

Global China Studies

An Elite undergraduate program

GCS NEWSLETTER, FALL 2017

Yimtintsai Service Learning Program in UK

GCS is a unique program for intellectual growth, personal development and career preparation. One of its hallmarks is the diverse opportunities for students to pursue learning and understanding outside the classroom and to expand their horizons beyond the local space. The 2016-2017 academic year has seen continued enthusiasm and appreciation for the field trips, internships and exchanges that have been made available to GCS students. Through the fruitful experiences shared by participants in different settings, the reports featured in this newsletter well illustrate the value and utility of their endeavors. We have every reason to reinforce our support and to explore new possibilities. And we look forward to more wonderful stories in the years to come.

Professor Yi-min Lin,
UG Associate Dean, SHSS

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Interview with a former Yimtintsai villager while she was showing photos of her playing Chinese opera in UK.

During this trip, we visited different families that were from the Yim Tin Tsai Village but moved to the UK between the 50s and 80s or even earlier. We have conducted interviews with these villagers and they shared with us their unique experiences living in the UK and HK, such as working for the laundry shops, Chinese Restaurants and the takeaway shops in the UK; getting married and bringing their families to the UK. They also shared their views on cultural differences and personal values. One of the most special experiences we had was that we were invited to one of the families for a traditional Sunday-dinner served with traditional British food, such as roasted lamb and beef, vegetables that were rarely found in Hong Kong. The host family generously shared their personal stories about different cuisine cultures with us, which provides a glimpse on the changes of their life experiences after their transition to UK. In all, this service-learning trip to UK has been extremely fruitful and rewarding and will be part of the unforgettable and cherished experiences in my university life.

- **CHAN Wong Mei**



Gathering with former Yimtintsai villagers in Manchester in a local Chinese restaurant.

The service-learning trip was organized by Prof. Cheung Siu-woo from our school. We received several lectures by a professor about some backgrounds of the trip, Hong Kong emigration history and the way of conducting interviews before going to Britain in June. Among the entire two-week journey, we interviewed about 20 emigrants from Yim Tim Tsai Village, a small village outside Sai Kung. During our trip, we mainly focused on the emigrants from three cities: Hull, Manchester, and Leeds. We usually conducted interviews at the villagers' homes and restaurants. Most of them were willing to tell us about their stories in the village and Britain and we have learned a lot about their family histories and their life experiences in living in the UK. From conversations with them, I deeply admired the incredible perseverance, intelligence, and diligence they demonstrated in building their own lives and businesses in a foreign country.

- **KWONG Chun Pong**

Internship

@ Hong Kong Maritime Museum

The internship at Hong Kong Maritime Museum lasted for 6 weeks and it was truly an inspiring experience, as working in the education team made me able to demonstrate my own creativity while serving the whole marketing team. The first three weeks were so much fun. I worked under the education team and my responsibilities included creating activities, leading

guided tours for fellow students, and making handcrafts for our young participants. The second three weeks were kind of stressing as I was shifted to marketing and fundraising team. Although I felt I belonged more to the education team, in general I have

achieved satisfactory learning outcomes and the experience was very rewarding.

– CHEUNG Yuek Man



@ Enlighten – Action for Epilepsy

During my internship in Enlighten I assisted the organization in preparing for its Paint the Town Purple 2017 Closing Ceremony, in which I drafted

letters to request sponsorships and invited supporting organizations to attend the ceremony; drafted welcoming speech for the Chief Director and script for the emcee; and dealt with logistical arrangements etc. Throughout my internship in Enlighten I have indeed learnt a lot. Despite facing difficulties during our outreach project, I learnt to listen attentively and to give my best advice to patients and their careers. I was also able to communicate quite well with my colleague and team members. I would consider pursuing a career in this field when I graduate.

– CHAN Yuk Yin Tiffany



@ Intangible Cultural Heritage Office

The summer internship provided by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office was a memorable experience. The experience that impressed me most was to keep contact with a traditional handicraft making company and negotiated with them on the price issue about a dragon's body, which provided me a chance to know more rituals about Dragon dance, Lion dance and Unicorn dance of some traditional festivals in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the

skills of event organizing and teamwork I acquired through interacting with different people in various activities and voluntary services were also extremely helpful. I have gained new knowledge and met new friends from this internship and have successfully achieved my intended outcomes.

– LAI Ka Fai



@ Civic Party

During my internship, the most important task I have performed was dealing with several cases of the neighborhoods in Lei Muk Shue Estate. Communicating with the elders and those who are in need, it gave me a strong motivation to help them to solve their difficulties. I think I have performed well in organizing files and documents. My strength is that I have a high concentration and I was able to dial to people while inserting a lot of information. I am glad to be one of the intern students in Civic Party. It has broadened my horizons as I have learnt more about my future career want to pursue. It offers me a precious opportunity to accomplish the fundamental responsibility as a Hong Kong citizen.



– CHAN Hiu Wing

@ See Network

The first project I was assigned to was working on a qualitative research about compiling a secondary school textbook with my partner. The second project I got involved was about qualitative research for the coming Chief Executive Election. I was advised to utilize another database--WiseNews--to collect, sort out and analyze a particular amount of newspaper in the past by adopting random sampling approach. In addition, my job task also requires data sorting and sometimes paraphrasing. In a nutshell, the internship is rewarding in many aspects--I get to know about the real industry, make friends and build up my network.



– WOO Shun Yee

@Sai Kung District Community Centre (SKDCC)



It was a meaningful summer to me as I was working in the Sai Kung District Community Centre (SKDCC) and responsible for the Rehabilitation Project for Sai Wan

Area. I was involved in planning of guided tours—an important task in the whole the. I prepared routes, introduction of the tours and each attraction as well as worksheets and questionnaires for the tours. I also assisted in interviews with local dwellers. I am satisfied with my performance during my internship because I have finished my assigned tasks efficiently. After being an intern in SKDCC, I am interested in pursuing a career here.

– YUEN Pui Yee

@TVB

During my internship at TVB, I was given a variety of different tasks in three different teams, from China Desk to Sub Desk to Hong Kong News group. To a large extent my intended learning outcomes have been achieved. I just wish I had been more at ease when filming and delivering in front of the cameras. This internship was an once-in-a-lifetime chance for me, because I had never thought of trying out in the media field. It was a blessing that the seniors and colleagues in TVB were willing to teach and help me whenever I encountered setbacks.



– Lena TSANG



GCS Exchange

@York University, Canada

During my time abroad, I enjoyed every single part of it. Even though there may be challenges, there is always a positive side in everything. One of the many problems everyone would face when studying abroad must be to revolve around the course registration process. Luckily, after sending email directly to the exchange team in York and Polly, all the problems were resolved. The university offered different kinds of teaching styles. The blend course that I registered required more self-discipline than other subjects because I would have to watch the online lecture every week for attendance taking. The TA and fellow classmates were really nice and they tried their best to answer my questions and even suggested some online groups for me to join. My exchange experience would not have been as fulfilling and enjoyable if it were not for the help from my parents, friends and school staff at UST. I would really want to express my gratitude to everyone who helped me throughout the whole process.



- Lena TSANG



@ University of Connecticut, US

4 months of exchange, 11 close friends, 8 great cities or places which I have never been to prior to this trip, 1 special person who I would never forget, and lots of unforgettable memories—this exchange was truly one of the life changing experiences in my life.



The most rewarding part of this exchange is to get to experience the true American culture in person. As a student majoring in Global China Studies, I have always been intrigued to learn more about this vast and globalized country. To be able to get to visit this influential nation was certainly a dream coming true for me. For instance, I visited the Capitol, Supreme Court US, the White house, and the New York City's United Nation Headquarters. The academic life of UCONN is also greatly rewarding and interesting. The study atmosphere in the States is simply more interactive and energetic. Students are encouraged to participate lively in class and comment on various issues touched upon in class. Thus, I did take some time to adapt to this very totally new study environment, and tried my best to blend into the classes. It allows me to become a well-rounded person and explore the world.

- LAM Cheuk Yuet

@ Peking University

Being an exchange student in Peking University has been definitely one of the most unforgettable memories in my university life. In Peking University, I was able to register all courses as my faculty - Yuanpei College allows students to choose their major after they have found their own interests and strengths. I enjoyed this freedom too. I have taken a course about Greek history and its movies, courses about women history, a course about Chinese relationship with the world—all of which gave me a deeper understanding of the relationship between history and culture. The knowledge I learnt from all these subjects really helped me pave my study path.



- AU YEUNG Wing Ki

During my exchange at Peking University, I was enrolled in the School of International Studies (SIS), majoring in Diplomacy. The nature of teaching at PKU is quite different to that of HKUST. The courses at PKU are teaching-based rather than research-based and focus on the learning and memorisation of theories. There is no way to judge which method is better, since the process of learning in itself involves a balance of input and output. In fact, I came to enjoy this textbook-oriented way of learning. In my view, simply taking its courses is insufficient to fully experience PKU. The heart of PKU lies in its dense history and its student societies. It is through participating in different extracurricular societies that we get a deep insight of PKU's campus life and foster long-lasting friendships. Exchange is a time when you can step out of your every-day routine, try something new, and return home with a refreshed outlook. This recount is largely a personal reflection of my own experiences.



- Ji Caixuan



@University of Copenhagen

When I arrived Denmark in the late of August, I soon realized that the rhythm of life in Denmark is very slow. The living culture in Denmark was quite different compared to that in Hong Kong. The Danes have a good balance between life and work. I studied three subjects in the University of Copenhagen: Danish Language, Course in Danish Culture, and Danish Architecture and Urban Design. Studying a foreign language is a little bit hard for me but it was worth taking it as it helped me a lot in daily life. Taking a Danish Culture course in the university provided me some basic information about the current Danish culture from different perspectives. Studying architecture and urban design in Europe is very interesting since most of the architecture in Europe has a very long history. In sum, my life and study in Denmark has been a rewarding and pleasant experience.

- LAU Ming Fung

@Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), the Netherlands



My exchange experience at EUR has trained me to become more independent. I found it challenging when first arriving at Rotterdam because I had no idea about the Netherlands and Rotterdam. On the first day of arrival, I spent almost 20 minutes, with two large languages and two hand-carry bags, finding the entrance of the dormitory. Such experience is memorable as it reminds me of how I started my journey on my own. In terms of academic life, I have taken five courses during the exchange, including courses from arts and culture studies faculty, history faculty and business school. These courses gave me a deeper understanding of the country and its culture. This exchange experience does not only enhance my academic knowledge, more

importantly, it has taught me to be independent and broadened my horizons.

- LAI Tsz Tung



@Sciences Po, France



The learning environment in Sciences Po is impressive. The importance of interactions among classmates was highly valued. Discussions and team projects are common. Almost every lesson required students to discuss among themselves. Students had the passions to share their viewpoints in ways that would amaze you. I have gained more confidence in expressing my opinion after this exchange experience.

Besides, France has a favorable geographical advantage that its proximity to other European countries enables me to travel more during the holidays. As I have day offs on Monday and Friday, I can grab the weekend to go travel. Therefore, I have traveled to Belgium, Luxembourg, Amsterdam, the UK, Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen and Malmö during this exchange journey. I have enjoyed this exchange experience a lot.

- WONG Ka Kei