

USA Disney Internship

In addition to the local internship programmes, the Faculty serves the University and opens up an overseas working opportunity, the Walt Disney World International College Program, to all non-final year students. Through working, living and learning at the successful theme parks in Orlando, USA, participants have a diverse cultural exposure which enriches their experience and develop their global outlook. In 2010, 139 applications from different Faculties/Schools were received. After initial shortlisting by the Programme Office and on-site selection by representatives from Walt Disney World, 22 students were successfully selected for the Programme. Below is the feedback from some participants of the Programme. ○



Frances Fan (left), Double Degree in English Language Teaching, Attractions

It was a magical experience to work in Disney. I never imagined that I would gain so much from it. I was assigned to work at Speedway in the Magic Kingdom, the busiest location among the four theme parks. In Speedway, I learnt to be a good decision maker as a lot of unexpected incidents happened and required swift decision-making to solve them effectively. Communication skill was extremely important because the way you speak affects your impression on guests. I remembered there were once miscommunications between a guest and a cast member. I tried to understand the situation clearly and explain it to the guest very politely and patiently, and surprisingly, everything was solved! This was the art of communication. ○

Yan Cheung (right), Applied Biology, Quick Service Food and Beverage

The internship provided me a valuable opportunity to enhance my communication skills through frequent interaction with guests from all over the world. I needed to help them with any questions and solve their needs. Also, I became more respectful, helpful and patient in order to get along well with my suitemates. I learnt to be more independent too. I solved problems by myself and made a good planning of my life in the USA. Since it was an international programme, I made many new friends from all over the world, such as USA, England, Brazil, Mexico and France. We talked about our culture and hanged out together when we had holiday. It was a very good chance for me to meet and talk with different people. ○



Betty Wang, Accounting, Custodial

Being deeply attracted by the Disney's company culture and living in a totally independent way in one of the world's happiest places made this trip an once-in-a-lifetime experience. Also valuable was the opportunity of developing precious friendship with people from all around the world, learning to respect different cultures and making a great improvement in spoken English. Without participating in this programme, I would never know team work could make jobs done so effectively and I would not know I could take care of myself so well. Although working as a Custodial was very hard, it was really good walking around, talking and trading pins with guests, as well as working together with my co-workers and making friends with other workers in different positions. The three-month in the Walt Disney World was the most unforgettable and wonderful experience I had ever had. ○

Brain Zhao (right), Computer Science, Main Entrance Operations

It was like a dream working in Disney and I really enjoyed every minute working there. As a Main Street Operator, my main task was audience control during parade and fireworks. Owing to lots of interaction with guests, my communication and presentation skills had been greatly improved. Besides, I enjoyed working with the Disney team and learnt the importance of teamwork. I met many colleagues who came from different countries, and we talked and played during the break which allowed me to broaden my horizons by learning a lot of interesting cultures from other countries. The International College Program was an amazing experience for me, and it left me many priceless and unforgettable memories. ○



Cheryl Tung (2nd from the right), Finance, Quick Service Food and Beverage

Some of my colleagues were Spanish-speakers and they were very curious about Chinese culture. They always asked me how to speak in Cantonese and they even asked me to translate their names into Chinese. I could experience cultural differences and got many opportunities to know the stories of people with various cultures. Apart from working, I had the chance to go to Tampa, Miami and Key West for short trips. The trips not only provided me joyful experiences, but also broadened my horizon. All in all, I was delighted that I had participated in the programme and had spent my summer vacation with such a fruitful experience. ○