

Turing working overseas Blog

1. How did you feel? How does it feel being away from home? What are your thoughts and feelings on arrival?

I feel so warm. The city is so much warmer than Bournemouth. I took a high-speed railway from my home to Hongkong, it only took me two and a half hours. The entry process is convenient and fast. The city has so many greens, as same as Bournemouth. I am feeling good so far. ---Sunday, 07/04/2024

2. What are your living arrangements? Are they different/similar to your accommodation in the UK?

I lived in an apartment located in the north part of Hongkong, called SHA TIN. It's quiet place, with all community facilities available within walking distance. My accommodation in the UK is near Campus, I shared communal space with the landlord. I also have a friend to live with, it is a pretty cat.

3. What things are different/ similar between life in the UK and your overseas destination (e.g. culturally, environmentally, personally)?

The buildings in HK are much higher than Bournemouth, even London.

4. What kind of social activities have you participated in (if any)?

On Tuesday, I participated in a raffle organized by the student union and won a pen. On Wednesday, there are dragon festival hosted at the centre of the campus. On Saturday, our team have a wonderful hiking activity. We went to Lamma Island. Enjoyed the wind from the mountain and sea. Weather is really nice, a little bit warm. -----First week

On June 24, I participated The **COMP 50th Anniversary Research**

Student Conference. In the morning, *Prof. Baochun Li* delivers a keynote speech.

During the event, PGR students shared their research work in the format of oral presentation and poster presentation. After the first student presentation session, three renowned professors participated a panel discussion. The theme of their discussion was: "How to do good research and have a successful career in Research? They provide us with valuable advice on conducting research and pursuing PhD studies.

During the student poster presentation, I could engage with PGRs from diverse research backgrounds. I was able to ask them questions and seek feedback on my own research topic, which provided valuable insights and different perspectives.

The inclusion of a music show, especially one featuring an original piece created by the Computing department to celebrate the 50th anniversary of PolyU's computing department, adds a unique and festive touch to the conference. It's always great to see how academic events can blend research with creativity and celebration, making the experience memorable for all participants.



5. What's excited you? What's challenged you?

In the Vlar Group, we have research seminars every two weeks, where students share interesting papers, recent research outputs, and ongoing research challenges. It was really tough at the beginning, as the supervisor would frequently ask questions during the presentations, making it a challenging experience for every presenter. Sometimes, the presentations could last over an hour, with the Q&A session resembling a PhD thesis defense. However, even as an audience member most of the time, it's worth listening and reflecting, as critical thinking and reasoning are qualities our supervisor strongly encourages us to develop.

When it was my turn to present (2024-07-19), I was both nervous and excited. I prepared for nearly a week for my presentation, which ended up taking one and a quarter hour. It was encouraging that many of the audience members asked questions, and I was able to answer most of them without hesitation. However, I did get stuck on one question when the supervisor asked me about the construction of a graph and the meaning of two equations. My explanation wasn't clear, and I ended up skipping that part. Nonetheless, I believe I can do better next time.

6. What has been your greatest achievement?

I think I have noticed my weakness and have a stronger heart.

7. What new personal and professional skills have you gained or further developed?

When conducting research, it's essential not to focus solely on our own work; we need to learn from rapidly developing techniques in other fields as well. In other words, we must stay informed about recent and fast-changing research topics. Additionally, soft skills such as presenting, asking questions, and engaging in discussions with others are equally important.

8. Would you recommend this experience to others?

Yes, I would definitely recommend this programme to others.