
一個機會能夠體驗及了解作為一個資訊工程師的工作，當然要積極參與，若能夠得到一個席位，對未來的工作必有幫助。

上班的日子與我想像中的生活並不完全一樣，挑戰性相當大，導師們給予的工作大多都是我從未接觸過的，例如Python對我來說是一個全新的語言，很多時候都要自己去摸索如何用這個全新的語言去寫一個程式。經過不同階段的資料搜集，同學們的幫忙以及導師、學長們的指點，總算能一步一步地踏上軌道。

另一樣印象比較深刻的就是與客人的溝通。很多時候導師們給予的工作，是要求我編寫程式，單在計劃、交談的過程當中已可能會有許多不明白的地方，即使最後能完作工作，但完成品卻未必與導師想要的一樣，令我明白到作為一個程式設計師，與客人維持良好的溝通是必須重視的一環，否則很有可能完成的作品並不是客人想要的。

總括而言，我認為在這個實習計劃中了解到一間電子工程公司如何運作，並且能親身體驗一下工作環境，學懂了新的編寫程式技巧及加強了溝通能力，實在是獲益良多。

Exchange Study Programme

Once-in-a-lifetime Exchange in Tampere University of Technology, Finland

CHAN Chi Kin

BENG3-ECE, Yr 3

My Blog

Participating in student exchange programme is literally the best decision I have made in my whole university life. I have not only learned a lot, but also enjoyed my exchange life very much. I made foreign friends, I travelled around, and I studied with foreign students... All these are joyful experience in my life.

Just arrived

Finally I arrived in Finland. It had been the first time I saw snow

in my life. It was so beautiful and the temperature was not as cold as I thought. I had the feeling right away that I would love this country.

Orientation

The first week was the orientation week. Our tutors toured us around the school and the city center as well. Finland is big and I thought I would need some more time to get familiar with the facilities around.

My place

I lived in a shared apartment with other 5 people. The place was not as big as I imagined, but it was still good enough for me. The kitchen was quite big, and most of other students cooked for themselves, I guessed I would have to learn some cooking during these months. There was a sauna on the ground floor; My flat mate told me that Finnish would do sauna very often. I must try it out sometime.

My first class

I thought there would be many Finnish students in my class, but it turned out that most of the classes I attended were designed for international students. That was disappointing because I wanted to make more Finnish friends. I also registered the course Finnish for beginners, and I hoped that it would not be too difficult.

People I met

I met some Singapore guys in the orientation events. They are funny. I thought we would become good friends. One of them liked HK songs and music very much and even asked me to teach him the correct pronunciation of the lyrics. And they also treated me to a dinner. They are really nice!

Out of classroom

My friends and I travelled to quite a lot of places during our holidays. We once went to Lapland, which is the northern part of Finland, to the Santa Claus village and wondered that if we could see the northern light. However, unfortunately, we were not lucky enough to see the northern light during that weekend. But at least we enjoyed a pleasant time together and we also went skiing together!

Money

Before I went to Finland, I was worrying about the financial issue

quite a lot because I heard that the living expense in northern Europe is very high. However, I was over-worried. If you eat outside that will certainly be very expensive, but if you cook for yourself, that will be just a little bit more expensive than HK. Normally the price of the stuff in Finland is about double of it in HK. I cannot say it is cheap, but I think it is acceptable. At least I spent less money than I thought.

Goodbye

I had a strongly mixed feeling. On one hand, I missed HK, I missed my friends, I missed my family, and I missed HK food. On the other hand, I was afraid that I could not make myself love the HK life style again. Finland is so quiet, living pace in which is so slow, and the place is not crowded at all. All these are very different from HK. One day, I will visit the place again.

Home sweet home

My exchange life has changed me quite a lot. I know how to quiet at least in public areas and on public transportation. Also, I am more helpful as well. These behaviors were subconsciously inserted into my mind. I think this is the most interesting part brought by experiencing others' cultures: it will affect your personalities without consciously knowing it!

Sharing and Overall rating

If you are considering whether an exchange is worth going, I can tell you: just join it, you won't regret. Trust me. The world is too big, and we are so small. HK is just a tiny little point in the world map. If you don't go to more places, at the end of your life, you will regret for having missed the chance. Catch this once-in-a-life-time chance to broaden your horizons.

I will certainly give my overall exchange experience the highest rating of "5".



My Valuable Exchange Experience in University of Maryland

SHEN Hengyi

BENG3-INFE, Yr 3

My Blog

US is a completely different place from Hong Kong. It has vast lands, great environment, countless sports fans, various pubs... . Every unique aspect is worth a taste!

Just Arrived...

On one hand, I felt very excited when I stepped on the land of US. On the other hand, a completely different environment made me nervous too. However, people there are so friendly that they will always try best to help you. So don't hesitate to ask for help.

The residence room is very comfortable. In the beginning, I was quite worried about safety problem when I first arrived there as I overheard that college park has a high crime rate. However, the situation was not so terrible as I thought. Do the right thing and be cautious, then you will be fine.

Orientation

University of Maryland hosted an orientation for exchange students a week before the start of semester. And I think the orientation is very useful.

I made a lot of friends in that activity and hang out with some of them for the whole exchange period. Besides, during the orientation, I got a large amount of information, including how to use facilities in residence, how to get along with American students, where to seek help, etc..

My Place

I love student residence in University of Maryland. 5 students share an apartment and we have kitchen, sitting room and large bedrooms. It feels like home! We can cook together and enjoy movies in the dorm.

Also, there are basketball courts and stadium close to the student residence. Moreover, everywhere is grasslands. During weekends, students lie on the grasslands, chatting, reading and enjoying the sunshine.