FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS SUMMER EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES PARTICIPANTS

BBA, Accounting Concentration
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

The summer school program lasted about a month. I took the "Digital Media & Visual Art" course at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

The staff at NTU are very warm and responsible. Before the program started, they held several online introduction and Q&A sessions to help us get used to studying and living in Singapore. On the first day, they also arranged ice-breaking games to help us get to know each other and learn together.

Our classmates came from all over the world. Some were from Hong Kong, and others came from Korea, the UK, the US, and Denmark. We learned the basic structure and principles of cameras, and image editing techniques together. These are very basic but useful skills.

Our teacher was both strict and friendly, and he was good at inspiring us to think. He encouraged us to ask questions after each class, which helped us review what we had learned. Near the end of the programme, he took us to the National Gallery Singapore. He personally introduced the history of the building, which used to be a courthouse and city hall. He also recommended exhibitions featuring He Xiangning and other female artists and kindly gave us plenty of time to explore the gallery on our own.

In my free time, I often went out to explore this garden city. I enjoyed the poetic atmosphere of Fort Canning Tree Tunnel in the afternoon, the melancholy sunset at Sentosa Beach, the glittering Marina Bay Sands and Merlion at night, the lively street food vibe at Lau Pa Sat, and the old Chinese-style streets at Chinatown Complex and People's Park Centre. All these made me fall in love with this young country that is also full of history.

Overall, this was a very meaningful experience. I not only gained knowledge, but also got to see the diverse culture of Singapore, where Chinese, Indians, Malays and other races live together. I also made new friends from around the world. This experience gave me more courage to step out of my comfort zone and broaden my horizons.

BA, Translation
University of Leeds, United Kingtom



My summer abroad experience at the Leeds International Summer School (LISS) at the University of Leeds was truly amazing. I expected to gain new knowledge through classes and experience life in the UK before the programme started. However, the experience gave me much more than that. I have become more independent through the experience of living abroad on my own. Also, I felt more comfortable stepping out of my comfort zone and embracing new ideas and respectives.

Academically, studying in a different educational environment allowed me to experience new approaches to learning. I attended two modules and both of them encouraged active participation. The most distinctive feature between lectures in Hong Kong and the UK I observed is that there were much more discussions with students from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds in the UK. Every student in the class gets a chance to speak. Rather than simply receiving information from lecturers, I was expected to share my own views, respond to different perspectives, and work collaboratively with others. This helped me become more confident in expressing myself in English. I also found out that meaningful learning often comes from exchanging ideas, asking questions, and being open to ideas that differ from my own.

One of the most memorable aspects of LISS was meeting people from different countries and cultures. Through group work, conversations, social activities, and daily interactions, I learned that people may have very different communication styles, habits, and assumptions. I became more aware of the importance of explaining my ideas clearly, listening carefully before making assumptions, and respecting either side in a discussion. These experiences strengthened my intercultural communication skills and reminded me that cultural understanding is not only about learning facts about another country, but also about showing respect to one another in real interactions.

Living abroad also helped me develop greater independence. Managing my own schedule, travelling around an unfamiliar city, preparing for classes and deadlines, and solving small daily problems required me to take responsibility for myself. In the month living abroad, I gradually learned to be responsible of myself and become more comfortable outside my usual routine. These challenges made the experience meaningful, as they showed me that personal growth often happens when we are willing to step beyond what feels familiar.

The city of Leeds also contributed greatly to my experience. Exploring the city and its local culture allowed me to see everyday life in the UK beyond the classroom. I often walked to the city centre with my friends after class. Leeds is an extremely peaceful and student-friendly city. Being immersed in this environment allowed me to observe and compare the history, everyday life, and cultural diversity with life in Hong Kong.

Overall, my summer exchange at the University of Leeds was a valuable opportunity for academic learning, cultural exchange, and self-development. I returned with improved confidence in English communication, stronger intercultural awareness, and a greater adaptability to unfamiliar situations. Most importantly, the experience inspired me to stay open-minded and to continue to seek opportunities and learn from people and places beyond my own cultural background.





BSocSc, Geography

Linköping University, Sweden

The summer abroad began with a welcome dinner. I met students from Singapore and Vietnam, and our conversation moved easily from favorite foods and hometown traditions to why we chose this program. We compared the ways we greet each other in our languages, traded tips about navigating the city, and realized how similar our hopes for the summer were. By the end of the night, I wasn't just memorizing names; I was picturing future plans with new friends.

A few days later, those plans took the shape of a hike. We set out early, backpacks light and conversations easy, following a trail that threaded through trees and opened to views that made the city feel both far away and beautifully close. We swapped snacks, took turns setting the pace, and told home stories that stretched beyond small talk. Along the way, we taught each other simple phrases from our languages and laughed at our accents, learning to be patient with ourselves and each other. Reaching the lookout felt like more than a physical milestone which it was a shared moment that made our new friendships feel real.

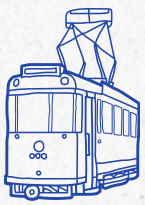
What I didn't expect was how much these simple experiences would shift my sense of belonging. The dinner and the hike reminded me that a place becomes yours when you connect with the people in it. I learned that stepping outside my comfort zone doesn't always require grand gestures. Sometimes it's saying hello, asking a curious question, or showing up for a walk. As the summer unfolds, I want to keep that openness to keep exploring together, to keep listening and to carry these friendships beyond this season and into whatever comes next.

BBA, Finance

KU Leuven, Belgium

Three weeks at KU Leuven felt like a breath of fresh academic air. The university's rich history is palpable in every cobblestone corridor, yet its spirit is utterly modern and international. Lectures were rigorous but engaging, fostering deep discussions with classmates from across the globe.

Beyond the classroom, I fell in love with the city's charming streets, the aroma of freshly made waffles, and the lively chatter in its many cafés. The experience was an intense, immersive crash course in Belgian culture and independent learning. I leave not just with new knowledge, but with lasting friendships and a profound appreciation for European academic life.



BBA, Economics and Data Analytics Concentration
Seoul National University, South Korea

My SNU summer school experience was one of the most meaningful and memorable academic experiences I have had. From the beginning of the program, I felt welcomed by the university, the professors, and the other students. Seoul National University has a beautiful campus with a strong academic atmosphere, and studying there gave me the opportunity to experience life at one of Korea's most respected universities.

The classes were well organized, interesting, and intellectually stimulating. The professors were knowledgeable and approachable, and they encouraged students to participate actively in discussions. I appreciated that the courses were not only focused on lectures but also included group work, presentations, and opportunities to exchange ideas with classmates from different cultural and academic backgrounds. This made the learning experience more interactive and enjoyable.

One of the best parts of the summer school was meeting students from all over the world. Everyone came with different perspectives, experiences, and interests, which made conversations both inside and outside the classroom very meaningful. Through these interactions, I learned more about other cultures while also sharing my own. The friendships I made during the program became an important part of my experience.

In addition to academics, the cultural activities were a highlight of the program. Through organized trips and events, I was able to learn more about Korean history, traditions, food, and modern society. Exploring Seoul was exciting because the city combines tradition and innovation so naturally. Visiting historical sites, trying Korean dishes, and experiencing local daily life helped me understand Korea beyond what I could learn from books or online resources.

The SNU campus itself also contributed greatly to the experience. It was peaceful, spacious, and full of student energy. The facilities were convenient, and the environment made it easy to focus on studying while also enjoying campus life. Living and studying in Seoul allowed me to become more independent and confident, especially when navigating a new city and communicating with people from different backgrounds.

Overall, my SNU summer school experience was academically valuable, culturally enriching, and personally rewarding. It helped me broaden my worldview, improve my communication skills, and gain confidence in an international environment. I left the program with new knowledge, lasting friendships, and unforgettable memories. I would highly recommend SNU summer school to anyone who wants to challenge themselves academically while experiencing Korean culture in a meaningful way.

BBA, Finance

Korea University, South Korea

Korea was an excellent choice for my summer exchange, especially for someone who did not want to travel too far from home.

Seoul's public transport is efficient and convenient. Even exploring places outside the city only took about two hours each way. Language was also less of a concern than I expected, as many Koreans can communicate in English. Also, Korea is a shopper's paradise:)

I also fell in love with the campus. Korea University has a long history and beautiful architecture. Safety was another factor that put me at ease. Compared to many other study abroad destinations, Korea felt very secure, which gave me the confidence to even take a solo trip during my free time.

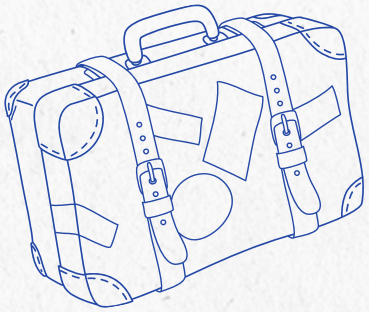
Overall, this summer was a perfect balance of learning, exploration, and personal growth. I am grateful for the experience.

BCOMM, Public Relations and Advertising

University of Seoul, South Korea

I met a lot of friends from different countries. We hanged out and explored Seoul every day. We practiced Korean together and my Korean has a great improvement now. Besides, the host institution has held some field trips.

Therefore, we have a chance to go to some Korea traditional places and try to play Taekwondo. We have also tried many different kinds of Korean food and immersed in their culture. This summer abroad experience is very interesting and insightful.



BCOMM, Public Relations and Advertising
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

My summer abroad experience was both challenging and rewarding. Stepping out of my comfort zone helped me grow personally and academically. Living in a new country forced me to adapt quickly, from using unfamiliar public transport to managing daily tasks in another language.

I met many new friends from diverse backgrounds, which broadened my understanding of global cultures. Our late-night conversations created bonds that will last beyond the program. The academic topic we explored was inspiring, encouraging critical thinking and connecting theory to real-world issues. It sparked ideas for my future research and boosted my confidence in expressing opinions in English.

However, the high cost of living was a concern. Daily expenses, especially transport and accommodation, were much higher than expected, requiring careful budgeting. Overall, this experience broadened my horizons and strengthened my independence, making it a memorable chapter in my life.

BBA, Accounting Concentration
University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

I had a great time there, expanded my social circle with friends from around the world, learnt about their cultures. The learning experience is very different from Hong Kong, we had a lot of chances to speak in English and share our own thoughts, in which more willingly to share personal ideas. Food is not too good in UK but acceptable, be prepared to cook by yourself. The sightseeing is great, many cute buildings. Best way to explore is student exchange!

BBA, Accounting Concentration
Fudan University, Chinese mainland

After a summer abroad experience in Shanghai, I was left with a deep impression of the city, as it is widely recognized as an international financial hub. The skyline of Shanghai, whether by day or night, is just as beautiful as the one in Hong Kong. Beyond the cityscape, Fudan University provided practical courses in various fields related to traditional Chinese culture, such as Chinese medicine, kung fu, and folk dance.

Furthermore, the university organized meaningful extracurricular activities, including exploring Shanghai, a "Language Light" exchange, and a farewell party, which allowed students from diverse backgrounds and languages to interact. Regarding daily campus life, the main campus at Fudan University is quite large, so shared bicycles played an important role in traveling between major campus facilities and the metro station. Overall, I felt very satisfied with the experience, as it gave me a wonderful and unique time in Shanghai.

BASc, Arts and Technology
Waseda University, Japan

Reflecting on my summer abroad experience, my month at Waseda University was truly transformative. I not only expanded my academic abilities but also broadened my social circle. Everyone I met was remarkably kind and welcoming. I made friends not only with fellow summer program participants, but also with students from HKUST and other universities.

The Student Assistants from Waseda did a fantastic job fostering connections among international students. They organized various cultural activities that helped us immerse ourselves in local traditions—from visiting a traditional summer festival and playing with handheld fireworks to joining Japanese language tables. We had an incredible time together, and it was genuinely a great opportunity to build global friendships.

Moreover, living abroad and connecting with people from diverse backgrounds continuously challenged my assumptions. It showed me just how many possibilities exist in life and reminded me that we shouldn't simply project Hong Kong's social norms onto every cultural context. Learning to embrace an independent perspective was one of my biggest takeaways. Overall, it was truly a life-changing experience.

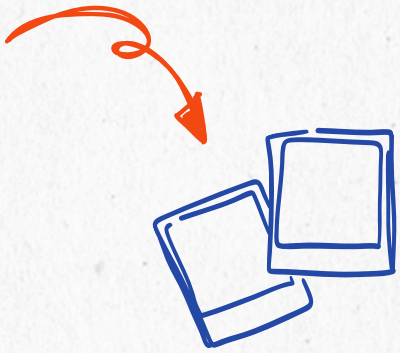
BA, Translation, Interpreting and Intercultural Studies
Maynooth University , Ireland

It has been a wonderful experience. The curriculum structure was very unique, and the professors were among some of the most interesting and experienced people you could encounter.

They provided much guidance and new perspectives. The host institution also offered plenty of opportunities for exploration of nearby cities such as Dublin and Galway. When you open yourself to meet new people and immerse yourself in the culture, you will certainly have a good time here.

BBA, Marketing
Yonsei University, South Korea

This 4-week summer abroad jpurney at Yonsei was an incredibly rewarding and unforgettable experience. I took the Korean Pop Culture and Korean Wave course, which was far more engaging than I expected. Every class included in-depth discussions covering diverse Korean cultural topics like K-beauty, Korean history and K-pop etc. I got the chance to exchange my unique perspectives with classmates from different countries.



BA, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Before my departure, I was expecting Germany to be a country of efficiency. Indeed, the cashier moved at double speed. Most people play by the rules, and most do stop at red lights. One slightly concerning thing was that people were not very used to Asian faces and would sometimes stare.

I planned to explore the continental tradition of philosophy and the possibility of pursuing a postgraduate degree in Germany. I took the 'German Philosophy: From Kant to Habermas' course. Despite not being the biggest fan of it, it really demonstrated to me another way of doing philosophy, with a stress on context and history. This approach gave me a better sense of Germany's historical development as a nation. I am glad that I participated in the course before applying to any German postgraduate programme.

I am grateful for my flatmates, who were friendly and open. My Milan flatmate Luca demonstrated the balance between efficiency and the pursuit of taste, and not to mention, he taught me some random Italian words. Seeing my flatmate Julia with her family made me realise that family can be a source of strength.

I realise that I am more relaxed and friendly in a different setting; I hope that even after returning to Hong Kong, I can still maintain that part of myself.

BBA, Information Systems and Business Intelligence
Copenhagen Business School , Denmark

My summer exchange in Denmark flew by, and it was an unforgettable experience! Living completely on my own for the first time took some major getting used to—figuring out how to handle everything independently was definitely a steep learning curve. But stepping out of my comfort zone and tackling those daily challenges made me so much more independent. It was an amazing ride, and I've come back much more self-reliant!

