

Wong Tit-shing Student Exchange Scholarship

Exchange Learning Report



Name: Kiu Hei Man, Hailey

Department: Industrial and Systems Engineering

Country: Sweden

Host Institution: School of Engineering, Jönköping University

Exchange Period: 16 August 2018 – 13 January 2019

(I) Learning experience on this trip

My exchange study in Sweden brought me new insights on learning – being a life-long learner is crucial in today's ever-changing world. To maintain personal competitiveness, one should develop a thirst for knowledge throughout the years. The education system of Sweden nurtures students having high calibre and quests for knowledge. Lectures usually give a brief introduction to the subject matter. Students are not required to attend lectures frequently. However, students need to explore those basic concepts independently by reading extensively. The most common learning activity in Sweden is seminar that requires students to share what they have acquired from self-learning. The collaborative learning culture allows students to learn from one another effectively. Self-learning is a skill that one ought to master upon graduation from university.

During my study, I was able to experience working with a group of international people which is increasingly common under the influence of globalization. During the course Innovative Production Systems Development, I was involved in a case study about developing an innovative production system for a start-up business. Students in Sweden are creative and have multi-dimensional thinking. When we are designing the system, they put emphasis on sustainability issues like considering the environmental impacts.

(II) Career aspiration

This exchange study enhanced my international exposure. By participating in the group project, I realized that I enjoy working in an international setting. I was able to adapt to the culture differences between group members and exchange my thoughts with them effectively. Working in an international team is becoming common under the globalized settings. I could make use of my strengths and take up a post at an international firm.

In Sweden, lectures only account for a small portion of the course. The university encourages students to learn by themselves through reading journal articles extensively and sharing their insights during seminars. I was impressed by the learning atmosphere at Jönköping University. Students are well-prepared for each seminar, actively participate in the discussion and bring out many constructive topics.

(III) Views on other culture

During my exchange, I got to meet new people in various occasions. In every project group, I was assigned to work with different people. This was a good way to expand my social network. Within the group, I shared a harmony relationship with other members. Jönköping University is a truly international campus. Students had distinct

backgrounds both academically and culturally. Some of them had abundant work experiences in the industry. They were willing to share how the concepts introduced in lectures could be applied in the real workplace and how they think about the industry development. When we were working as an international group, confusion and misunderstanding were unavoidable. One way to deal with issues arising from cultural differences is to openly communicate, trying to understand what governs their thoughts and actions. Indeed, having cultural differences is not necessarily negative. I see this as an opportunity leading to the generation of new ideas.

(IV) Detailed study schedule in the exchange-out institution

A semester in Sweden is divided into two periods. Each study period lasts for 9 weeks. I took 3 courses which are Transportation and Warehousing, Lean and Green Logistics and Work Human Technology during period 1. In the course Transportation and Warehousing, I visited Elgiganten Distribution Centre which mainly handles online purchases of household appliances to understand the warehouse storage and packaging procedures.

During period 2, I took another course called Innovative Production Systems Development which I was introduced to the latest concepts in production systems design in the industry. At the same time, I participated in a group project after taking the course Work Human Technology. The project was about evaluating the human factors and ergonomics in the production line at FläktGroup – a company that manufactures ventilation technology systems.

Photos highlighting my exchange life



Orientation week for exchange students at School of Engineering



'Colour Run' to raise fund for local cancer foundation



Gathering with my friends from the United States, the Netherlands, Austria and France



Regular hiking activity around Jönköping community



Travelling to Saint Petersburg in Russia organised by the Student Union