

# Wong Tit-shing Student Exchange Scholarship

## Exchange Learning Report



Name: WONG Man Nok

Department: Aeronautical and Aviation Engineering

Country: United Kingdom

Host Institution: The University of Sheffield

Exchange Period: 25 Jan 2023 to 03 Jul 2023

## **I. Learning experience on this trip**

The learning experience is very fulfilling. Subjects were chosen as they covered both practical engineering and engineering ethics aspects, which gave me a comprehensive understanding of Engineering in the United Kingdom. My aircraft designing skills are sharpened throughout the exchange, especially on the aircraft stability. Apart from learning from books and lectures, the department organized a flight test day for aerospace students in which we were required to experience different stability modes on a Cessna 172. It gave me some hands-on experience which is very useful in my further studies. Moreover, my exposure to the industry is wider after the exchange. As a city that is mainly filled with a tertiary sector of the economy, the aviation degree in Hong Kong is mainly focused on management and maintenance, even though it has provided a solid foundation in aircraft design. While there are more manufacturing companies in the UK that require candidates to have very solid aircraft design experience, their degree is therefore heavily focused on that, with little to no spotlight on maintenance.

## **II. Career aspiration**

As my dream is to become a pilot, I spent 10 Days at Lasham Gliding Society, Hampshire to attain my solo endorsement, not only to enjoy flying but also to test if I have the potential to learn fast, which is critical as a cadet pilot. It was the most memorable moment throughout the journey as I achieved what couldn't be done in Hong Kong due to geographical reasons. It further consolidates my passion for aviation and therefore is unforgettable.

Besides flying, I reassured my passion for engineering as well. My previous employer has moved to Rolls Royce as a power plant engineer. I took this exchange opportunity to meet him and went to the headquarters of Rolls Royce in Derby, UK. The visit to their heritage centre has broadened my horizon. I am deeply attracted by their cutting-edge jet engine design.



First solo flight, released by instructor Sam.

### **III. Views on other culture**

Cultural exploration is another highlight of my exchange programme. I have joined the Local History Walk organized by the University every Wednesday to explore different parts and stories of Sheffield, from the buildings around Sheffield to their role in the Industrial Revolution. Surprisingly, I developed my interest in travelling by walking throughout the exchange and it encouraged me to explore the hidden bit of Hong Kong in the same way that I have never done before. By walking slowly around the city, I got to enjoy the vibe and view of it in the most down-to-earth way possible. Apart from that, I made good use of the weekends by travelling to 20 cities and towns in England. It is fun and fruitful to experience the cultural differences between different towns and regions. It is also fun to figure out the connections between the history of different places.

The UK is an open and diverse country. I didn't expect a wide range of ethnicities and spectrums before coming to the United Kingdom. It is great to experience all these cultures in the UK and it is as well an exciting opportunity for me to promote the Asian culture to them. I remember my flat mates and I had an international cuisine night where we made each other our own dishes, from Nigeria, Spain and France. I made them curry fishballs and they simply like it. It is a very precious experience and the best way possible to embrace a new culture.



Hiking at the Peak District with flat mates and friends

#### **IV. Detailed study schedule in the exchange-out institution**

The semester started on 10 Feb 2023 and ended on 10 Jun 2023. I enrolled 4 subjects (1. Aero Propulsion, 2. Aircraft Dynamics and Control, 3. Antenna, RADAR, and Navigation, 4. Professional Responsibilities of Engineers). Most of my classes lasted for 1 to 2 hours and it is quite new to me as all classes in Hong Kong last for 3 hours. It therefore shows that they emphasize more on self-study. I had a day-off on Wednesday and Friday which I used for revision and travelling. There was no mid-term throughout while all four subjects had a sit-in exam. For Aircraft Dynamics and Control, students were arranged for a flight test in which we could experience how an aircraft performs (such as Dutch roll and phugoid). It is the most unforgettable academic experience as it is very rare that engineering students can experience these characteristics in person.