

# Report of Exchange to Imperial College

Wang Xin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Master Student  
Department of Technology Management of Innovation  
The University of Tokyo

Last year, as a second year master student I got an exchange opportunity to study in Imperial College in United Kingdom during July to September 2013. This report is to share my experience throughout the whole exchange period, including application process and oversea experience.

## • Application Process

I got to know the program through an e-mail informing the explanation of exchange program to Imperial College in the middle of October 2012. By attending that seminar I acquired the details for this program. This program offers students above the second year of master degree in School of Engineering a 3 to 6 month opportunity to study in Imperial College. The application dues in April in the next year, and application process is as listed below.

### 1. Get the Commitment of Supervision

For applying this program, applicant needs first get a promise of supervision from a professor in Imperial College. Applicants should make contacts with professors by themselves, and guidance from exchange office in both universities is feasible. In order to get an higher odd to acquire the promise, documents that could indicates your research capability are highly recommended to be well prepared before sending to professors, which includes cover letter, research proposal, recommendation letter etc.

For my personal experience, as long as the research proposal is related to one of those of the potential supervisor, the promise is not difficult to get. However, professors who seem extremely busy may not be good supervisor candidates. In my case, once I get the promise from one of the most eminent professors, but as he didn't submit application documents to the Exchange Office, I had to approach another professor for supervision.

### 2. Send Application Documents to OICE

OICE (Office of International Cooperation and Exchange) in School of Engineering in the University of Tokyo is in charge of this exchange program. Application documents including research proposals, cover letter, recommendation letter, transcript, TOEFL certificate etc. are required. The due date is in the middle of April, which is generally enough for the collection of all documents.

### 3. Prepare for the Interview

The interview conducted by OICE to select students among applicants. If candidates pass the interview, official nomination letter from the University of Tokyo would be issued. The letter is required in further application.

#### **4. Online Application**

For anyone applying for exchange to Imperial College, online application through website of Imperial College is required. No documents other any those prepared in former procedures are required. After the application, it takes several week before the Register Department in Imperial College send off the official offer letter. After the reception, preparation for travelling abroad (e.g. visa, flight tickets) could be executed.

- **Experience in Imperial College**

My major target in exchange period is to finish a research. By discussing with other students in the lab and reviewing their former researches, I was able to solve my question. I have also taken lectures from other department. Since lectures in Imperial College are open to any student, I audited all finance lectures from business summer school and it systematically cultivated me of financial knowledge.

After class I traveled around UK with new friends. We visited British Museum, Buckingham Palace, the Parliament and most of the famous sightseeing spots, through which we acquired a brief understanding about the history and culture of the country. Discussion and experience sharing between friends from other countries is more exciting than travelling itself. Their experience and ideas remains me of different possibilities of life.

One of my experiences I want to share is my method in improving English. My English is not quite good before the exchange and it brought me some problems in the first several weeks in UK. However after three months living there, my English got greatly improved and have nearly no problem in dealing with daily affairs. The reason for my improvement is that I had a German roommate and we talked in English for nearly two hours everyday. I unconscious put myself into the environment where I had no choice but to speak English. So from my personal perspective, for people who want to improve English, living with a foreign roommate is a good choice.

- **Conclusion**

I would like to appreciate my grateful to the University of Tokyo and the School of Engineering for providing exchange opportunity and it with no doubt brought huge influence to my life. I highly recommend students to take an exchange program, because after that you will find yourself different.