

FIFE Fund Colours my First Year of Study

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Venturing into the world starts with the exploration of one's own country and culture. With the support of the First-in-the-Family Education (FIFE) Fund, I joined four exchange tours and internship programmes to Mainland China. They include the National Education Study Tour to Tsinghua University; the 2009 Dragon Wish - Cultural Exchange Tour cum Southeast Asia Youth Symposium organised by the Hok Yau Club; the Exchange Tour to Guangxi for Hong Kong Youths and Students organised by the New Youth Forum; and Student Exchange Network's "New Youth, New World" 2009, a summer internship programme in Shanghai.



I learned so much more about the development of modern China by meeting some senior Chinese officials and outstanding young entrepreneurs, and visiting foreign-invested enterprises and non-governmental charitable organisations. In contrast with the advancement of economy, I realised that the development of social support networks and policies in China is still in the embryo stages and I learned to look beyond the surface.

My social network has greatly extended. Now I have a more thorough understanding and acceptance of mainland students after experiencing and realising my cultural differences with them. Their number is increasing in the universities of Hong Kong. It is important to live, work and study with them, but the acceptance of them by local students is still low.

After two cultural exchange activities, I was engaged in a six-week internship programme in Shanghai. Being a keen competitor of Hong Kong, Shanghai is a place where old meets new. By working as an intern, I also got the opportunity to explore my career prospects on the mainland.

Similarly, the participation in the 2009 Dragon Wish programme inspired me to reflect on my identity as a Chinese. I had a better understanding about the role of China in Asia, and was stimulated to reflect on my own national identity and how I could contribute to China in future.

All these learning activities have coloured my first university year. Now I am more confident and well-prepared intellectually, socially and emotionally for the challenges ahead.

About FIFE Fund

The FIFE Fund was launched in April 2008 and aims to support students who are the first generation in their families to enter university to actively take part in the kinds of experiential learning activities that are increasingly emphasised by higher education today. The Presentation and Sharing Ceremony will be held on February 24, 2010, during which there will be more sharing of recipients of the Fund. For details of the Fund, visit: <http://www.fife.hku.hk>



In her first year, Erica (middle) explored different aspects of Mainland China with the support of the FIFE Fund.

CEDARS Reward Scheme for Students 2010

CEDARS is launching a Reward Scheme to encourage and recognise the contribution of student volunteers who provide support for events organised and co-ordinated by CEDARS. Participants of this Scheme will acquire work experience and enhance their personal development through planning and supporting different activities.

Participation in this Scheme leads to Gold, Silver, Bronze and Merit CEDARS Service Awards.

We provide a wide range of work experience to suit the needs and interests of different students. The work ranges from receiving employers at recruitment presentations to serving as masters of ceremonies (MCs) to hosting U-Radio programmes to providing mental health first aid, etc. Prior and relevant experience is not required as training will be arranged.

Student Advisors will identify the potential of students and provide suitable learning opportunities to enhance and advance their learning. Students are expected to progress steadily through the encouragement and feedback of Student Advisors.

Detailed information about this Scheme can be found at:

<http://www.hku.hk/local/cepc/news/0910/attachment/123003a.pdf>