

Step Out of Hong Kong to Embrace the Challenges

The learning process surely covers more than just lectures and tutorials. To provide non-curricular opportunities for SPEED students, a wide array of activities are organised from time to time by the SPEED Student Affairs Committee. These included mentorship programmes, complementary studies, international summer school, career talks and placements designed to enrich the informal curriculum of students.

The SPEED International Summer School Programme, for example, is organised by the Committee aiming to provide PolyU SPEED award students with an exciting learning opportunity outside Hong Kong. Selected students will spend 6 to 8 weeks living and learning in the USA, Canada, Singapore, Japan or Taiwan during the summer holidays and join the summer schools organised by participating overseas universities. Mr Jack Lam, Lecturer and also the Chairman of the Committee, described the event as a valuable opportunity to enhance both practical job skills and appreciation of

the culture, heritage, and values of other countries.

The China Internship Programme is another event organised yearly to provide candidates with an opportunity to be exposed to the work, environment and the cultural way of life in China during the summer break. Ms Eileen Feng, SPEED Lecturer and Chinese Mainland Affairs Coordinator, said, "Selected students will be assigned to work in large organisations within different domains, such as Bank of China, Beijing Television and CCTV. Proficiency in Putonghua is a pre-requisite, but we also need to see that the candidates are eager to know more about Chinese culture."

These programmes not only give the participating students a chance to live abroad on their own, but also help foster their self-confidence, capability to live more independently, as well as their language proficiency and social skills. What is more, students can gain practical skills which are

instrumental to their future career pursuits. One of the participants, who was assigned to an internship in Beijing, secured a job at a major Chinese newspaper right after her graduation. According to her, she was considered favourably during the interview because of the experience obtained in using publishing system software during the internship.

In 2012 the internship programme has been extended beyond China to one of the world's most luxurious hotels, Burj Al Arab Hotel at Dubai. "This is an excellent opportunity for our students to explore knowledge beyond textbooks and get a taste of life in an exotic country," remarked Dr Regan Lam, one of the project initiators and a member of the judging panel for this special summer internship programme.

Quoting from a philosopher of the ancient world – Horace, "Wisdom is not wisdom when it is derived from books alone." This may serve well as the motto of SPEED's education philosophy.

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衝出香港迎挑戰

出席講堂和導修課只是學習過程中的一環。SPEED的學生事務委員會致力為同學提供多項不同的課餘活動，充實同學的學習生活，包括：師友計劃、輔學課程、國際暑期學習班、求職講座和實習計劃。

以國際暑期學習計劃為例，目的是讓正在修讀理大專業進修學院學銜課程的同學有機會到香港以外的地方學習。成功申請的同學將可以前往美國、加拿大、新加坡、日本或台灣作為期6至8個星期的學習和生活體驗，同時亦會參與夥伴大學的暑期學習班。學生事務委員會主席及講師林星河先生表示，國際暑期學習計劃是一個很寶貴的學習機會，因為同學們可以得到很多和工作有關的實用技巧，同時也會學懂欣賞不同的文化、傳統及價值觀。

另一項每年暑期都會舉辦的活動，是中國機構實習計劃。此計劃的目的在於讓同學可以到中國內地親身體驗當地的工作及生活環境。講師及中國內地事務統籌主任馮琪女士說：「成功申請的同學將會被安排到不同性質的大型機構工作，如：中國銀行、北京電視台和中央電視台。有興趣申請的同學當然要有良好普通話基礎，但在遴選的過程中我們亦會特別考慮同學對於中國文化知識有多大的渴求。」

以上計劃不但為參與的同學提供了一個在外地學習的機會，亦能讓他們建立更高的自信、提高獨立生活的自理能力、語文水平及社交技巧。同學在實習計劃中獲得的實際工作經驗，對他們將來事業發展也有很大的幫助。一位曾被派往北京參加實習計劃的同



SPEED Lecturer and Chinese Mainland Affairs Coordinator, Ms Eileen Feng (centre), with the students participated in The China Internship Programme in Beijing.

SPEED講師兼中國內地事務統籌主任馮琪女士(中)赴北京與參與中國機構實習計劃的同學合照。

學，畢業後立即被一間中文報館取錄。她表示在面試的時候，評審對於她在實習時已掌握了運用編輯系統軟件而感到欣賞。

在2012年，實習計劃已擴展至中國以外，位於阿拉伯聯合酋長國杜拜的世界知名豪華酒店Burj Al Arab Hotel進行。「這是一個非常難得的機會讓同學遠離課本，在一個充滿異國情調的國度發掘新的知識和感受另一種的生活態度。」此項特別暑期實習計劃發起人兼甄選委員之一林立堅博士說。

古代哲學家賀拉斯曾經說過：「智慧豈只書中尋。」這正好符合SPEED的教學理念。