

Wong Tit-shing Student Exchange Scholarship

Exchange Learning Report



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Department: BME

Country: USA

Host Institution: University of Pennsylvania

Exchange Period: 27 August 2019 – 19 December 2019

In the following report, I would like to share my exchange study's experiences in two aspects, academic learning and cultural appreciation. However, before I really begin, I would like to express my gratitude to Ir. Dr. Wong Tit-shing again for his generosity in funding this scholarship, such that I was able to reach out Hong Kong and experienced a once-in-a-lifetime semester in the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn).

To start with, academically, the engineering design course in UPenn brought me a lot of new learning experiences as well as insights on future career path. One of the courses I took in UPenn was *Medical Devices*. It is a lab-based class that offers us with many opportunities in getting familiar with general medical devices' designs using microcontrollers. In the first eight weeks, we conducted labs with different microcontrollers, and then for the remaining weeks, we had to design our own medical device in a team. One unique thing of this course is that it adopts a totally different arrangement from those lab classes offered in Hong Kong's universities. The professors of this course emphasize student initiatives, in that students are the one to decide when and how to finish the labs. Since all the lab materials have already been uploaded by the professors in the beginning of the semester, so matters like 'Which lab to start first?' and 'How to manage the time taken for each lab?' are all left for ourselves to consider. In my case, we are required to complete 6 labs within eight weeks. It seems relatively easy, but some labs were quite difficult that costed me 2 to 3 weeks to finish off. Therefore, I spent many efforts on making good time management such that I could be motivated to finish the labs while preventing procrastination. I believe this class culture in UPenn could be a good reference for Hong Kong's universities that instead of arranging all the things by the professor himself, student initiatives should be more advocated.

Apart from the hands-on experiences with microcontrollers, more important is that this course provides me with strong foundation for my future career. While designing our own medical device, the professors also introduced us with US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations on medical devices. Although this was only a brief introduction and learning about regulations, I believe it serves as a significant

knowledge in my future career. As a biomedical engineer, regulations on medical devices is definitely an important component of our work. Yet, the regulation system on medical device in Hong Kong is still incomprehensive. Thus, I believe the knowledge on FDA regulations could enrich my horizons to medical device regulation systems around the world such that I could compare the strengths and weaknesses of them and discuss how Hong Kong could improve and further implement in this aspect after my exchange program.

Secondly, I actively participated in activities in school, which helps me to understand more on other cultures. One memorable experience is the conversational partner program. I was paired up with another local student in UPenn. This was a very interesting program as each participant serves as the language teacher for their partner. In my case, my partner comes from Ireland who majors in computer science. So, I would help my partner in learning and speaking Mandarin while my partner helped me in English. Throughout the whole semester, we tried our very best to arrange at least two lunch gatherings per week such that we could practice both Mandarin and English. But more importantly was that we could share and exchange our cultures. I still remembered my partner being so shocked when he listened to all those superstitions and traditional customs we have in Chinese societies. Through this program, we maintained a good relationship and he even came to Hong Kong and visited me during winter break.

In conclusion, I really gained a lot from this exchange program in UPenn. Apart from academic enhancement and career inspiration, what is more important is that I broaden my horizon by meeting with different people. UPenn being a top US ivy league university is undoubtedly a place of cultural hub because I can find students from around the world. It is a place with different kinds of religious beliefs and political thoughts, yet people did not fight against each other. Instead, students respect and get along well with others. Therefore, I enlarged my social circle and network so much in there. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Ir. Dr. Wong Tit-shing again for your great support throughout this journey. Thank you very much.

Detailed study schedule in the exchange-out institution

Course selection (drop/request): Fall 2019

Prepare course requests here

View open sections

Mock schedule or course cart

Select a schedule or cou...

Enrolled schedule

Hide schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00 AM					BE -470 101
09:30 AM					
10:00 AM					
10:30 AM					
11:00 AM	KORN 011 001	KORN 011 001	KORN 011 001	KORN 011 001	
11:30 AM					
12:00 PM	CIS 110 001		CIS 110 001		CIS 110 001
12:30 PM					
01:00 PM					
01:30 PM	OIDD 105 002		OIDD 105 002		
02:00 PM					
02:30 PM					
03:00 PM		CIS 110 207			
03:30 PM					
04:00 PM					
04:30 PM					
05:00 PM					

Show schedule details Export as iCalendar Save image

Course enrollments

Course	Grade type	Credits	Activity	Status	Action
1 BE -470-101	Normal	1.00	Laboratory	Enrolled	Drop Change
2 CIS -110-001	Normal	1.00	Lecture	Enrolled	Drop Change

Photos to share in the US:



Pic 1) Hiking around UPenn



Pic 2) Kayaking along the riverside in UPenn



Pic 3) Visiting the University of Georgetown with friends in Washington D. C.



Pic 4) Ice-skating gathering in UPenn



Pic 5) Dim sum gathering in Chinatown