

Outstanding Student, Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles 2020



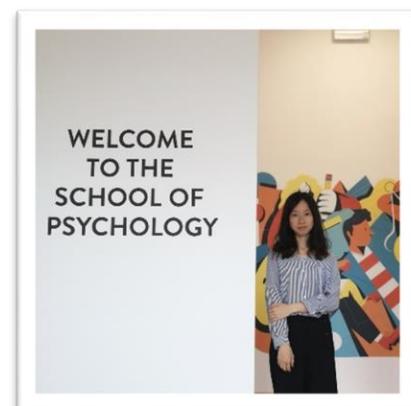
Miss ZHAO Xiaohan

**BSc (Hons) in Investment Science &
Minor in Computing**

I'm Zhao Xiaohan Jennifer, majoring in Investment Science with a minor in Computing. It's a great honor to be selected as the Outstanding Student of Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles. I'd like to take this opportunity to give huge thanks to PolyU for providing me with the great platform to grow, to my professors for their guidance and help, and to my family for their unconditional love and support.

Looking back at my university life, it has been an inspiring self-discovery journey. PolyU provided me with an environment to think independently and live an authentic life, and plenty of opportunities to explore different possibilities and realize my passion.

Through the interdisciplinary study in statistics, programming and business, I have developed a composite background and gained a good understanding of the interplay between these areas. Besides the comprehensive subjects offered by PolyU, I have also acquired practical experiences in different industries, including investment bank, non-governmental organization and academia. By transferring knowledge into practice, I have gradually developed my interest in data analytics and realized how fulfilling it is to leverage data to solve real-world problems and influence people's life. Equipped with both theoretical knowledge and work skills, I am well-prepared for my future career.



Apart from academic life, I also got opportunities to develop my interests. Being part of the PolyU English Drama Club and playing in the show <An Empty Chair> was a memorable experience for me. I have been fascinated by performing arts since I was young and this show gave me an opportunity to do what I love with a group of people who have the same passion. After preparing and rehearsing for half a year, the best moment was when we stood on the stage, fully got into our characters and experienced a different life. Besides, I also enjoy travelling and appreciating the beauty of things. Being the associate president of PolyU Dreaming Cameramen Club gave me chances to organize excursion and capture beautiful moments using videos.



The intercultural experience provided by PolyU is the most thrilling part of my university life. In the summer of 2019, I joined the study tour to Melbourne organized by the Department of Applied Mathematics. I exchanged ideas with the faculty and students from local universities and visited museums and galleries to experience the artistic atmosphere. Later, I worked as an intern under the IAESTE program in the Queen's University Belfast in the UK, during which I not only successfully conducted an experiment on people's multi-finger force deficit with the guidance of great faculty, but also travelled and had fun in many cities with friends from different cultural backgrounds. Besides, I participated in an exchange programme to Georgia Tech in the US. Studying in a different academic atmosphere with different study methods helped me to reflect and improved on my way of thinking. Joining the Center for the Study of Women, Science and Technology (WST) also inspired me to pay attention to women's rights and opportunities in their career. Those experiences were all rewarding and unforgettable for me. By getting exposure to diverse cultures and making friends from different backgrounds, my creative thinking and cultural adaptability have been enhanced. Diversity inspires me to view the world from different perspectives and explore endless possibilities in life.





In addition to personal growth, I have also developed social empathy and made positive impacts by serving the community. In my sophomore year, I joined the service-learning program to promote sustainable development of Jinling Village in Wuhan. After collecting information and visiting the villagers to understand their needs, my team did land surveying and made a travel map with QGIS for the village, and vividly taught local children map knowledge through orienteering. It was gratifying to see our efforts contributed a little bit to local tourism. Moreover, I have participated in a wide range of community services such as voluntary teaching, fair trade promotion, etc. These valuable experiences further motivated me to appreciate what I have and give back to the society.



I did not think about which direction to go when I just entered the university. However, now that it has almost come to an end and I look back, it turned out not so bad by just following my gut at each step of the way. Now I am empowered to start a new journey, more confident and determined. Hope you can make the best out of the opportunities provided by PolyU and follow your heart. If you already have a goal, that's pretty cool and please commit yourself to it. If not, be curious and open-minded to what you may encounter and you may be surprised.