

STUDENT MOBILITY SCHEME REPORT



[For participants]

Your experience can help other students when they are planning for their study abroad program. To make sure that prospective students have a chance to learn from your experience, everyone who has participated in the SMS program should complete a Student Mobility Scheme Report.

Upon completion of the form, please submit it to the office which handles the ACUCA SMS at your institution.

Please note that the information will be shared with other students who are interested in the SMS through the website.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[For coordinators]

This report will be posted on the ACUCA Website. We would appreciate it if you could email us the file electronically.

(Evan Jiang, ACUCA Secretariat, Email: acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw)

1. Name: Tomomi Takabayashi

2. Home Institution— Name: International Christian University Country: Japan

3. Host Institution— Name: Hong Kong Baptist University Country: Hong Kong (China)

4. Study Period: from Sept/2012 to Dec/2012 (mm/yyyy)

5. How did you hear about the ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme? (Please Specify)

International Office at your institution, ACUCA Website, From Fellow Student, Others

Comment:

International office of my home institution told me about ACUCA SMS and helped me to apply.

6. What did you study and what kind of activities did you take part in while abroad?

I studied mainly about communication, especially about communication design and media literacy. I took part in international events such as Pulitzer Prize Winners Week with the class and East meets West, which held by international office for interaction with international students and local students.

7. Was it difficult adjusting to life abroad, and if so what were some of the difficulties?

It was not easy to adjust to new life and new culture. Different ways of communication prevented me to tell what I want to do and different time habits of students were problem though I also changed into this time habit sleeping later in less than a month.

8. What advice would you give to fellow students at ACUCA universities who are thinking of taking part in the Student Mobility Scheme?

It is a good help and chance to experience different cultures in Asia, countries geometrically near but not near in personal minds. There are many institutions for many majors so that students can find one with strength in their interests as I did with my specific interest in educational communication. Some programs may look short, but things you can get are surely more than you may expect.

9. Have you been changed in any way by the experience, and if so how?

The biggest change is my thought on relationship between Asian countries. During my stay, I saw some scenes that Japanese culture or Japanese products affects the life of Hong Kong people, and it reminded me about effect from other Asian countries to Japanese life. It was not simple thing as I thought before, and it made me think more about different meanings of communication between countries and between persons. I started to understand how people may feel good AND bad to Japan, though there are more and more possibilities to communicate each other.

10. How do you feel about other Asian Cultures now?

It is not so much similar but different in good ways. That differences are not the thing I cannot understand. Finding similar things in Asian cultures is full of fun. To think about effects of each other, especially about the effect of China to other countries, which are not only to Japan but to other Asian countries like Philippine or Vietnam.

11. Any comments?

Below please attach a more descriptive account (300-400 words) of your experience with the SMS for possible publication to allow others to find out about the ACUCA SMS Program. Include such information as the type of study you did as well as the cultural experiences you had, and any other things you would consider interesting. Photos are required.

I faced many different people and culture during this program and they changed me in a good way. I found how I can appreciate differences, and also found about myself more. There were some problems though, I enjoyed it in the end. Difference is just the different thing and there are no judgment here. This sounds clear now that I experienced.

In Hong Kong, I learned about communication theories. Because of complexed history of Hong Kong, it was so much interesting to study media literacy there. Study about it was developed in Hong Kong and I was stimulated in many aspects. Practical communication theory and history for designing PR communication was new thing for me, and this also helped me to think more about the reason why I study about communication. Other classes which were not concerning communication studies also gave me many implication to my study because all I experienced in classes were intercultural communication.

I had thought there must be no big differences between Asian countries before this program. However, I found there are many differences between any cultures. Even in China, there are different ways of thinking in Mainland people and Hong Kong or Taiwan people. And even Hong Kong people have different thoughts in different ways. It is simple and easy thing that different people have different thoughts, but I did not understand it in reality. I did think that almost all people in same country think same thing though I did not noticed I think so. Living and talking with many local people and other exchange students from Asian countries helped me to understand it. Now I think I understand more about culture and my near countries. The biggest thing I got from these experiences is I found many great friends and many great things from other Asian countries. I want to say thank you to all friends, teachers, and any other people I met there.

