

ZIHAN XIA

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PROFILE

Studying for an **MSc** in Education at the University of Edinburgh with a **BA** in Chinese Language from the Hunan University of Science and Technology **2:1**.

Spent two years as a Volunteer teacher in Nepal gaining valuable cross-cultural experience; teaching, organisation, presentation and leadership skills.

Strong written and verbal communication skills in Mandarin (native) and English.

Active in student societies and clubs gaining experience in media, publicity and online journalism; a proficient calligraphist, barista and photographer with experience of running a small studio.

EDUCATION

2019 - 2020

University of Edinburgh

MSc Education

Key modules: Autism and Developmental Disabilities; Quantitative Data Analysis with SPSS; Education Policy and the Politics of Education; Conceptualising Research: Foundations, Assumptions and Praxis.

2013 - 2017

Hunan University of Science and Technology (HNUST)

BA (Hons) Chinese Language

GPA 3.53 equivalent to 2:1

WORK EXPERIENCE

Apr 19 – Jul 19

EIC Education, Changsha

Intern – IELTS Instructor

Key responsibilities:

- Designing, scheduling and providing IELTS Listening and Reading sessions for students of different abilities; keeping student records, producing progress reports and providing feedback to parents.

I enhanced planning, time management, teamwork, leadership, communication and presentation skills.

Apr 18 – Mar 19

Srijana Secondary School, Pokhara, Nepal

Volunteer Chinese Teacher for the Confucius Institute

Key achievements and responsibilities:

- Providing Chinese language classes for 230 students from grade two to seven; following representations I made the school administrators upgraded the subject to a credit course.
- Organising cultural exchange and other extracurricular activities to help students better understand Chinese culture e.g. calligraphy and paper-cutting exhibitions, rice-pudding making and the Chinese Spring Festival.
- Actively taking part in school events, outings and activities as well as working with communities for ecological protection activities including the "tie the trash" campaign; launching a scholarship project with the school for academically gifted students from underprivileged backgrounds.

I improved organisation, attention to detail, cross-cultural communication, teaching and teamwork skills.

Oct 18 – Jan 19

Himalayan Java Coffee, Pokhara

Part time barista

Key responsibilities:

- After training and orientation, responding to customer's orders, questions, concerns and payments; preparing a variety of hot and cold beverages and sanitizing work areas, utensils and equipment.
- Helping the coffee shop to design a menu for Chinese customers; promoting the products and presenting coffee knowledge on Weibo to attract potential customers.

I developed the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment, attention to detail, communication and interpersonal skills.

Apr 17 – Mar 18

Vajra Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal

Volunteer Chinese teacher for the Confucius Institute

Key achievements and responsibilities:

- Teaching Chinese language and culture to 148 students from grade three to eight; training students to participate in competitions held by the Chinese Embassy in Nepal; the students won the "Excellent Award" for calligraphy, painting and Chinese folk dance.
- Hosting several competitions organised by the Confucius Institute in Nepal.

I gained leadership, planning, teamwork and presentation skills.

Mar 15 – Jul 15

Qingteng Yiyuan Photography Studio, Xiangtan

Photographer and copywriter

Key achievements and responsibilities:

- Establishing together with two friends an online photography studio, taking graduation photos and other commissions making a profit of RMB 9000 in four months.

I learnt teamwork, planning, decision making and creative thinking skills.

IT AND OTHER SKILLS

- Proficient with Microsoft Office, and conversant with SPSS, Final Cut Pro X, and Adobe Lightroom.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in Mandarin (native) and English.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Active member of the student news agency and publicity department at HNUST, releasing more than 200 works on the campus news media as a photojournalist.
- Working the launch "The Weekend of HNUSTers", an online journal shining a light on ordinary people in the university to present their uplifting and inspiring stories; it attracted 15,000 readers with more than 300,000 views in 9 months.
- Voluntary work in local Old Peoples' homes in Xiangtan; raising donations of food, clothing and books and going to the homes to talk to the residents.
- Enjoys going to the gym and Zumba dance workout. Has on several occasions been gliding. Keen calligraphist.
- Enjoys acting and directing, was actress and assistant director in the Nan Jiangyi Drama Club of the Hunan University of Science and Technology.
- Interested in Programming; attended python and git introductory sessions at the University of Edinburgh.