Nineteen SIT’s students participated in the Two-Week Immersion Programme at NYP’s Project Centre (Guangzhou) based at Panyu Polytechnic (PYP) from 18 to 31 March 2014. Students were given opportunities to immerse themselves in the cultural and social environment through company visits and cultural visits. The programme also included two General Study Modules (GSMs), namely Wearable and Accessories Design and Environment and Conservation Issues. In this blog, the students were asked to reflect and pen down an event they felt most passionate about during the trip.

Geraldine Ng, DBA; Ong Yu Ting, DBI

It’s really amazing how this bunch of people, including Mr Teo, had made an impact on me in this journey. Over the past 2 weeks, I learnt how to be independent and be grateful to things that were given to or around me.

To the 5 girls and 2 guys in this picture, I was really glad they were by my side to guide me along. Even though I knew them before this trip, they had changed from being my acquaintances or friends to being family members to me. We kept a lookout for each other, spent time with each other to do silly things, shopped together, worked together and most importantly had fun together.

For these 2 guys, they were like our bodyguards who protected us and also were great assistants to us during our shopping spree.

For Jenny and Chen Xu, I was really thankful to have them as my roommates. Our China buddy was sweet to us and taught us so many things.

For Mr Teo, he was like our little dad who nagged at us in a good way and took care of all of us in this trip.

If I were given another opportunity to sign up for such a trip, I would definitely sign up again!
Yeo Hwee Si Germaine, DBI

In this trip, I had learnt how to be independent and to also not take things for granted. In Guangzhou, we had to do everything by ourselves, there was nobody to help us wash our clothes, cook healthy food for us, clean our room, etc. I feel that this was a very good opportunity to train ourselves into young adults by gaining independence and stop relying on our parents or maids to do such chores for us.

In Singapore, we need not worry much about pick pockets, robbery, etc. as Singapore is quite safe. However, when it comes to other country, like China, we tend to protect and help to look out for each other and ensure each and every one of us is safe. For example, when we were heading for shopping, my friend would remind me to carry my bag in front of me, so as to prevent my things from getting stolen. We would also constantly remind each other if we had taken all our valuables with us and nothing was left behind at any place.

All in all, I feel that it is good to take part in such trips with the school so as to be exposed to different culture and lifestyle. I believe my friends and I have learnt not to take things for granted and cherish what we have here in Singapore. It was a very good experience travelling with my fellow peers and I would really like to thank SIT (NYP) for giving us this opportunity.
Jeremy Ng Jun Wei, DIT

During these 11 days in Guangzhou and 3 days in Hong Kong, I learnt a lot of things. I learnt to be more independent, to take care of myself and the importance of teamwork. As we were at an unfamiliar place, we took care of one another to make sure everyone is safe.

Through the GSMs, I learnt to make leather products, and also about the environmental issues in China.

We visited various companies such as the Beer Factory and the Bathroom Accessories Company. We also visited cultural places such as Shang Xia Jiu and Sha Wang Gu Zhen.

In Hong Kong, we didn’t manage to visit the university as there was a heavy rainfall. However, I did enjoy the moments in Hong Kong, especially the free and easy time.

Overall, I think this learning trip is fun and enjoyable. I have also learnt a lot of things. This trip is well worth going, and I’ve no regret going.
Jenny Junaiti, DBA

Every meaningful story always starts with, “remember when...”

Remember when we first met each other, we had no idea that this trip would be this fun! To reflect, we actually did a lot of dumb poses in public just to capture all the beautiful moments. No regret! Because we knew that great times wouldn’t come twice.

I felt thankful to be given this opportunity to participate in this trip; it helped me grow educationally and gave me a chance to be independent.

Together, we learnt how to take care of each other, make sure that nobody was left out and there was where we built our friendship. Because of this bond, we were able to enjoy this trip to the fullest.

As shown in the picture, we enjoyed the scenery that was around us. We turned the ordinary road into our personal photo studio... ha ha ha ha ha! We made the ordinary bathtub look more uniquely valuable... more ha ha ha ha ha ha!!

I appreciate everything that we went through together. This experience will definitely be one of the highlights in my poly life. Everyone who went to the trip was AWESOME!
Celia Tan, DEI

The eight of us from three different diploma programmes applied together for this two-week immersion programme. We felt lucky that all of us were successful despite the overwhelming applications.

Firstly, I should say this was indeed a very different experience as this was the only time where we could spend time with our friends for two weeks: eat together, play together, shop together and most importantly learn together!

Secondly, when we got to know more about one another, we eventually found out that not everyone was perfect. In the two weeks, we had some disagreements over our preferences. However, we did not really have any big argument or fight among us as all my friends were very compromising. This trip had brought us much closer!

I was not with my family for the longest period of time. I learnt to become more independent and did things on my own, such as washing the laundry, cleaning up the room and also mopping the floor. I felt I really learnt a lot in this trip and if there were a similar trip again, I would definitely want to sign up!
Jasmine Chai and Josephine Tan, DBI

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all my wonderful and awesome group members to be with me throughout the trip. This trip would not be a fruitful one without them. We had so much fun together. It is just something you cannot imagine.

This picture was taken on the first day when we just reached the hostel. Though the hostel’s condition was not as good as many hotels, we felt quite contented and happy as seen in the picture.

Although some of us had travelled together in the past, we really learned a lot of new things and knew each other much better this time.

We really like to thank the school as well for organizing this trip so that we are more exposed and able to learn more about other cultures and customs. Not to forget the teacher who was involved in planning and took care of us there. It is surely not an easy job to do the necessary liaisons to ensure the running of the programme and be responsible for so many of us.

THANK YOU! 😊
Ng Yih Jin, DBI

During this trip, I learnt a lot of things, simple things like making new friends with the students in both PYP and even NYP.

I realised that PYP’s students stayed in four-to-a-room hostel, compared to NYP’s students who stayed in two-to-a-room hostel, despite similar room size. One PYP student brought us to her room. I was shocked to find her room so packed with things that there was not much space to walk across the room. She told us her home was six hours away, and six hours to reach home was not too long for them! I found this interesting as travelling from Jurong East to Tampines was considered very far for us!

I also learnt to be independent. I need to take good care of my belongings and take good care of our friend’s safety and belongings as well. I learnt to stay vigilant at all times.

I felt sad when leaving PYP.

No matter how much fun and laughter we had, we still take care of each other
Tan Yu Yang, DIT

We started the day with a visit to the Traditional Chinese Medicine display in a guided tour.

We had lunch in a “western” restaurant which had dusty tables. The beef was extremely chewy. With this encounter, I learnt it was better to order the local Chinese food in future.

We visited cultural village in University Town after lunch. It was a hot afternoon. We crossed the rope bridge to have some fun, after which we took some cold drinks to quench our thirst. However, with the sweltering heat of the sun, it was hard to continue our hype. Thus, we sought for shade under a huge tree with several tables.

This day was quite unique and was extremely different from the other high paced events of the first few days of our trip. It was a good breather before we went to Hong Kong for extreme shopping and eating.
On Hui Min, DBI
A China student brought us to 沙湾古镇 and toured us around the place. She taught us how to take the public transport there. It was my first time taking a public transport in China. It was quite similar to Singapore’s. It was a good experience.

Jonell Lim Wan Ling, DIT
In this trip, I picked up things that I had not experienced before. I got to do and learnt things from others while being independent. I had a chance to bond with people whom I barely knew in NYP.

I experienced how it was like to be in a place where I had never been and learnt how things work. These are things we do not get to experience in Singapore as many of us are spoilt by our parents. We do not know how blessed we are until we stay in a foreign country.
Tan Xu Hao Daven, DIT

Throughout this 2 week, I learnt how to be independent in life. I learnt lots of things, including the culture of China, the transport system and the most enjoyable lesson - leather making. I enjoyed a lot during the night performance as we sang and danced together on stage and enjoyed the other performances prepared for us.

Overall I am glad to participate in this overseas trip as I had learnt a lot from it. Thanks to Nanyang Polytechnic that makes this trip successful and enjoyable. I hope I can go for another overseas trip like this.
Ong Shi Ting, DBI

Through hands-on experience on fashion ceramic accessories making, I gained more knowledge about ceramic drawing. There is difference between drawing on ceramic and drawing on normal paper.

Firstly, ceramic is smooth. It was a lot more tedious when we tried using a paintbrush to draw on the ceramic items as the colour would smudge very easily and we had to redo the whole drawing again.

Secondly, the mixture of colours plays an important role in decorating the ceramic as well. We were given coloured powders which we made to water colours and the shades of colours we wanted. We were first given very basic colours such as red, blue, black and yellow. The amount of water that we poured to mix the colour was very important as well because that determined the outcome of the colour. For example if we added too much water, the colour would look very light and diluted. On the other hand, when we added too much powder, the colour would be darker and thicker, which would make it harder for us to apply the colour on the ceramic.

Thirdly, the paint on the ceramic could be easily erased regardless of the amount of time we left the paint to dry. So we had to be extra careful when we were drawing on the ceramic cup. We had to hold the ceramic cup and if we accidentally touched the painted area, we risked the chance of redoing. Overall, I had lots of fun and really enjoyed the whole process of drawing.

However, I was a little disappointed with the outcome of my drawing as it was not very nicely drawn. The colours of my drawing needed improvement. I didn’t do well on the colour mixing process and hence the colours of my drawing were a bit too dark. It was because I added too little water to the powder which made the mixture too dark and too hard. This made it so much harder for me to apply the colour on the ceramic. However, I realised I did not have enough patience to mix the powder slowly and get the tone that I really wanted. Hence, throughout this fashion ceramic accessories making, I knew that I lacked patience and this was something that I really needed to improve.
Brenda Goh, DBI

I enjoyed the accessories and potteries making session the most. The process took two days to complete.

When asked to paint pictures onto porcelain mugs, bowls and porcelain pendants, we searched the Internet for inspiration and started painting onto them with fine brushes. Then, we placed the items in a huge oven to set and dry the paint.

After buying materials from a craft shop, we started making porcelain necklaces by weaving the collar of the necklaces. We then attach the porcelain pendants we painted to the collar of the necklace that we weaved to make a complete necklace.

Overall, I find the trip interesting and meaningful as I learnt lots of different of things and met many PYP seniors who were patient and took the time to correct the mistakes I made during the trip.
Rachel Won Mei Peng, DIT

Despite buying so many leather goods in Singapore, I had never made them personally before. This immersion trip to Guangzhou really taught me the basics of making leather products. I really admired those leather bag companies that manufacture products which are more difficult and professionally crafted than what I’ve done. I encountered several difficulties just making a simple phone slot pouch for the first time, for example the dimensions have to be as accurate as possible. The hand sewing took up a lot of time.

Lai Yo Wee, DIT

When I was told we were going to make our own leather products, I thought it would be very bored and I would take a long time to complete a product. With the guidance of Panyu Polytechnic teacher, I found it was actually quite fun and interesting. I especially liked the design and hands-on process. Panyu Polytechnic students also patiently guided me throughout this GSM the best way to make the leather product.
Alright, after the 10 whole days in Guangzhou, we took the bullet train to Hong Kong. Once we reached Hong Kong and we headed to Hong Kong University. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to visit there as it was raining really heavily and most of us were caught in the rain when we got off the bus. Not to let students fall sick, our tour guide cancelled the Hong Kong University visitation.

We spend our days shopping and going to the tourist attractions, such as the Victoria Peak and the Avenue of Stars. We travelled by ourselves to shopping places using the public MTR and public buses. We planned our own schedule on the eve of the day using Internet search. It was a good experience as we don’t get to experience this when we travelled with our family members.

I truly believe that, this trip has been a wonderful one! I would also like to thank all the lecturers who coordinated this trip for all of us! Not forgetting, Mr Teo, who took care of each and every one’s whereabouts and well-beings throughout the whole 2 weeks trip.