

06/06/2024

Attn: Ir Dr Wong Tit-shing

Donor of Wong Tit-shing student exchange scholarship 2023/24

Dear Ir Dr Wong,

I am deeply grateful for the generous scholarship that enabled me to pursue this life-changing opportunity to study abroad at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). Your support has been instrumental in allowing me to broaden my horizons and enhance my career profile in meaningful ways.

The experience of learning in a new educational environment, immersing myself in Danish culture, and collaborating with diverse peers has been truly transformative. Studying abroad has been a long-held ambition of mine, driven by a desire to broaden my horizons, challenge my assumptions, and develop a more global perspective. The chance to immerse myself in Danish culture and education has been nothing short of remarkable.

Your generosity has been a profound catalyst for my professional development, both as a scholar and as an individual. I am humbled by your belief in my potential and your investment in my future. This scholarship has opened doors that would have otherwise remained closed, and I am committed to honoring your trust by leveraging this experience to make a lasting, positive impact in my major of study.

Words cannot adequately express the depth of my gratitude. Your support has been transformative, and I am eternally thankful for the opportunities it has afforded me. I pledge to put this kindness forward, to become a force for positive change in my community and beyond. Please know that your contribution has made an indelible mark on my life, and I will carry the lessons and memories of this exchange with me long into the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Akshat', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Akshat SINGH
ISE

Wong Tit-shing Student Exchange Scholarship

Exchange Learning Report



Name: Akshat SINGH

Department: ISE

Country: Denmark

Host Institution: Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

Exchange Period: 29-01-2024 to 01-06-2024

I. Learning experience on this trip

The overseas exchange experience for six months was a great learning experience for me. I was exposed to a rather different learning experience in terms of examinations, classroom teachings, interactions, groupworks. In my time at my exchange university DTU, all of my coursework was quite reliant on groupwork. I believe this was a good experience because in the real world, group work is very important as you will be required to interact with various people from different backgrounds and collaborate on different projects to meet requirements. I found working in a group with other Danish and international students quite interesting because I was able to learn a lot from people on the other side of the world, and their learning styles and ideologies. I believe this experience allows me to further expand my thinking horizon and interact with people globally which is one necessary skill I believe I developed. I was also able to attend several seminars and career fairs in my exchange university, where I got a chance to visit several Danish and European companies and learn about their work culture, environment, and a lot more. I found this experience quite informative because I was able to network and connect with various members of some of the companies I could prospectively collaborate with in the future. I also was able to attend several seminars where I got a chance to meet some executives of their companies, learn more about their journey and how they reached the position which they are today. It was a great learning experience and opportunity to incorporate some advice I got from them into my own career to progress and build a better professional life and understanding of the industry. Over the course of my exchange, I was involved in one group project in my course Sustainable and Responsible Production, where we worked on completing the whole Life Cycle Assessment of a product and suggest alternatives to improve the sustainable production of the product. It was a great experience and a very intensive project which took us about 13 weeks to complete. In these 13 weeks we learned a lot about the software we used: Open LCA, as well as a lot about our production process of our product which was Coffee Lids. The project was also used for our final examination which accounted for 100% of our grade. Beside all the academic learning, I got a chance to meet a lot of students from different backgrounds such as Masters, PhDs, and learn more about their career paths which was very informative because I learned a lot being just a penultimate Bachelor's student and how I can use those experiences into my life to build my career, and hopefully utilize these advices in my final year back in Hong Kong.

II. Career aspiration

This exchange program has significantly expanded my perspective on my future career path. Some of the courses I took, particularly those focused on Strategy and Product Development, have directly aligned with my aspiration to become an engineering consultant. In this role, I would be able to apply my technical knowledge and skills to provide strategic solutions for companies and other professionals, helping them develop and grow their businesses. The professors in these courses played a crucial role in enhancing my critical thinking abilities and teaching me how to effectively apply classroom concepts to real-world scenarios. This experience has ignited my passion for the consulting field, allowing me to combine my technical expertise with valuable management skills. Additionally, collaborating with my classmates on group projects was a standout experience. Working with my Danish classmates, I gained valuable insights into their ideologies and approaches to teamwork. When faced with complex tasks, we learned the importance of breaking them down into smaller, manageable components and working on them individually before coming together to share progress and collectively assess the overall project. The extended class sessions under the professors' guidance allowed us to efficiently collaborate and be more productive as a group. Overall, this exchange program has been instrumental in shaping my future career path and equipping me with a versatile skillset that will enable me to thrive as an engineering consultant. The combination of academic coursework and collaborative experiences was truly transformative.



Strategic Analysis and Development sneak peak

III. Views on other culture

The education system at DTU differed significantly from my prior experience in Hong Kong. One key difference was the grading scale, which utilized a numerical system ranging from 12 to -3, rather than the more familiar percentages. This was a unique experience, as I had no prior exposure to such a grading approach. Moreover, the examination format at DTU significantly different from the Hong Kong model. Out of the four courses I took, three conducted oral exams, which centered around discussions with professors. The purpose of these exams was to assess my critical thinking skills and ability to apply classroom learning to real-world scenarios.

Being exposed to Danish culture was a novel experience. Danish people were very polite and kind and doesn't matter if you are out for a walk or in the bus, everyone would always look at you and smile and they would always greet you by saying, "have a nice day". I found this to be very comforting and being a foreigner to their culture, these gestures made me feel more welcome. Originally, I was a little nervous in interacting with Danish students, however, after initiating conversations with them allowed me to become better friends with them, and hangout outside of class as well such as going to parties, gym, barbeques together. It was an amazing experience.



Attending the DTU Arsfest with my Friends

IV. Detailed study schedule in the exchange-out institution

Timetable

During the 13-week periods, the following fixed timetable is used:

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| 8 am- 12 am | 1A | 3A | 5A | 2B | 4B |
| 12 am- 1 pm | Break | Break | Break | Break | Break |
| 1 pm- 5 pm | 2A | 4A | 5B | 1B | 3B |
| 5 pm - 6 pm | Break | Break | Break | Break | Break |
| 6 pm - 10 pm | | Evening module* | | | |

Picture taken from <https://www.dtu.dk/english/education/student-guide/studying-at-dtu/academic-calendar>

The semester started on the 29th of January 2024, and my last examination was on the 31st of May 2024. I was enrolled in 4 subjects (62205 – 5A and 4B) Sustainable and Responsible Production, (62134- 2B) Strategic Analysis and Development, (62211 – 3A) Business Science and Technology Management, (62008 – 2A) Product Development- The Stages of Product Development. Each class lasted for 4 hours, and because the class 62205 was 10 ECTS which was more than the others 5ECTS, it was conducted twice a week, so I had one class every day from Monday to Friday. There were no midterms, however, all my courses except 62008 had an oral exam, while 62008 had a written exam which was open book.