

Outstanding Student, Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles 2019

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BSc (Hons) in Investment Science &
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I am Zhihao (Chris) Ren, a final year student majoring in Applied Mathematics. It is a great honor to be selected as the Outstanding Student of Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to PolyU for providing me with this great environment to expand my knowledge and explore my interests. I would like to share my experience and gains over the past four years in the following three parts.

Professional Experiences

I have developed an understanding of mathematics, finance and programming throughout the courses I took. In addition, I have participated in several formal competitions, from which I enhanced a great deal of both my academic knowledge and communication skills. And through my internship experiences, I applied what I learnt on the actual financial market and expanded my network extensively.

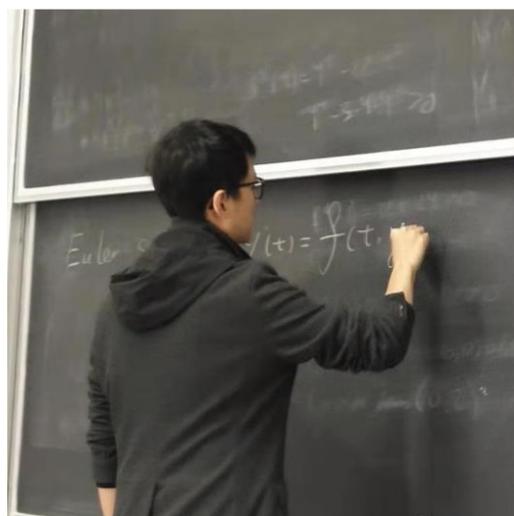
Through those precious past experiences, I gradually developed my interest in quantitative finance, especially in quant trading and risk management. I believe the ability to apply the learnt knowledge on real-world problems is essential for a student to step into the future career. Thanks to the internship programs and the seminars arranged by PolyU, we have abundant opportunities to connect with the distinguished experts in different industries.



Multicultural Experiences

I believe diversity is indispensable for both society and individual. Diversity makes a society more interesting, nuanced, and creative while it influences people's holistic development. Only a diverse world can overcome the challenges of the future.

I have embraced diversity and broadened my multicultural exposure throughout my time at PolyU. I built strong relationships with professors from different countries, conducted group projects and cultivated friendships with students from different cultural backgrounds. The experiences developed my communication skills and enhanced my empathy for others.



During the summer of my sophomore year, I went to Kazakhstan for an cultural exchange programme organized by the Department of Applied Mathematics. I engaged and collaborated with the local students in sharing our academic interest. I also went to UC Berkeley for a residential program in that same summer. During my stay there, I attended the English Corner and shared stories about my culture and PolyU with the Berkeley students. I learned about their experiences as well. These precious moments helped me understand that diversity inspires creativity and improves productivity.

In all, my multicultural experiences have shaped my views of the world, kindled my enthusiasm for different cultures, as well as my communication and interpersonal skills.

Service Experiences

I have developed a strong sense of responsibility towards the society through two service experiences. I went on a voluntary teaching trip to Guizhou province in 2017 summer. I taught mathematics, English and music to local secondary school students. During this process, I also developed teamwork skills and the ability of getting along with children. In the same summer, I also went on a service-learning trip to Sichuan province, where the earthquake happened in 2008. One of my main responsibilities was to lead activities for children with the goal of restoring their happiness and encouraging them to build resilience. Meanwhile, I learnt about how the earthquake impacted the local people physically and mentally as well as how I could help them to mitigate their pain efficiently.

These precious service experiences built my social responsibility and made me cherish my own life.

Once again, I would like to thank PolyU for providing me with so many great opportunities, and my family, mentors, friends and professors for continuous support throughout my university journey.

