Lung Dorothy received Mr. and Mrs. Liu Sing Cheong and Wong Po Yuk Sponsorship for GCS International Learning Experience (2016/2017).





## Internship

### Administrative Officer Intern

In summer 2016, I was selected to participate in the "Administrative Service Summer Internship Program" and worked as an intern in Eastern District Office (EDO) of the Home Affairs Department (HAD). During my AO internship period, I worked closely with the Project Manager for the non-works component of Signature Project Scheme (SPS) and was responsible for monitoring district youth programs and community recreational activities.

Working as an AO was definitely not easy. I realized the challenges to policy making and implementation in a growing polarized society, especially at the district level. As our civil society is having increasing expectations and demands, balancing different interests has become more and more difficult. Issues such as effectiveness, feasibility, and consequences have to be considered carefully. Community engagement activities are often carried out in order to meet the ever-evolving needs of our society.

This valuable work experience has enabled me to further confirm my goal in pursuing a lifelong career in the field of civil services. Politics, policy and public administration are my keen interests. I am glad to be given a chance to work on something I am passionate about!

– Tsang Tsz Kit, Rax



### @ Maxim's Caterers Limited



Working at the Learning and Development Department of Maxim's Caterers Limited, my job duties included reaching potential partners, consolidating various data, and facilitating team-building activities. I could always observe people, in order to analyze the qualities that have led them to their current positions. It is a very interesting Humanities "field research" as well as a rewarding early workplace immersion which gets me equipped for future endeavors. I feel grateful for my benevolent colleagues

who walked me through my first internship. New to the workplace, I made mistakes at times. But they always taught me with patience and gave me ample encouragement, which motivated me to improve myself. Their support and kindness filled my first internship with all the very unforgettable memories, and I shall cherish them deeply.

– Mak Tin Yiu, Yoyo

### Business Internships

#### @ Nomura Investment Bank



I finished a 10-week internship at the investment bank Nomura from June 13 to Aug 19 in Operations Division, working at Collateral Management desk. My major responsibilities include: monitoring marked-to-market value of posted collateral, creating daily/weekly statements for clients, and advising if a margin call needs to be issued or responded. Apart from these, I also helped with daily business like dispute settlement, end-of-day exposure review, FX prime brokerage, and reviewing manual statements for PCCMA clients. I also participated in the project of intercompany Credit Support Annex review, and updated/created Standard Operating Procedure for existing tasks.

My studies in the GCS program, especially the courses I took in economy and politics, have offered me a deeper understanding of the banking industry and helped me consider China as a major target market for Nomura. By expanding the scope of learning, I get to understand the organization of the industry and how every desk/division is connected with each other.

– Liu Huixue, Sherry

#### @ Mad Head App Ltd.



I was given an internship opportunity at Mad Head App Ltd. by the Head Start Fellow Program. During the two months of internship, I was able to learn more about the gaming industry and how different elements were incorporated into making a fun mobile game.

I found this internship opportunity very valuable because I got to try out different positions in one company and had a taste in the actual working environment. Even though the atmosphere in the company was relaxing, people were very self-motivated and their works were always on time and nicely done. As an intern, I was blessed to have their help whenever I was in need. Apart from the job duties, the Head Start Fellow Program also held different gatherings and meetings in which we could join and communicate with successful business leaders and fellow participants. These activities widened my horizons and provided an opportunity for me to learn from the very best. It was an honour to be able to join this program.

– Lena Tsang



## Media Internships



### @ TVB

It was a valuable opportunity for me to work in the News and Information Division of TVB this summer. I worked in the China team for one and a half months and in the daily news desk for two weeks. During my two-month internship, I have been given two main tasks: searching and preparing summary of news of China for reporters; preparing news stories to be reported on air.

This internship has given me the opportunity to explore and participate in the operation of news reporting. It provided me with new insights on the job of being a reporter. This internship experience has been fruitful and unforgettable. I have improved my understanding of China and gotten to know the operation process of news reporting. I enjoyed this internship very much and feel thankful for being offered the opportunity to work in such a professional and renowned news report organization.

– LAI Tsz Tung, Natalie



### @ Yazhou Zhoukan

I chose to do my internship in Yazhou Zhoukan to get some first-hand experiences of the media industry. As an intern, I got involved in the process of magazine production, from the selection of news material to the final editing of the news story. The process did not only enable me to understand how news was processed to be a magazine story, but also, through the discussion with colleagues, I realized that, the political and economic theories could be effective analytical tools for comprehending and interpreting those current events around us. I feel fruitful to kick start my

work experience with Yazhou Zhoukan and thankful for the chance provided by the GCS program!

– Lin Yinghui, Lily



### @ Tai Wan Public Television Service

I was delighted to be chosen as one of first batch of interns for the Head Start Fellow Program and have the valuable opportunity to work at the Public Television Service, Taiwan (PTS). I was assigned to the Program Acquisition Section of Planning Department that deals with the purchase of different TV programs, movies, cartoons, and the post-production of TV programs. During the eight-week internship, I have had the chance to watch the filming of a live donation pledge and a famous kids program in Taiwan, the opportunity to attend numerous events such as press conferences and movie test screening. I performed my daily duties and obtained more knowledge from the processes of post-production, purchase of programs and the promotion works, especially after attending their frequent internal meetings. This overseas internship gave me the opportunity to interact with people of different cultural backgrounds, to be independent, and to be an enthusiastic learner and member in the company. I was lucky to be given such opportunity in my university life.

– Chan Wong Mei, Vivian

## Political and Social Services Internships

### @ Democratic Party

Joining the summer internship program in Democratic Party provides me a valuable opportunity to catch a glimpse of politics. In this internship, I worked as a community office assistant for Andrew Wan Siu Kin. One of the major tasks I performed was investigating policy platform, especially The New Territories Small House Policy. The most memorable task that I have done was translating the policy platform and it was later published in brochures! This translation experience has brought me a great sense of satisfaction. Only when we are willing to work hard can we build a solid bulwark for our community. It is crucial that we hold our hands together to strive for the betterment of Hong Kong.

– Chan Hiu Wing

### @ Hulu Culture

I was glad to have done my internship at Hulu Culture Limited for six weeks. During those weeks, I was responsible for external communications. Brushing up language skills was of critical importance. What I have learnt from the tutorials at UST helped my communication with other parties. The size of Hulu Culture was relatively small, which allowed me to participate more in the program. Although sometimes I encountered difficulties when sending courtesy notices to governmental departments and other NGOs, I then came to realize that it was essential for me to take the initiative to ask my mentor for suggestions. My mentor was always ready to offer ideas and help me solve the problems. Referring to precedent documents turned out to be very helpful in solving these kinds of communication problems as well. I was so thankful that SHSS and Hulu Culture Ltd gave me this real-life working experience.

– Siu Tsz Chun







# GCS Exchange

## @University of Virginia, USA



The four months in University of Virginia (UVA) was truly memorable and fruitful. Not only did I learn a lot academically, but I also learnt a lot about American culture, tried unique American experiences, made friends, and learnt to be independent. What is unique about UVA is the community bonding. Students in UVA all live together around ground either in dorms or rent a house with friends. This forms a very close community bonding because we are required to share every part of our daily life together even on weekends. One very special experience I had in UVA was the flag football game I played. Although I had already watched a few football games, there was nothing better than having the experience myself. Eventually we won the game, and yet for me winning the game was not the most important part of this experience. In all, I would say exchanging in UVA was a bit different from what I expected exchange life to be, but I never regret deciding to exchange in UVA. I believe that everyone I met, everything I learnt and every experience I had will be in my heart forever.

- Chan Wing Hang

## @York University, Toronto, Canada



In Fall 2015, I went to York University in Canada for an exchange program. I was assigned to the Liberal Arts faculty in the Keele Campus where I had much freedom in choosing courses in diverse divisions, including Science and Geography, and the chance to experience a different learning environment from that of HKUST. Lectures in York University are very interactive, professors always ask questions about your personal views towards some particular theories. They help students to form their individual learning experience by making them be more involved. Through workshops and participation, the aim of learning was achieved. In my spare time, I went to explore Canada with friends I made there. We went to the Niagara Falls, downtown Toronto, the Christmas market, and many other places. Overall, I am very satisfied with this exchange journey, the people I met here, the places I have been to, and the culture I have experienced in this country.

- Chong Hok Yin



## @Erasmus University of Rotterdam, the Netherlands

The life in Erasmus University of Rotterdam (EUR) is fast-paced. In this new environment, the arrangement of semester represents the most different perspective compared to HKUST. EUR breaks down the semester into two blocks with two to three courses in each block. This is a new tempo demanding the understanding as well as mastering of the course material under a packed schedule. However, you reap what you sow. I put a lot of efforts into the reading materials and discussion sessions not only to catch up with the class but also to develop my academic skills. During the exchange, I learnt to embrace my culture so as to present it confidently. More importantly, I have gained the courage to explore the field I never been to. Exchange program can be more than academic exchange, how much you gained depends on the extent to which you dare to explore the unexplored.

- Pun Tak Kong, Ricky



## @Leiden University College The Hague (LUC), the Netherlands



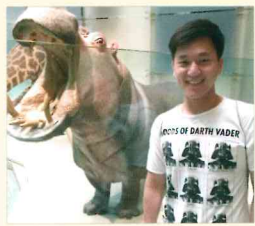
Going to Europe for an exchange study has been my dream. After studying in the Netherlands for a couple of months, I was not disappointed. Classes in the Leiden University College the Hague were relatively small, with 20 students per class at most, and were all in the mode of seminar. This mode of interactive teaching enabled students to raise questions and participate in discussions more actively. One of reasons that I chose the Netherlands as my destination of overseas exchange was because I wanted to experience Korfbal in the Netherlands, the place of origin for Korfbal. Joining a Korfbal Club in The Hague did not only help in Korfbal skills, but also helped me adapt into local culture and social life more easily as I became closer with my local Dutch teammates. All of my exchange experiences have helped me become a more mature, self-reliant, and responsible person.

- Kwok Sze Heung

## @The Catholic University of America, USA

During the four months of my exchange at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., I have experienced so much in terms of learning differences, cultural experiences, social life, academic studies, and people. In terms of courses, one of the biggest differences between HKUST and CUA is the variety. As I don't exactly have an equivalent major in CUA as I do in HKUST (which is Global China Studies), I have a greater flexibility in choosing courses. Apart from the freedom in the choices of courses, the learning and teaching method is also very different. During my study at CUA, I noticed that a lot of professors actually did not rely on PowerPoint slides or any other kinds of notes for teaching, they simply spoke without any visual aids. Therefore I had to pay 100% attention, and could not wonder off just even a second. Because once I did that, I would miss out what the professor has said. In addition to a diversity of learning experiences, CUA also provides a great number of opportunities for students to experience life in D.C. To conclude, I have been really satisfied with my first semester of exchange at CUA in D.C. Basically I was experiencing something different and new, be it big or small, in every single day during my stay.

- Ng Kai Sze



## @ University of Copenhagen, Denmark



It was a great pleasure to exchange in the University of Copenhagen and have a taste of the life in the world's happiest nation. Throughout the exchange journey, I have gained and learnt more than what I expected. The environment of University of Copenhagen is very nice, there are different campuses and they are mixtures of modern and traditional architectural styles. Since I love doing voluntary work and have done a lot of social services in Hong Kong, I applied for being a volunteer in Copenhagen Unicef and they arranged me to be a volunteer in the UN-City gift shop. It was the first time for me to learn how to run a shop by using the machine and offering help to foreign customers. Throughout the whole exchange journey, not only did I know more about the world, but more importantly, I also knew more about myself. I have also learnt to try more different things and step out from my comfort zone.

- Chiu Tsz Ching, Jenny

## @Sciences Po, Paris

It was such a privilege to study in the Sciences Po Reims Euro-American campus where the formation of class was more culturally all-rounded and diverse, unlike in the other campuses where exchange students were separated. Students in Sciences Po Reims are very knowledgeable and active. Everyone was all prepared to discuss in class and ready to offer insightful thoughts from their own backgrounds, especially in the World Politics seminar where African, American and Chinese students always ended up having the most heated discussions. When I had some leisure time from studying, I went to other parts of Europe and found that the western world was quite different from where I used to live, in terms of their culture, knowledge, thoughts, values, architectures, and many other things. Overall, the five months in France was one of the most fruitful periods in my life.

- Lui Yuk Chuen, Adrian

