



The Most Outstanding PolyU Student 2016

Outstanding Student, School of Hotel and Tourism Management 2016

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BSc (Hons) in Hotel Management

I'm Kristina Braun, a final year student studying Hotel Management. It is my great honor to be selected as The Most Outstanding Student this year.

Looking back at my years at PolyU, I can proudly say that I have no regrets. Being in my final year, I have come to understand the importance of university life and learned to treasure every moment of it.

University life is widely known as “the best time of your life” and surely there are many opportunities to make new friends, express your talents and treasure your spare time before finally starting your career. Yet, there is more to it. As university students, we have to use our years at university wisely, because they are the only times we get to prepare ourselves for whatever lies ahead of us. Therefore, everything we do should connect to a bigger picture and ultimately form into the goals we like to reach in life.

Right from the start of my freshman year I was lucky enough to know exactly what I wanted to achieve after finishing my degree. I have always been passionate about the hotel industry, especially Food & Beverage. Besides my dream of becoming a Director of Food & Beverage in the next few years, I would also like to become a General Manager in the far future.

Thus, to achieve this, I knew that I had to become a global citizen, build rapport in the industry and gain all the hard and soft skills needed to succeed in my field of interest.



Becoming a Global Citizen

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University offers us many opportunities to groom ourselves and become a global citizen – grasp it!

One of my greatest memories was definitely my Service Learning trip to the rural areas of Indonesia with the

Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics. While still in Hong Kong, we worked together with Indonesian students and identified the problems faced by villagers and came up with possible solutions. After arriving in Indonesia, we then implemented our ideas. This equipped me with critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Having lived with a host family alongside Indonesian students we soon became lifetime friends and created unforgettable memories. My key take-away from this trip was definitely the true spirit of hospitality received from the Indonesian people!

Having joined the Buddy Programme, I have made friends with students from all over the world and had the chance to introduce them to Hong Kong and PolyU. In return, they shared their culture and traditions with me. This really opened up my mind to see beyond the borders of a country!

Furthermore, I am actively involved as an International Student Ambassador (ISAS) and having hosted many events myself, such as a German cooking workshop or art painting classes, I have shared my culture and talents with fellow students. The feeling when you start something from scratch, put it into practice and receive great feedback is unbelievable. On top of that, I have gotten to know most of my close friends through ISAS and I am really grateful for this chance!



Building rapport

I was given many opportunities to build rapport in the hospitality industry. I have joined the Mentorship programme, which allowed me to meet Hotel and General Managers from 5-star hotels in Hong Kong, gain hands-on experience and learn from sharing their experience with me. s through ISAS and I am really grateful for this chance!

Moreover, I had the chance to give a welcome speech in front of 850 students and faculty members at the beginning of the school term and I was even sent to a Tourism conference in Guilin, China to share my perspective as a "Tomorrows Professional". These experiences not only increased my self-confidence and communication skills to a great extent, but also allowed me to have exposure with people in this industry to create a valuable network of contacts.



Succeed in the industry

In order for me to gain necessary soft skills, such as organizational and teamwork skills, I have actively contributed to student societies.

I volunteered to be one of the founding members of the Institute of Hospitality student chapter and at this moment I am also the president of Eta Sigma Delta, a prestigious international society that recognizes exceptional academic achievement among hospitality and tourism students.

As hard-skills are just as important as soft-skills I had to gain necessary work-experience. Thus, I have been working part-time during my studies as a waitress and now as a Food & Beverage operational specialist. Instead of the required 6-month internship, I have chosen an 11-month Elite Management Training, which aided me with leadership skills and operational knowledge.

My chosen path is just one way of doing it. Everyone has different talents and dreams and therefore we have to go on different roads leading to our goal. However, I really think it is important to see the bigger picture, engage in relevant activities and strive forward, even though we may encounter some setbacks.

Lastly, value yourself and do not be afraid to stand out from the crowd!

