Metropolitan Attachment Programme 2017 –

Sharing from Lingnan Student Interns

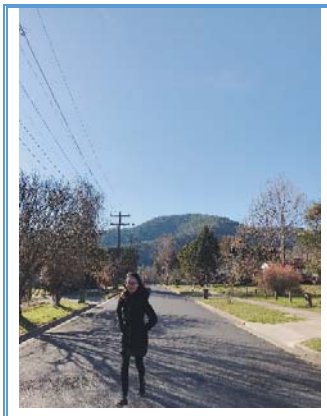
Cherry Mak
BA (Hons) – Translation, Year 3
Placement Organization: Macleay Museum, Sydney University Museums, Sydney

As a student who reads Arts, I do not have a very deep understanding about biology and natural history. I am glad that this internship offers me a valuable chance to enrich my knowledge on the science field and opens the door for me to know about the awesomeness of Mother Nature. I was assigned to take part into a project about the Chinese birds collection in Macleay Museum. At first, I was so surprised that I could be one of the members of this project because I was merely an inexperienced newcomer. Working as a team with another intern and two other experienced colleagues, we have had a great time together in doing the research about the birds. I have learnt to use EMU, the museum database to look for relevant resources about the objects being investigated. The database is an imperative tool for the curation of exhibition. Besides, I had to write the description about the appearance and status of the bird taxidermies and was also responsible in translating the findings of the project into Chinese and presented those words in a more down to earth style that the audience will enjoy reading without feeling bored and dull. As a student who is majoring in translation, this task consolidated the knowledge I have learnt in my undergraduate modules.

Having spending almost 2 months in the Macleay Museum, I do really think it is a fulfilling and rewarding experience for me because I can learn about the operation of museum. The solid hands-on experience and a range of new skills that I gained have laid a foundation for me to pursue my future career. My awareness of museum issues has increased after the internship. I would also express my gratitude to the members of the Museum for sharing their experience and knowledge with me. This internship does not only enhance my global vision, but also gives me an opportunity to obtain a better understanding of myself.

Lynn Cheng
BA (Hons) - Translation, Year 3
Placement Organization: Models of Success & Sustainability

I had a great time working with my employer who is a mentor and an innovator to me. The working environment is different from the traditional office style in Hong Kong. I worked at my employer's home and sometimes I can work from home. She took us on a three day trip to a small city near Melbourne, Bright to let us experience the truly authentic Aussie life and as an introduction to the work we were going to do around blue and circular economy. She encouraged me to be more



confident in myself and be more active in communicating with people. I could not be any more grateful for the things my employer has teached me throughout the whole internship.

I have learned to be more vocal about things that I am not sure about and have problems with. Just the act of asking for clarification and questions can save a lot of trouble and time which can be used for more meaningful things. Teamwork is a common practice in Australia. They work online with people from all around the world and with all different backgrounds. It is interesting to sit in meetings where my employer would discuss projects and collaborate with people from all walks of life but share the same passion and interest that is to make the world a better place for our future generation.

Evelyn Hao
BBA (Hons) – Accounting, Yr 2
Placement Organization: Morris Cohen Glen & Co, Melbourne

I worked as an intern for a seven-week period at Morris Cohen Glen& Co. which is an accounting firm with its head office in Melbourne and branch office in Sydney. I worked mostly with their MCG Advisory team and helped Payroll team on several projects at the same time. As an accounting major student, I did benefit a lot from my role in the company since I not only deepened my knowledge in accounting practice but also expanded my knowledge in financial advisory. I used to think my career choice would surely be accounting since it is fundamental and fits my characteristics. Having interned in the MCG advisory team, I get to know more about advisory and financial planning. I was surprised and happy to find myself quite interested in finance and investment. Now that I see more possibilities and opportunities in my career path.

My most precious gains were the full exposure to Australian working environment and the daily interactions with my colleagues. I have to say that the office atmosphere was very friendly and all my colleagues were nice, especially my supervisor Brett and my teammate Jacob. It was happy and pressure-free working with them because they were patient to answer my questions even sometimes they were very simple ones. My teammate Jacob always taught me from the basic ground and made sure that I have fully understood before leaving me with the tasks. Also, he never failed to encourage me whenever I tried to find solutions independently. It was his kind support and continuous encouragement that made me more and more relaxed and confident at work. I have learned so much that I had not learned in class before, for example: Australian superannuation system, Australian Goods& Services Tax returns, mortgage application lodging, etc. All of these knowledge is quite useful and highly related to my future career. What's even more important is that I worked outside my comfort zone and became a quick learner.

Christine Ho
BBA (Hons) – Risk & Insurance Management, Yr 3
Placement Organization: Roscon Group of Companies, Melbourne

My colleagues are friendly and willing to help whenever I had difficulties. It is different from solving the problem for me. Instead, they will teach me the method and let me try by myself, which is more beneficial. On the other hand, they were patient and tried to make me feel comfortable in the workplace, which relieved my nervousness of working in a foreign company alone. As I am not familiar with property services, they generously spent their time to explain what their jobs are and the 'ownership corporation' in Australia. Other than learning the company's business from its flyers, I also had the opportunity to have a site visit with some colleagues, which made me had a deeper understanding of the company's business.

All in all, I learnt to take initiatives from the internship experience as the manager was very busy and I had to ask him or colleagues if there were something I could have helped. If time could go back, I would have told the manager explicitly which field I would like to work on and communicated more with colleagues. So, I would learn more practical experiences but not just administrative work. On the other hand, I became more independent and learnt how to take good care of myself in a new place.

Kimmy Lam
BA (Hons) – Philosophy, Yr 2
Placement Organization: The Centre, Melbourne

The Centre is a non-profit organisation. It aims to connect different people in the community. All staff and volunteers were nice to me, especially my supervisor – Carol. Carol respects and is open to different cultures. She believes that everyone is equal and is eager to help people. At the first few days, I was a bit nervous. She talked to me to make me feel comfortable and happy working there. If she wasn't so caring, I would not feel so good to work in a new and foreign company.

After these weeks, I feel like I am connected to the North Melbourne society, although I was there only for a short period of time. Everyday there were people coming for help so I could always meet different people. As I had to speak to different people frequently, one of my improvements was my English speaking skill. At the beginning, I could not speak fluently. But now, I can organize and express myself more clearly.

Moreover, I know more about how a community centre works. The centre relies on volunteers and students as the budget is limited. Volunteers and students are responsible and willing to help with the community's work. The staff are eager to improve and connect with the community. The relationship between each other is close and warm. The Centre does its best job to help people even in a minor way. They

welcome the homeless and everyone to have a free cup of coffee or drink. The Centre welcomes people from different places. It has staff and volunteers from Pakistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Columbia etc. We had a multi-cultural lunch once. Everyone made their food and had lunch together. We shared the culture of our own. That was a unique experience that could not have happened in other companies.

The most important thing is that I am clearer about my future path. I didn't know that working at a non-profit organization can be so inspiring and fun. This internship experience helps me know more about what type of company that I want to work for in the future. Although the working environment in Hong Kong is different from Australia, at least I know that I want to help and inspire others. I will remember the time with the staff and volunteers in the Centre. This internship is definitely a worthwhile and memorable experience. Australians emphasize on work-life balance. The working and living style is not that rush and fast compared to Hong Kong. I might not find a company like the Centre, but I know I want to work for a non-profit organization.

Meiko Zhao
BBA (Hons) – Accounting, Yr 2
Placement Organization: Hansens Accountants Pty Ltd

I felt really lucky to have the honor working as a member of the Hansens team, performing the duties of accounting, bookkeeping, client administration and general office duties, which closely match my major and would benefit my future career a lot.

During the seven-week internship, I was taken good care by my supervisor and other colleagues, from whom I have learned a lot as well. They are all so kind and nice with explaining everything to me, from doing clients' tax returns to how to use the coffee machine in our office. They were always willing to answer my questions and give help. What's more, my supervisor tried to let me experience various kinds of jobs and access different systems that were widely used by accounting firms, such as Xero, Nowinfinity etc., and I even got the Xero Advisor Certificate. Under their patient instructions and explanation, I had developed my skills in the accounting field and gained basic knowledge of the Australia taxation system. Moreover, I had a better understanding of how an accounting firm runs, including the collaboration of staff, job procedures and client database management etc. I was also greatly impressed by the company culture, the strong team work and close relationship between everyone that make Hansens like a warm family.