

# P&V 实见

PRACTICE & VIEW  
2016-2017



PRACTICE & VIEW ELP / Fall / 2016 DALTON ACADEMY

Dalton Academy  
Experiential Learning Program

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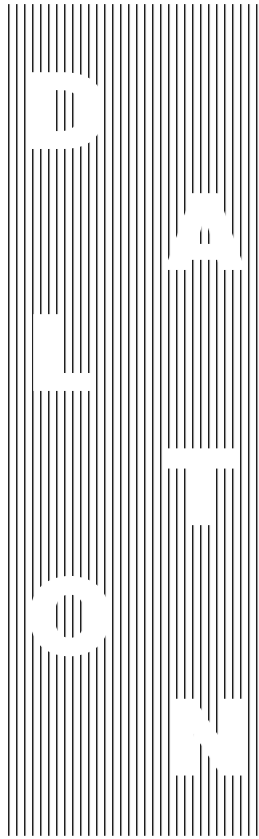
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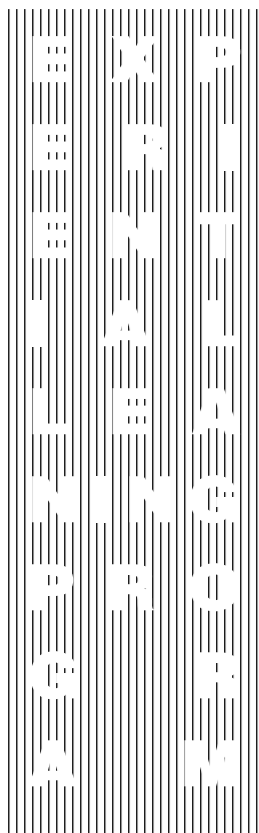




Students at Dalton Academy are able to gain a greater understanding of themselves and the world around them through developing Social Practice Courses, creating an Independent Practice Platform, building a complete grading and operation a system for both teachers and students. These innovation practices have given students skills in the following areas:

- Critical thinking & Problem Solving
- Creativity & Design Ability
- Communication & Cooperation
- Cross-Cultural Understanding & Global Awareness
- Service Spirit & Taking Initiative

**Dalton Academy**  
 Experiential Learning Program  
**Social Practice**



3 types of courses

- Experiential Learning Program**  
 Nature, Culture, Society, Technology, Art
- Service Learning Program**  
 Education, Elders, Environment, etc
- Vocational Learning Program**  
 Internet, Finance, Media industry, etc



**The only source of knowledge is experience.**



**—Albert Einstein**



**Nils Olson**  
 Dean of Faculty

The Affiliated High School of Peking University

Dalton Academy

A twenty-first century student’s life is permeated with the trappings of a digital, networked society. Communication is instant. Vast expanses of information are conveniently available online. Although our capacity to find and catalogue information has been enhanced, true knowledge, the kind that Einstein refers to in the quotation above, requires more. It requires an understanding that learning is a deep and involved process. Learning encompasses more than lecture notes and textbooks; it extends beyond the confines of desk rows and classrooms. Learning is experiencing.

year, Dalton students have travelled to Kenya to spearhead conservation efforts for the last male white rhino. Others have worked in local Beijing communities, reimagining and internalizing the meaning of traditional Chinese arts and handicrafts. Students learned about rural architecture, the relationship between public art and culture, environmental stewardship, social innovation, eco-friendly tourism, and countless topics that are challenging to know fully within the confines of the traditional classroom. We supported student journeys to Chengdu, Bali, London, Cleveland, Suzhou, and many other locations. Each trip encouraged students to participate in a range of intellectual, physical, creative, and emotional experiences. Each trip facilitated resilience and empathy by encouraging students to face and overcome new challenges.

Experiential learning at Dalton Academy is about preparing our students to become global citizens, which requires knowledge of communities that are not their own; it is about guiding them through the rigors of academic research, which requires more than knowing one’s way around libraries and journal databases; it is about preparing them for success in a world where success is measured by more than GPA and TOEFL scores; it is about pushing their limits to become better people.

Learning from experience is a cornerstone of the Dalton Academy philosophy. By seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and (sometimes) tasting, our students are redefining traditional boundaries of education, going on adventures they will never forget. By reflecting on their journeys once they return, their experiences become an important foundation for future learning and self-discovery.

As part of their core curriculum, Dalton students leave the safety of their lecture notes and classroom desks and travel to dynamic communities, cultures, and ecosystems. This



**Tell me and I will forget.  
Show me and I may remember.  
Involve me and I will understand.**



**—Benjamin Franklin**

**Cola Li**  
Strategic  
Development  
Coordinator  
  
Dalton Academy

The Experiential Learning Program (ELP) at Dalton Academy offers students many opportunities to develop knowledge, skills, and values from direct experiences outside a traditional academic setting. Students can choose from 19 trips based on their personal interests and passions. In the Fall term of 2016, 35 Dalton faculty members accompanied 276 students to experience real life in the real world.

In London, students took part in workshops about both classical and street art in the West. They explored how art can have great meaning personally and culturally. When the trip ended, students exhibited their own works of art for members of the Dalton community.

One group travelled to the Great Rift Valley in Kenya to work with researchers on saving the endangered Black Rhino. Students assisted the scientists in gathering data on the Acacia tree, an essential part of the Black Rhino diet.

Another group of students went to Jiangnan to explore the Yuanlins, the ancient gardens of Suzhou. The traditional housing, the cultural atmosphere and the quaint river helped students experience

the typical lifestyle of Jiangnan. Outside of Suzhou, students worked with architects at Tai Lake to create dramatic sculptures depicting a story that connects to the nearby village.

The ELP gives Dalton students opportunities to see, understand and solve some of the most complicated problems in society. Students develop an appreciation for our vast, diverse world, filled with infinite, transformative possibilities.



**ELP Team**



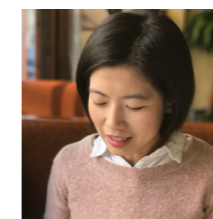
**Cola Li**

Former Planning Supervisor and Journalist of Nanfang Daily; Launched a public interest organization of rural education during the gap year after graduation. Enjoys writing, photography and watching modern dramas. A lover of horticulture and long journeys.



**Liu Siyu**

Master of Social Work, Hong Kong University. A lover of natural ecology. Also enjoys cartography and design.



**Dao Fangyi**

Enjoys solving problems creatively and believes in personal growth. Bachelor of Journalism and Communication, Wuhan University. Teacher of the project "Teach for China". A movie lover and astrology lover.



### Our Three Key Words About ELP

At Dalton, the concept of experiential learning does not merely exist in ELP activities; it is also practiced in the classroom and preached by the faculty and staff. The teachers help design our courses or accompany the students on ELP trips every year.

When sharing their thoughts on ELP, the teachers started off their interviews with three key words or phrases that came to mind.



**Wu Yi**  
Math teacher

**| Set the Students as the Center, Life as the Scene, Self-Actualization as the Purpose |**

Math is useful everywhere. For example, when visiting the classical gardens of Suzhou, the cost of their construction can be estimated mathematically with compound interest models. When encountering rhinos in Africa, their long term development can be analyzed by formulating differential equations concerning their population. When exploring London, the disease outbreak models of a metropolis present a fascinating discussion topic, especially in this day and age of Ebola and Zika. Live everywhere and learn everywhere because examples are everywhere.



**Roger L. Russell**  
IRP Coordinator

**| Stretch, Challenge, Discomfort |**

My conviction is all real learning is experiential. One question continually asked over the years is how does transformation take place, or how does deep learning takes place. The learning makes me something more. And now I am absolutely convinced that no transformation, no growth can take place in a person's comfort zone. Because your comfort zone is that space in the world, you know what's going on, It's comfortable because you understand it. My growth occurs when I get out of my comfort zone. When I promote a job, it has to be bigger than I am, and so I have to be grow to become big enough to handle it.

I love the ELP because it is a chance for us to intentionally take people out of their comfort zones, but in a way in which they are still protected. You will have a great challenge with the necessary support to beat it. If there are challenges with no support, you don't survive. If it's all support with no challenge, you don't grow. So if you have sufficient support, you can handle a tough task. To me that's what ELP is all about. A real transformation comes when you start to critically reflect on past assumptions you've made. Of course, in the past I have made assumptions and had unrealistic expectations. I didn't notice them until I came across challenges, which ELP has in spades.



**Cao Yang**  
Mathematics Department Chair

**| Experience, Exploration, Change |**

**Experience:** During ELP trips, students escape the limitations that are inherent in leisurely or sightseeing tours and experience immersion instead. They witness and take part in local practices and customs, and gain a deeper understanding of social roles and different lifestyles.

**Exploration:** In addition to experience, ELP is specifically designed to require students to learn initiative and discover what is unknown. When learning a Suzhou silk-weaving method, some students will try to pass the shuttle between the double-layered thread but fail as the shuttle falls out. They will then try to find out other methods and techniques that the instructor never mentioned. These discoveries are positive regardless of whether or not they turn out well.

**Change:** Change is multidimensional. In a collective activity, for example, all the students have some creative ideas at first, but some of them compromise to cooperate with others after the final decision is made. When learning a new lesson, some students are resistant, but they change if they see good examples set by others. Reflecting on an ELP after it has ended, the teachers may discover that some previously timid students have become mentally stronger, and other students have matured in their thinking. These are all changes. At the same time, the teachers change as well; they reconsider their opinions on students based on whether they're able to seize the moment and make that change.



**Garay Menicucci**  
Social Science Department Chair

**| Extend the Curriculum, Find Future Goals, Contribute to Society |**

I think the idea with experiential learning trips, first of all, should be connected very strongly to academic content in the courses. The trips enhance academic courses and would lead to life-changing experiences for the students. For me, a life-changing experience means that something they study abstractly has some real-life value that changes people's lives. Like in the social sciences, the students would have social experiences that completely change their views and how they want to recalibrate the goals of their future careers. All of this would, of course, influence what they want to study in college. The second part of it is contributing something to society. I'm teaching a course on the elderly. I want my students to not just sit in the classroom and read about old people; I want them to go out and engage with other people. The trip should have a service component. They should visit a senior centre in Beijing, and they should offer their services at the place they visit. So it's not just visiting, but actually students doing something to help people living in this centre.

I think all experiential learning trips should have some sort of social connection, so that students are making a contribution to society. The purpose shouldn't simply be for tourism.



**Aileen Li**  
Director of College Counseling

**| Advantageous, Adventure, Rewarding |**

How is the ELP valuable towards university applications? Well, it...

- enhances a student's experiences.
- strengthens a resume and college application activity section.
- gives valuable world/intercultural experience.
- builds on leadership qualities and other soft skills.

I've never had an ELP experience although I would love to attend one. I hear about it every now and then in some personal essays or when students explain some of the activities to me during meetings.



**Elizabeth L. Winship**  
English liberal Arts Teacher

**| Mind-opening, Curiosity, Unusual |**

I would like my student to have the opportunity to visit places where they discover or they experience something that is completely new. And that will open up their minds and will make them curious. Maybe something will be so unusual that it will catch their imaginations and help them to look more clearly at the world or understand the world from new perspectives. Last year, I taught world history for Senior 1 students. I told my colleagues that sometimes it shocked me that these students were so young and inexperienced. They didn't know anything about world history and world literature. So it was exciting to teach them because every class, every session was another chance to open up new worlds for them and broaden their horizons.

So the ELP program is one important component of this process. In terms of the humanities, it is easy to imagine, for example, taking them on a literary tour of London or Stratford County where Shakespeare lived. In terms of history, we can take them anywhere in the world to help them understand history from different perspectives. There are so many ways to organize an ELP for students. It is one of my biggest passions.



**Ru Fei**  
Chinese Liberal Arts Department Chair

**| To Understand Why, Appreciate Irreplaceability, Focus on Domestic Social Issues |**

As for experiential learning, the students first need to know what to learn at the destination and what irreplaceable knowledge the place can offer. They also need to understand that experiential learning is not the same as traveling.

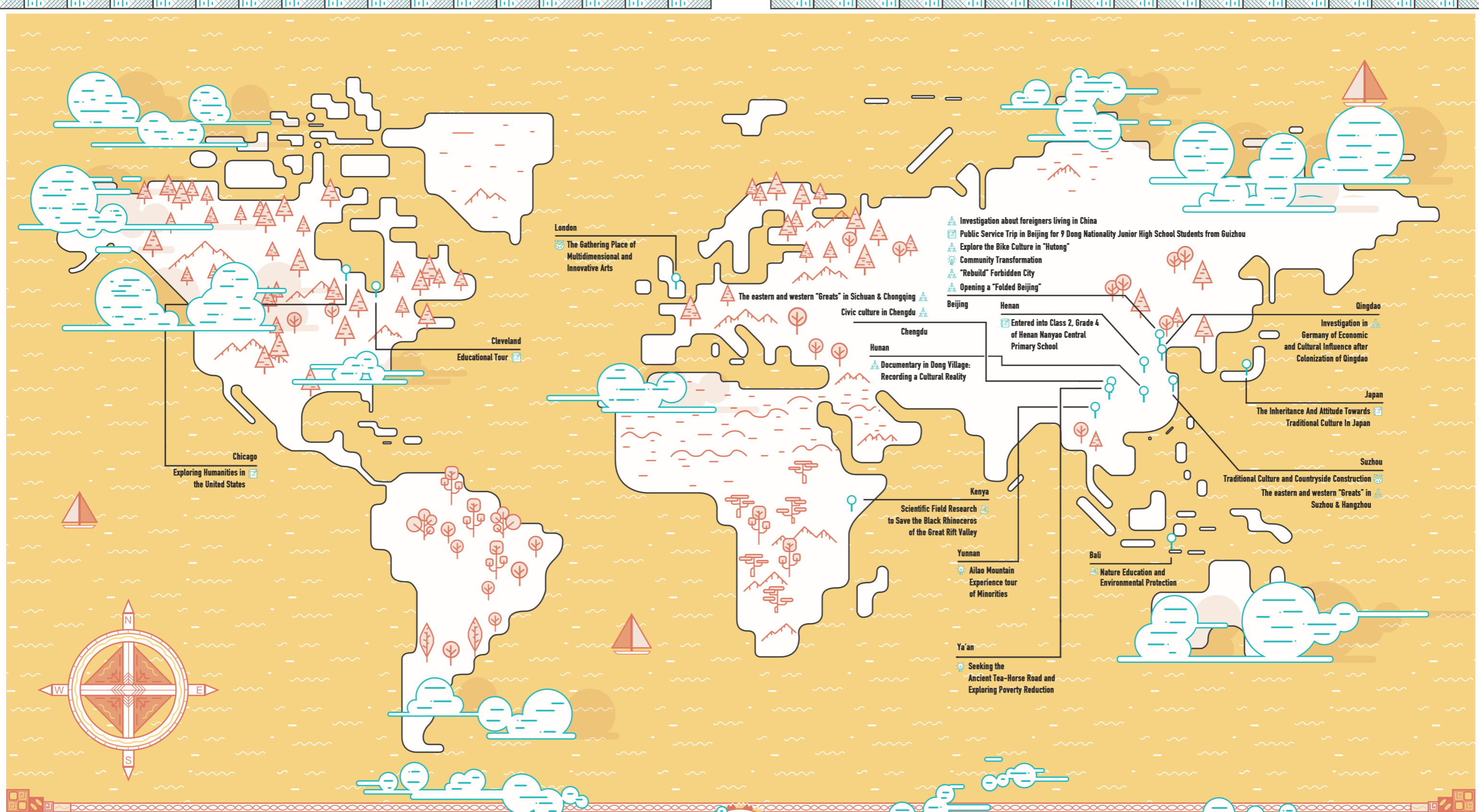
We expect the students to concern themselves with more domestic, actual, occurring issues that are in need of solutions, such as the environment, pensions, psychology, leftover children, elderly suicide, desertification, coalmine workers, urban transportation, educational fairness, and more. Only by focusing on actual problems can our students truly understand their motherland and the reality of society and life, while also becoming mature and establishing the right values.



- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| ① | ② | 1. 2016 ELP Program: Opening a Folded Beijing<br><b>Concentrating on a small but difficult thing.</b>   | 3. 2016 ELP program: Scientific field research to save the black rhinoceros of the Great Rift Valley<br><b>These people who are concerned with the Earth know they can make a difference as long as they're here. — Yang Shuning</b>   |
| ③ | ④ | 2. 2016 ELP program: The Inheritance and Attitude Towards Traditional Culture in Japan<br><b>After lodging with a local family for one night, they took pictures with their "one-day" parents as a memento of their wonderful stay. — Xiong Haodi</b> | 4. 2016 ELP program: Public service trip in Beijing for 9 Dong nationality junior high school students from Guizhou province<br><b>When the girls put on their traditional clothes in place of modern-style blouses and jeans, I saw spiritual authenticity in their eyes. — Gu Qingyang</b> |



- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| ① | ② | 1. 2016 ELP program: Ya'an – Seek the Ancient Tea-horse Road and Explore the Reduction of Poverty<br><b>Witness the miracle of Ya'an reconstruction with abundant kiwi fruit plantations after the disaster.</b>   | 3. 2016 ELP program: London: Gathering Place of Multidimensional and Innovative Arts<br><b>Dalton: "What?!"</b>   |
| ③ | ④ | 2. 2016 ELP program: Suzhou Traditional Culture and Countryside Construction<br><b>Architecture creates space, while drama refines time. Poetic Suzhou sees the co-existence of the west and the east. The photo shows a student's work for a project.</b> | 4. 2016 ELP program: Documentary in Dong Village: Recording a Cultural Reality<br><b>This may be the "most official" documentary creation in history.</b> |



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Independent Programs

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Education  
4

Humanity  
11

Innovation  
2

Environment  
2





DEAD END

**ELP  
PROGRAM**

# Bali

## Nature Education and Environmental Protection

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|| Participate in an abbreviated version of a model UN conference on the environment ||

|| Hike in the mangrove forest and dive in the sea ||

|| Take part in a cultural activity with a local Balinese school, learning traditional Balinese dance and gamelan music ||

|| Attend ecology lectures by naturalists and other specialists ||

Since the 1900s, environmental problems have become more and more significant in international relations.

Teeming with coral reefs, tropical rainforests, monsoon forests and mangrove forests, Bali Island, the world famous natural paradise, has a rich and diverse ecosystem. However, due to the rise of globalization, the vulnerability of Bali has become as prominent as its beauty.

At Bali National Park, the project members will head into the jungle and listen to a lecture on ecology by scientists stationed here for research. Members will try to apply what they learned, in order to deal with challenges in the real world. They will grow plants of their own on the island near the grown-up saplings cultivated by previous students. Through such activities as exploring the rainforests, diving to the seafloor, and living in cabins in the woods, the project members will gain a deeper understanding of the environment and its future, and think of the current conditions and their own responsibilities.



### Beautiful and Fragile

Li Ting

The most unforgettable experience I had was going snorkeling. Although I did not go in the water, from the boat, I could see the bottom of the ocean. I could see the fish swim in the ocean. Though the water was so deep, I had never seen it this clear. From then on I realized we should protect the blue oceans and protect the beautiful animals who live in them. Polluted water causes diseases and death, which I did not want to see.

One day, we cleaned a beach by picking up discarded plastic. Before, I had never thought there could be so much plastic in such a natural setting. Our guide Nono told us animals would eat the plastic because they thought it was food, which caused them to get sick and die. The plastic we picked up filled four large bags. There were so many used diapers on the beach! It was ridiculous! I want people to be careful with their rubbish. We need to protect nature by giving a safe home for animals.

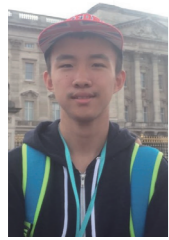


### Dance on Full Moon Festival

Wang Luojun

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, we visited a local school in Bali. The students there were all very nice and friendly, smiling at us all the time, though their English wasn't very good and we could not communicate freely. They taught us a traditional dance there and introduced us to their traditional religious culture. I brought a Peking Opera show video to share with them. In these two totally different places, our performances had a lot in common. I guess this is because of the influence of Buddhism.

Afterwards, we were lucky enough to attend their full moon ceremony. It was a Hindu religion practice, which was totally unfamiliar to me. We sat in lines and did what they did. It was so interesting! We rubbed flowers, prayed, sang along with them, and put rice on our foreheads. That was my first time to attend any religious practice. The whole process was extremely holy; the naughty boys even stopped giggling and started to pay attention to the procession.



**Thinking  
About Growth**  
Yang Jingbo

The most memorable part of this trip is that we visited a local school. There is no university in Bali, so the school we visited was a high school. After graduation, students find their work in the community. After hearing about this situation, I felt sorry for them. They have no chance to go to college, but we can continue to study at a university. Is that fair?

After dancing, we had dinner at school and chatted with the local students. I learned that their academic environment was fiercely competitive, so we had a lot in common. When we left, I was impressed because even though they didn't have the same opportunities as us, they were still happy. It made me think about life.



**Our Promise**  
Dong Zehao

Our guide Nono is a kind and knowledgeable person. He told us a lot about the coral reef. I learned about the various species of the coral reef and how to protect them and also how to protect the ocean and the surrounding environment. We never learned about these things in school, so I think these are the treasures we found on this trip.

From this trip, I realize that most Chinese people have ignored environmental problems. We just do things that benefit ourselves but not nature. That's not good because many of the things we have come from nature. If the environment is destroyed, we cannot live. So this trip taught me that we must protect the environment and not be so selfish anymore.



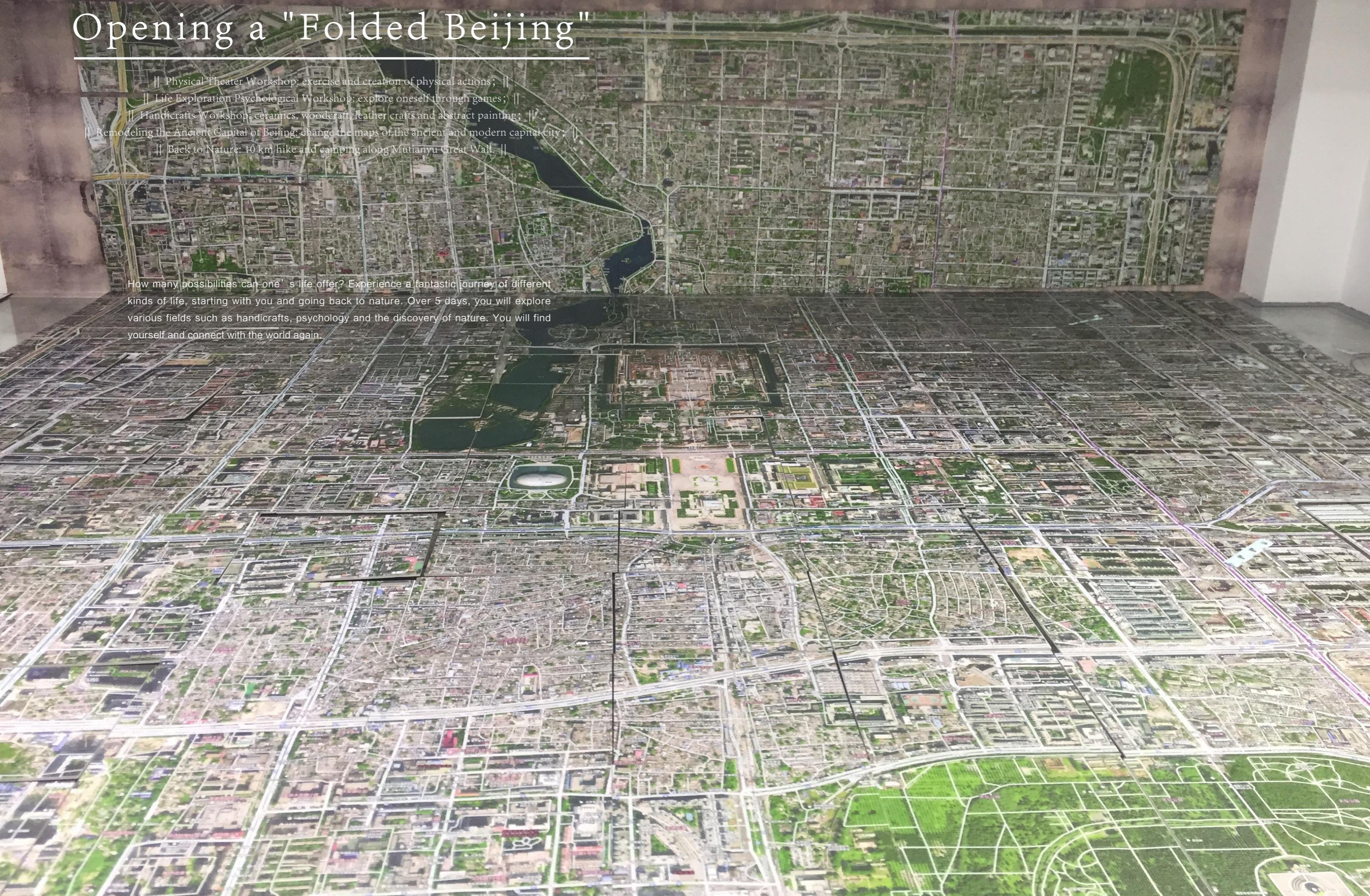
The beautiful scenery I saw while snorkeling and the knowledge I gained about the ocean and the problems facing it greatly inspired me. I'm considering majoring in ocean protection in college because of my experience. I have been looking for more information about the ocean and have been telling my friends how to protect the ocean. —Wang Luojun



# Opening a "Folded Beijing"

- || Physical Theater Workshop: exercise and creation of physical actions; ||
- || Life Exploration Psychological Workshop: explore oneself through games; ||
- || Handicrafts Workshop: ceramics, woodcraft, leather crafts and abstract painting; ||
- || Remodeling the Ancient Capital of Beijing: change the maps of the ancient and modern capital city; ||
- || Back to Nature: 10 km hike and camping along Mutianyu Great Wall. ||

How many possibilities can one's life offer? Experience a fantastic journey of different kinds of life, starting with you and going back to nature. Over 5 days, you will explore various fields such as handicrafts, psychology and the discovery of nature. You will find yourself and connect with the world again.





### Connect with Past, Find Yourself

Chu Ruoying



The psychological workshop impressed me with the "artwork" part. We were asked to make an artwork with beads and strings. Each bead represented an unforgettable event in the past of our life. Lost in the memories, I connected three beads together with a golden string.

The yellow bead represented the time I quit the track team in middle school. It reminded me of the time when I took training with my teammates in the extreme heat and bitter cold, the first time I wore the fluorescent yellow team uniform, and the feelings when I ran extremely fast on the track field. It hurt when I recalled this experience because I quit my loved track team for some difficult reasons.

The red bead, reversely, represented the joyful time when I was admitted to The Affiliated High School of Peking University. I shaped the golden string into a ginkgo to memorize the setting that I made this artwork.

It was a treasure for me in this ELP, because for the first time I looked back upon my past, pain and joy, and connected them together. It also reminded me of the words from Steve Jobs, "You cannot connect the dots looking forward. You can only connect the dots looking backward...believing the dots will connect down the road will give you confidence to follow your heart, even when it leads you off the well worth path".



### The Golden Mean in Handicrafts

Liu Shiyuan

The feeling of soft touch made me understand that it was pottery. A career who had thousand years of history, but had become a way of experience of life. The soil in my hand become softer and softer as I put more and more water on my hand and to repair it again and again. "Why do you put so many water in it?" "Ah, I just want to repair it for a few more times." "Do not always repair it. There was an old saying from people who made pottery and that is Stop at the right time". "Stop at right time", the sentence with no more redundancy shows the Chinese middle course.

I suddenly found that, even though nearly thousand years have passed, even though the careers have changed, the thoughts have changed, some of the old philosophic thinking still can be used in today's daily life. They are so deeply connected in our blood, and won't disappear.



### Challenge the Limit

Huang Zixin

It seemed like I was back to November last year. I could never forget how steep the mountain is and how perilous the journey is.

The road was scarcely flat, with shaky rocks along it. Although I felt tired and my heartbeat became faster and faster, I thought I could get through it. To be honest, it was much easier than the last experience. We eventually reached at the destination at twilight. Some of us chose camping outside to spend the night, while others kept going and reached the dwelling on the crest. I had a tasty and delicious dinner there, and the enthusiastic host made our heart fill with happiness.

The Friday night comes soon, while we are on the way to downtown. Tammy, the leader, prepared food, games, and surprises for us. I could understand why she even wept when the video ended. Related to my own experience, I got some inspirations and reflections from her leadership.

I really appreciated every experience in my life, especially the tough ones.

It makes me kinder and stronger.

# Beijing Community Transformation

- || Visit the sweet potato community. Explore pioneer art in an old community; ||
- || Field research, creative community map; ||
- || Visit different merchants in the community; ||
- || Learning HCD (people-oriented) design methods, design community optimization solutions. ||

If we want change, we must start with changing ourselves; if we are concerned about the world, we must first do something for our community.

The word "community" has an origin in Latin ("community"), and it means sharing and intimate companionship. It is a word related to a sense of happiness. When talking about culture and family we always have much to say, but we know little when it comes to the concept of 'community', which is familiar to families in foreign countries.

What are the features of a community with Chinese characteristics? In this project, we will visit community groups inside the fourth ring of Beijing. With a brand-new perspective, we will observe our living environment and design solutions to optimize the development of our communities. Let's explore a Beijing that is 'more suitable for living'

芒纪嘉园

安苑三区

小关安苑东里一区

100 m



Interview: US vs China  
Shen Yaxuan

In this activity, the interviews made a deep impression on me. In the United States, my teammates and I visited Times Square in Manhattan, New York, and conducted a field interview among 60 US women, asking for their position on Planned Parenthood and abortion referred. Because we know that the two interviewees hold totally different points view on this controversial topic. On this ELP, my teammates and I entered a community, held the survey interview among the residents of Anyuan North District in order to learn about their own views on all aspects of the community, and to deeply explore the realistic problems now in the community.

In fact, the interview that I did in New York was my first interview in my life. And the one in Beijing was just my second time. But only through these two experiences, I found out that I truly gained a lot.

I still remember vividly my first experience. I was so nervous not only because it's my first attempt, but also because I stood in an exotic street on my own. At the beginning, I received many of rejection from people who I interviewed, and I felt too a shame and embarrassed to finish my research. But after that, I felt discovered a stop and answer my question. So I decided to go to the cosmetics store and the clothing store to have a try. To my surprise, almost every woman is willing to share her opinions with me and their attitudes are much better than the women on the street. Not only this, but I also discovered that some people like to hear about Planned Parenthood while the others are more likely to choose the word abortion.

We conducted almost the same field interview in Beijing. My teammates and I interviewed many elders and asked them about their expectation of the community. Through this interview, I found that most elders like to talk with us if we support their ideas and encourage them to talk. So I decided to include these facts into my interview and the results showed that it was effective.

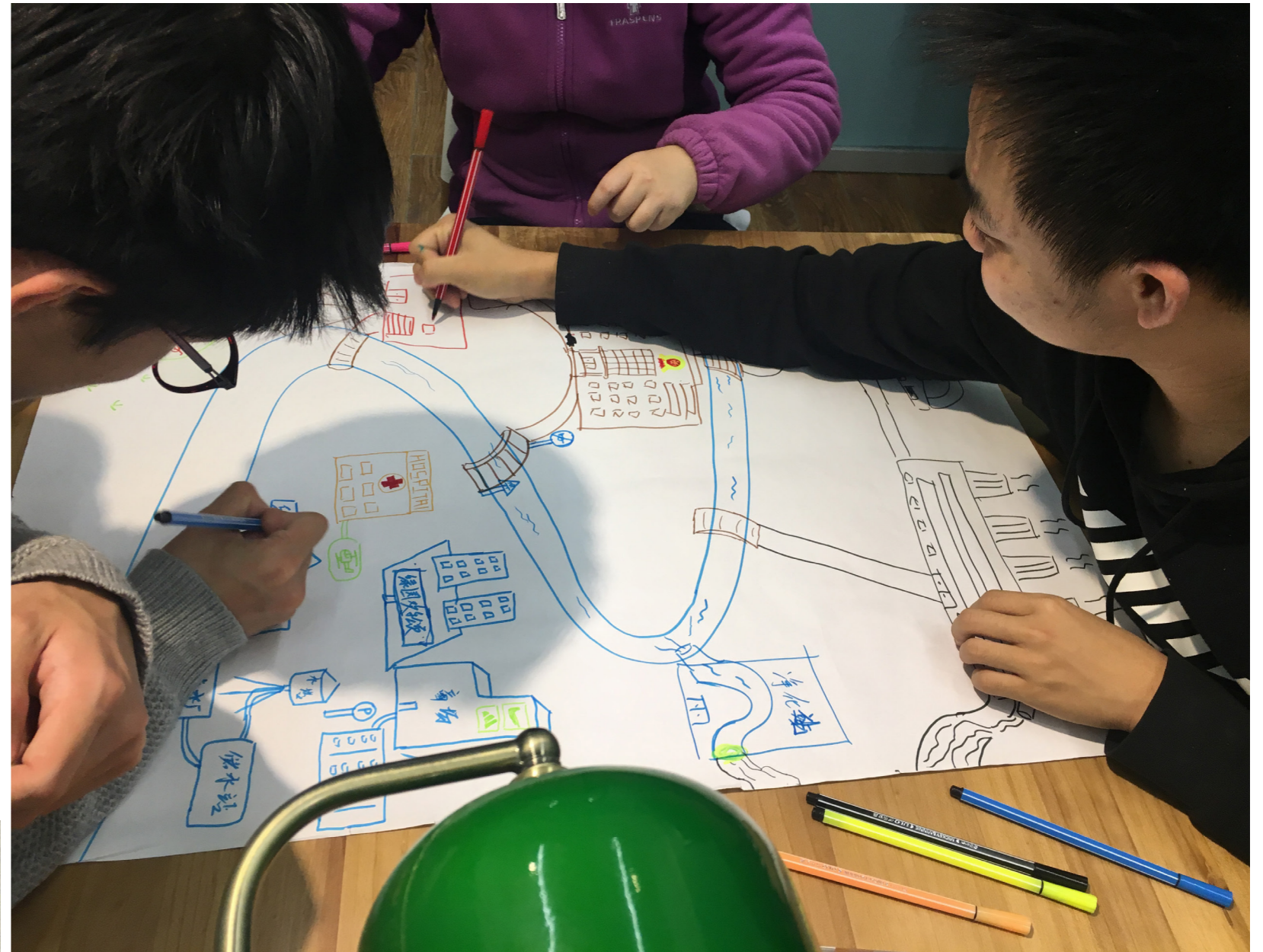
## Be Creative in Thinking

Guo Mingshan



In the activity, our group was asked to design a poster that could reflect one business institution of the community. I was just thinking about drawing pictures and writing information on a piece of colored paper, but one of my group mates proposed some new ideas such as making a foldable brochure in which each page contained different kinds of information so that readers could read it as they opened it gradually and making a three-dimensional poster that facilities of the institution were represented on it as models. These were very creative ideas that could make our poster unique and interesting. I think I should learn from my classmate's thinking by designing creative things in future activities.

The community investigational methods I learned from the ELP are very useful and I can apply them to my classes. To investigate something, I need to come up with my investigational purpose first, design investigational measures, practice them and design ways to solve the problems we find from investigation. The most important investigational method is interviewing people, because I can get the most reliable and real information from people who live in the area that I am investigating. When I conduct academic research in my classes, I can also ask experts in the institutions to obtain information.



## Reflection on Attitude

Zhao Junhao

One of the most ridiculous sayings ever: cleaning workers are not hired to clean up the popsicle sticks people throw on the ground; they are hired to clean the trashcans, in which garbage is supposed to be thrown.

Of course, people's complaints are not only the cleaning issue, neither are the cases in which residents are not responsible. In the following days of ELP, I gradually realized that what drove the local district to the edge of a break down was not the malfunction of the manager, but the passive attitude of everyone who lives there. Therefore, what is to be criticized is not only the community itself, but also the active, hopeful practitioners like us who were still trying to design a perfect management for the residents.



# London

## The Gathering Place of Multidimensional and Innovative Arts

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- || Museum Tour: Visit the British Museum, Natural History Museum, and National Gallery; ||
- || Street Art Tour: learn from street artists and how freedom of expression allows them to pursue their art even in less conventional ways; ||
- || Cultural Immersion: enjoy watching a play or musical in London's West End; ||
- || Art and life: visit Central St. Martins, learn about art therapy and slum art, meet with a tattoo artist ||

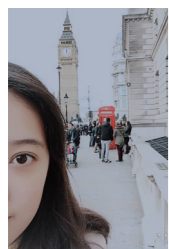
Two thousand years ago, the Romans established London, which would eventually become one of the largest cities in Europe.

As the capital city of the U.K., more than 300 languages are spoken in London. Its kaleidoscopic culture can be found in its charming historical sites, while it also offers popular attractions and recreational activities.

This study trip challenges its participants to consider the many fields of art—its purpose, meaning, and the stories behind each work. Be it theatrical plays, paintings or street graffiti, we explore the fascinating lives of creative minds, seek to understand their motivations, and attempt to challenge the notion that art is impractical.







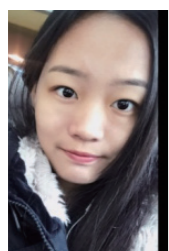
## Discover the New Concept of Art

Zheng Hao

Tate Modern is a modern and contemporary art museum, and it changed my attitude towards art. My favorite art work I saw was called the Babel 2001.

It is a tower made of radios, and all the radios are turned on. When I walked into that room, I was impressed by the grand effect of human voices speaking all kinds of languages, which were all mixed together. There was a unique beauty in it. After I read the introduction, I realized that it conveyed the idea of failed communication, for, although each of them was talking loudly, I could not hear either of them clearly.

Before the trip, I could never think a tower of radio as art, because I thought art was limited to drawing and sketching; but after I saw the Babel 2001, I believe that anything that can express an idea in a unique way is art.

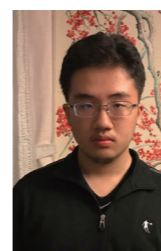


Liu Qianxue

A female guide with a lovely British accent led us on a visit to great works created by gifted street artists and also introduced us to other aspects of street art culture. These pieces really moved me, with their fluid lines and extraordinary collocation in color. They showed the spirit of the artists, drawing attention to the real issues that affected today's society. They're a call for people to act.

I think street art deserves recognition and acceptance in the art world; it really conveys deeper meaning and is not, as some people think, defacing walls and facades. It inspires people, expressing their deepest emotions of them. For me, I think street art is really cool because it frees the artist to truly express himself and makes the streets become that much more interesting. Although I am not really good at drawing, after this trip, I learned so many things about art and how it is connected to real life.

I think art is what you yourself think and feel after seeing it. Everyone has different opinions. Sometimes you do not really need to understand what the artist is trying to say, but just at the moment you see it, you feel it deeply, and that is all that matters.



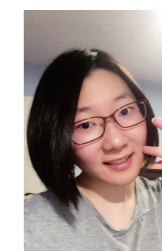
## Open the Window of Acting Art

Mi Zhuolun

I was fortunate enough to watch a musical called "Matilda". I won't write anything about the plot of this musical because I didn't understand the whole play and the story is not that important. What I want to discuss is its form.

In China, modern musical performances that include singing and dancing are not common. Therefore, many young people are not familiar with this kind of art. Unfortunately, traditional Chinese drama cannot stimulate many teenagers' interest. Personally, I really like this kind of performance and other drama or operas. This musical not only gave me an opportunity to admire the actor and actresses' wonderful performances, but also gave me a great longing to be on the stage.

I hope this form of performance can be developed in our county, and I'd like to explore this area more. I'd consider it as one of my future career if it's possible.



## Should Art Be Returned?

Yu Rui

Museums gather all kinds of art from different civilizations, ensuring public access to art and history. People from all over the world, young and old, can be inspired by ancient people to create innovative designs base on ancient ideas. People create unique art pieces and exhibitions by mixing modern principles of design with ancient concepts. The artwork on display in museums enlightens viewers on international cultures, thus serving as symbols for ethnic groups. Moreover, they make certain groups more united and evoke national pride in people.

We discussed the question of whether China should get its cultural relics back or just leave them in Britain. From a Chinese point of view, I am inclined to take them back. After all, they are original Chinese artifacts and can be understood better by Chinese people who come from the same cultural background. However, if we understand the importance of cultural exchange, we can see that it is more beneficial if these art pieces are part of cultural exchange. It can be a more effective way of spreading culture and can stimulate foreigners' interest in Chinese culture.



# Suzhou Traditional Culture and Countryside Construction

- || Experience the heritage and originality of traditional Chinese culture and handicrafts; ||
- || Immerse yourself in gardens to discover the spirit and architecture of ancient Chinese scholars; ||
- || Enter traditional rural communities to learn the details of local social culture; ||
- || Draw closer to the earth and nature in rural areas, and relearn the relations between an individual, nature, society and the ego; ||
- || Under the guidance of an architect, gain personal experience of the process in which a building/structure is constructed, and design and create in groups; ||
- || Through in-depth group cooperation, learn how to get along with and communicate with others, and how to fit into and even lead a team. ||

Composed of canals and praised by Marco Polo as the "Oriental Venice", Suzhou is the most splendid part of the South Yangtze River region. The classical gardens of Suzhou have inspired numerous architects with their cultural glamour preserved for a thousand years. Their philosophy of architecture that can be seen in the arrangement of small trees, rocks, pavilions, gray tiles and white walls. In the old towns of Suzhou, people live by the water. The craftsmen who appear in the alleys have kept the ethnic culture and spirit of craftsmanship after a thousand years. You can appreciate the treasures of Suzhou in Kunqu Opera, Pingtan, stone carving, silk tapestry with cut designs, etc.

Outside Suzhou City and beside Tai Lake, the small century-old fishing village of Donglingdu is where construction begins. It is said that "when the crops in the regions around Tai Lake of Suzhou are ripe, there is enough food for people across the country". Without industrialization for miles, the project members will immerse themselves in nature and free their five senses to learn local wisdom in this small village.

This countryside construction camp will deem the village as the basic unit and start both a journey of discovery of basic rural challenges and a journey of construction represented in an architectural space.

## Suzhou Impression

Zhang Haolei

Through this ELP trip, I was able to visit the Suzhou buildings that appeared in the poems or articles. The buildings in the Suzhou city are pretty wonderful like the poems describe.

On the first day, we had challenge to exchange some- thing with the people lived in the Suzhou city. One of our teammate had some cookies in her bag. Therefore we decided use her cookies to exchange some bottles of water from the trader on the Pingjiang road. At the beginning, we felt really embarrassed to talk to the strangers and introduced our task to each other. Though there were some strangers who re- fused to help us to finish our task, through our effort we reached our goal in two hours. Every time our transaction was successful, it gave us a proud emotion.

These task made me come into contact with people of different ages, different status and different regions of the crowd. Through interacting with them, I felt more integrated into the local life in the Suzhou City.



### Experience the Beauty of "Uselessness" in "Spatial Drama"

Liu Yanyi

Our activity "spacial drama" introduced me to a brand new experience with spaces and caused me to reconsider my job choice in future. In the activity, we are asked to use PVC materials to make small buildings and design the use of spaces in a 40cm cubic frame. In a group of five, the creation of each person in the group needed to be connected together in the end. The five cubes together need to present a complete story (or you can call it drama.)

This is a quite challenging job because this work requires every one's cooperation. In addition to the design of the drama, we are also asked to design the space: figure out how to arrange the base of each frame, try to divide the space in several parts, twist and rotate the space, etc. Beyond that, details of the building should also be considered. Facing this difficult job, we made up two touching stories and mixed them into the design of buildings and spaces. An interesting thing is that our group

had "stolen" some ideas from movies and video games. The movies that we have learnt from include Inception and Upside Down, and the video games are mainly Monument Valley and Smash Hit. These films and games have provided me with a lot of methods and inspired us to set our space in the way which totally violate the physical rule on Earth. The process of learning ideas from these entertainments allows me to realize that even when I am playing games or having fun, I am still learning something that I have no opportunity to learn in regular classes.

As long as I pay close attention and try hard to admire, analyze and feel it, I find beautiful things in it. Finally someday, I may had chance to use it, even I regarded it as entertainments and useless things at the beginning.






### Communication and Challenge in the Team

Guo Lang

I really wanted to put my symbol in my shell frame, all my mates disagreed with that. Friendship seems broke up, things got worse and worse.

I asked teacher to help our group solving problem. He told me in a gentle sound: "The finished visual appearance of buildings that exhibit Deconstruction 'styles' is characterized by unpredictability and controlled chaos."

He suggested me to break down my symbol, and used it to make a new meaning. "The term 'Deconstruction' in contemporary architecture is opposed to the ordered rationality of Modernism and Postmodernism." He consoled me and made me calm down in his smooth voice. "Mark Wigley and Philip Johnson curated the 1988 Museum of Modern Art exhibition Deconstruction architecture, which crystallized the movement, and brought fame and notoriety to its key practitioners."



# Ya'an

## Seeking the Ancient Tea-Horse Road and Exploring the Reduction of Poverty

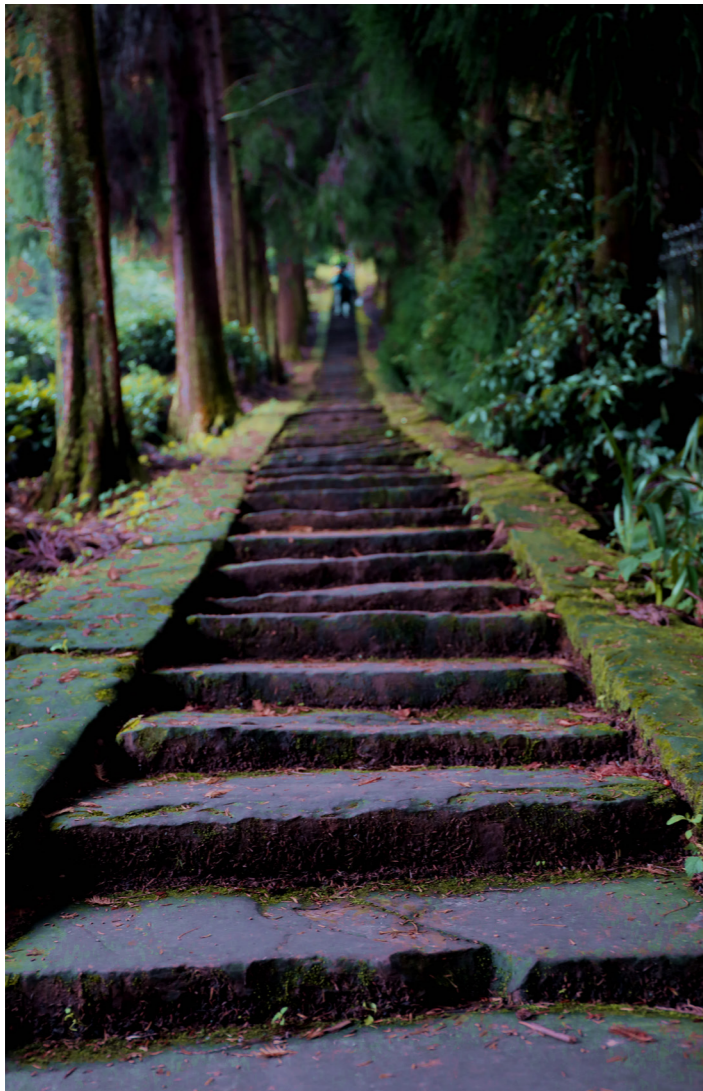
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- || Discover the historic culture of the ancient Tea-Horse Road, learn, and pass on knowledge of the traditional methods and techniques of producing tea ||
- || Lodge with tea farmers' families and experience the simple country life; ||
- || Visit orchards and brainstorm innovative models of post-disaster reconstruction and poverty reduction with e-commerce; ||
- || Take in the local landscape, spread tea culture, and serve the community ||

Situated on the western edge of the Sichuan Basin, where "Nuwa picked stones and mended the sky when it leaked in ancient times", Ya'an is the hometown of the giant panda, the beginning of the Sichuan-Tibet "Ancient Tea-Horse Road", and the birthplace of tea culture.

Although, the moniker "leaking sky" doesn't sound so pleasant after the impact of two major earthquakes. Long-term reconstruction efforts have taken root in Ya'an and energized the ancient town.

The "journey of seeking roots and innovation" in Ya'an is an exploration of tea culture and ways to reduce poverty in rural areas. The project members will immerse themselves into the traditional country life in Ya'an, while brainstorming ways to take advantage of the natural environment and resources to promote sustainable development. In the context of "development", it is undoubtedly better to know the past before imagining the future.



**Guests from Afar**  
Zhao Qing

From Beijing to Chengdu, we traveled 1788 kilometers. Over the past whole week, we experienced, learned and grew up. The Ancient Tea Horse Road x Poverty Relief Innovation project is really worth visiting. It exposed me to amazingly unforgettable activities, it introduced me to my incredible teammates, and more importantly, it inspired me to think of innovative ideas that can make the world a better place.

In this project, we visited tea farms and enjoyed the process of making tea; we experienced the country lifestyle; we climbed lots of stairs in order to get the top of the mountain; and we worked together to find ways to improve the economy of Ya'an. We also learned "Sichuanese" and go to eat wild berries in the countryside. I experienced so many wonderful and new things on this trip that I cannot count them, but I know they will stay fresh in my mind and never fade away forever because they influenced me from body to mind. The experiential learning was overall a rewarding journey.

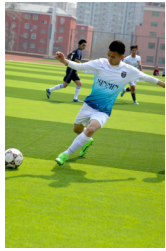


**Lasting Fragrance of Tea**  
Zou Jing

On the first two days of our trip, we went to the tea museum and attended a lecture. It was mainly about the development of tea and Mengding Mountain tea. Five thousand years ago, the first tea tree was discovered. 3500 years ago, people began to drink tea. Mengding Mountain, where our trip took place, was known as the place where tea was first cultivated.

According to ancient works, Wu Lizhen first planted seven tea trees on Mengding Mountain during the Ganlu era of the Han dynasty. Back then, Wu Lizhen was regarded as the Master of Ganlu. 2000 years ago, tea first appeared in trade market. During the Tang and Song dynasties, Ganlu tea, which was one type of Mengding tea, was served at ceremonies attended by emperors.





### Poverty Reduction: Wisdom Stands Side by Side with Poverty; Misery Coexists with Happiness

He Yiyang

Before going to this mountain city, the only impression of Ya'an I had was poverty. It changed after I got to see it personally. This is actually a place of wisdom on top of poverty, where happiness and misery coexist.

We arrived midweek at the tea farmer Mr. Luo's home. The village's living conditions was not as bad as I had imagined. Luo was a clever man. He not only talked about a lot of difficulties in his life, but also suggested ways to improve the village, such as setting up farmer-household tour packages and planting kiwifruit. Luo had already thought of everything that we had before. But the crux of the problem is putting a good idea into practice. Ya'an GDP is lower than the national GDP. A few serious earthquakes brought had a disastrous impact on the city's economic development as well. For farmers such as Luo, "out of poverty," is easier said than done.



### Acquaintance with Social Enterprises

Zou Jing

We cooperated with a social enterprise called Shanpin Commune. This is the first time I came into contact with such an entity. Based on my experience with Shanpin Commune, social enterprise is not purely a non-profit organization, nor is it an enterprise; instead, it is a combination of both. It does receive profits from its products, but most of the profit is given back to the poor people they aim to help.

Another advantage is that it helps draw labor force back to Ya'an. As we lived in the Ya'an countryside, we discovered that residents are basically people aged above 50 and below 15. Young people who are of working age leave their homes and go to big cities to search for jobs. However, what they do not know is that opportunities actually lie much closer to home.

Because Shanpin Commune is not pure non-profit organization, it needs to earn money. Should it put social value before profits? More importantly, can it do so? The concept of social enterprise is relatively new in China, so it still needs more time to find its footing.



The students separated into 3 groups, working together to come up with innovative ideas. Because we are individuals, we have different ideas and those ideas can sometimes conflict with each other. Sometimes, we argued heatedly. One thing that impressed me most is that even though we disagreed, each of us ultimately wanted to help those in need. After that, I realized teamwork is not about aimlessly arguing and fighting against different ideas, but finding the best way to work together to solve a problem. We learned how to be civil through rational negotiation and clarifying a concept before any debates. — Zhao Qing



# Yunnan Ailao Mountain A Tour of Minority Communities

- || Starting with a "pot dinner", the best pot meal in middle Yunnan, and learning about local food and cooking; ||
- || Hiking along the Ancient Tea-Horse Road while listening to stories about tracking gibbons by the trackers for five years; ||
- || Making earth pots and experiencing the farming life; ||
- || Learning bamboo weaving and designing the institute for cultural inheritance. ||

## Profile of the "Flora-belt Dai"

- ||| Ancient name: "Dai Jallaud", which means "the lagger in a migration";
- ||| Settlement: upper and middle reaches of Yunnan's Red River, and at Ailao Mountain;
- ||| Environment: one mountain, four seasons. Landscapes range from the dam to the peak, and from the rice field to the terraced field;
- ||| Beliefs: Animism, the veneration of nature;
- ||| Handicrafts: weaving and earth pot making originating from the Neolithic Period .

Imagine that the tools you are using now was also used by people a thousand years ago. Under the wave of "globalization", the ability to protect such culture is slower than the speed at which it is disappearing. In this project, we will go to the foot of Yunnan's Ailao Mountain to experience the native human and geological environment. We will enjoy the charm of making earth pots. We will discover the developmental obstacles in the inheritance of ethnic culture and see if we can bring fresher energy to a civilization that has remained unchanged for a thousand years.





**Attachment to Yunnan**  
Zhang Zhaoyang

During this trip, I learned about culture of Dai minority, their eating habit, clothing, custom... I chose to come to Yunnan for two reasons, first, I can see and record beautiful scenes because Yunnan is the most eco-diverse province. I took lots of pictures there in order to record every fascinating moment I've seen in Yunnan. The second reason for that is learning; I want to have a chance to experience for myself about the diverse culture in China. The Dai culture is drastically different from the Han culture. There are some special activities that we do not have, like eating polished glutinous rice during the festival. We also discussed that whether the rural Yunnan villages should be urbanized and will the culture still exist after the commercialization of the village and culture and how.



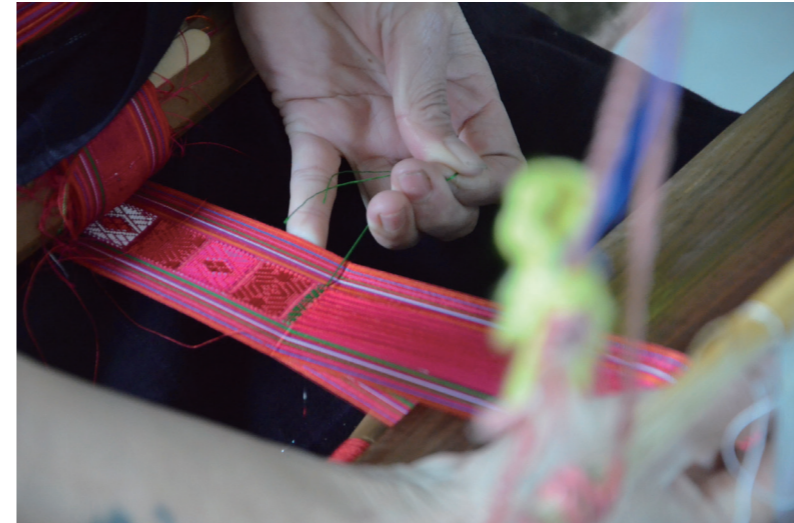
**Learn about Local Cooking Culture**  
Zhang Shuo

We spent the next day, which was November 15th in the southern-base village. It is situated at the foot of a hill and beside a stream. It's such a quiet and serene small village. At noon it was particularly interesting. What made this a truly special and meaningful lunch is the fact that we made every morsel that deliciously filled our stomachs. Although I only help along the way, but I still felt a great pleasure.

After the meal was ready, I went to invite the old village director with a friend. He was exceptionally warm and gave us a lot of banana and papaya; it's so hard to refuse, especially after we found out how sweet they were. I once asked myself what socialism is, I thought I finally got the answer. We

once looked down upon here, but now I found out the big problem in the city that people are living lonely, sometimes what they need is only their own world. And there were no denying that southern-base village is particularly developed in this way.

After coming out of the house and my friend and I saw a field of sugar cane forest, out of curiosity, we went into the forest and try to have a look. It was impossible walk in the mud. Unfortunately, both of us slipped and we were covered with mud. But we were happy to be two friends, getting "intimate" with nature! There was a barbecue in the evening and it was so warm to see everyone helping each other and have fun.



**We Share the Same Origin**  
Zhang Zhaoyang

In this ELP trip, the most memorable thing for me was that the challenge of climbing mountains and walking through the road of trading tea and horses. The weather was hot there because Yunnan was a province near the equator. But I have to wear shirt and trousers in order to avoid the bite of bugs and mosquitos. It was really hard to keep walking in one pace rather than rest when tired. The mountain was high and wide which means that we needed to climb all day to get to the village nearby and have lunch. In the middle of the way, I ran out of strength and after that I almost fell down because of the slippery mosses. Suddenly, a hand of the villager showed up in my sight, he held my hand and use all his strength to pull me up. I felt power at that moment so that I stood up with his help, with the strength that he gave me. After I stood up, when I see his smiling face, I felt warm inside my heart as if powerful energy was transmitted through our hands which prove me the strength of the kindness that one can get from each other. Even though villagers are from completely different culture, they helped me without hesitance. Maybe that's because we have the same ancestor; we come from one origin. We are all members of the Human Race.

Isn't it the same for the trees and bushes on the both side of the road? They live and grow with the nutrient of the mountain soil, with the warmth of the sunshine, and with the soul of wooden elf living in the huge natural garden. In the world of natural creatures, they belong to different species, categories, even characteristic; they still help each other and sacrifice themselves to give benefits. If souls in forest are able to achieve peace, why can't we? Wars and conflicts are everywhere in the world nowadays. Even within a country, we still fight, fighting for the alleged truth of what we support. But, are we really correct? I do not have an answer. Roll on the day human race will find the truth that just for everyone.

Hoping that day will come. Soon.



**Thinking about Cultural Inheritance**  
Guan Xinyue

Fourth days. Our group went to visit a 73-year-old grandmother Li Wenmei. We asked her to show us things new to us. She took the belt her parents had made for her when she was a little girl, and invited us to try. My friend Li Chunlei put on the dress. Grandma looked at the little girl in this beautiful dress from her youth and smiled, as if it was she saw herself as a girl again, wearing this dress looks like.

The teacher told us: Dai mothers spend almost everyday making clothes. Embroidering is very time consuming. As children grow, mothers must constantly make new clothes. So the Dai women develop a habit of doing needlework every day, until bad eye sight in old age prevents them from continuing.

A piece of clothing contain such important significance. I met her granddaughter she could speak Mandarin Dai will also, so she helped a lot in the process of communication with grandma. But when I asked her when will make a belt herself, she simply said: "Too hard, not me." This made me think: in the rapid development of science and technology today, whether we should retain their heritage?



# Cleveland Educational Tour

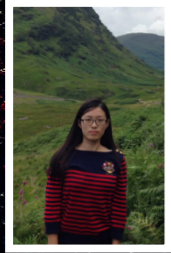
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- || Live in an Airbnb ||
- || Explore Montessori High School with local experts; ||
- || Explore art museums ||
- || Neighborhoods of Little Italy; ||
- || Stay/Live with host families. ||

We prepare ourselves to study overseas, but are we ready to do this on our own?

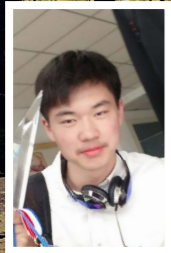
What do American high schools, college towns and learning communities look like? What is the real family life in America? The Mid-western city of Cleveland has the second-best art museum in America and an internationally renowned orchestra. During the two weeks of this experiential learning project, the members will study, play and watch sports with local students from Montessori High School. They will explore everything interesting in the community and even visit farms to engage in agriculture. They will live in home stays and experience the daily life of an American family. They will perceive the culture, geography and life of the city.





University of Chicago  
Zhen Xinran

The university of Chicago is a typical type of universities in America. It gives us the basic idea of how an American university looks like and what under graduates do. Also, we learn more about how to apply universities.



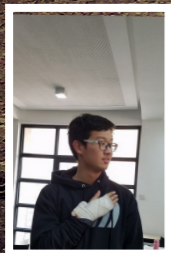
Farm School  
Jia Xianyi

YES, It was very interesting. I never know that a school can be established base on the base of a farm. Student need to do jobs in the farm, and scene there is very impressive. FYI, the baseball game is really good.



Boat Tour  
Yan Yilin

We were in Chicago during the first three days in US. The deepest impression come from the visit of Chicago and the boat tour. The boat tour was visiting Chicago by boats, hearing the stories behind the architectures along the river. The tour was also called Architecture Tour. The idea of introducing the architectures was interesting. Many architectures had their own stories.



Food in Chicago  
Cui Boyuan

The food in Chicago is quite unique and diverse. Pizza is cheesy and very delicious. There are also Mexican food, Japanese food, etc.

# [ Exotic Stories ]



Stay with Host Families  
Li Shuyi

Peru glanced at me when I first came as if I were an unwelcome guest. Maya, the girl who hosted me, lives together with Peru in a Jewish family. Our neighbor built a henhouse in their little yard yet there were no hen but three geese, and this was no longer surprising to me after I found that our neighbor had three huge dogs, a cat, a bunny, a bird couple and five children that were hiding somewhere in their huge house.

About Peru, he turned his face straightaway immediately, every time when I tried to say hi. However, Maya's little brother liked me a lot. His eyes glowed when he talked about a little girl, and hurriedly denied when I asked if he likes her. I found him the cutest boy in the world when he chuckled shyly in his seat, justifying himself. Unlike here in Beijing, brilliant bright color enveloped the fall of Cleveland. Red leaves were blown into the air, flew down and gathered in piles. The long walk in the Hall of fame, the unforgettable working experience at the farm school, the fortunate chance of cheering for Cavs' home game threaded together as invaluable memory in Cleveland. Ashly, Lucy, Bryan, Felix, Billy and me sat together in a room with sunlight pouring in from the window, standing proudly, telling everyone about our school. It was a beautiful and memorable afternoon.

I would give my sincerest appreciation to Maya, for not telling me that our neighbor's snake ran away few days ago.



# INDEPENDENT ELP PROGRAM



# Rebuilding The Forbidden City

- ||| Data collection: looking up related literature in the National Library of China;
- ||| Field visit: drawing a map of the Forbidden City;
- ||| Learning about the current situation and designing and improving the routes of tour guides;
- ||| Group summary: writing a research topic report.

The Forbidden City in Beijing has experienced a rise and fall, honor and disgrace over the last six hundred years. We can see the cultural beliefs of the past dynasties through the Forbidden City's architecture. We can learn about the aesthetic pursuits and poetic qualities through the intricate furnishings of the "Six Western and Eastern Palaces" and the elegant patterns of the Forbidden City.

For students interested in going abroad and interacting with foreigners, it seems especially important to learn more about their own culture in order to add to this exchange, and the Forbidden City is the best resource in Beijing. Planned and arranged by the students themselves, this project involved conducting research on buildings and exhibitions in the Forbidden City. The students explored its many features and deepened their appreciation for Chinese culture along the way. The Forbidden City was "rebuilt" through researching literature and seeking information in many ways, thus repainting a map of the Forbidden City and forging guide routes.



Truly Knowing  
for the First Time  
Zeng Ruoyan

This was the first time I was there as a visitor. We rented an audio guide, went to every spot, and listened carefully.

Listening to the audio guide and combining it with my previous research at the National Library, I discovered how fascinating the Forbidden City was. There were beautiful walls and exquisite roofs. Walking in the Forbidden City, I could feel the rich history. It made me proud to be Chinese.

I also realized how important it was to record things. Without a record of events, we have no idea how events happened. The Yong Zheng Emperor recorded the whole process of the restoration of the Forbidden City, and it became a precious historical source. Since the Forbidden City occupies a unique place in Chinese history, architecture and culture, we should appreciate these historical documents.



How to Lead  
a Team in the Correct Way  
Chen Yaoxin

The Forbidden City ELP was a project that I organized in the first term of Grade 3.

I have no memory of having been to the Forbidden City when I was little. I didn't even know where it was or how to get there. While researching the historic culture, exhibitions and buildings of the Forbidden City, I began worrying that I would not be an effective leader. After all, I had never been to the Forbidden City, and I didn't know how to explain things. What if I gave a wrong explanation? To dispel my worry and anxiety, I started to learn about the Forbidden City in earnest during the application season. I watched two or three

documentary series on its buildings, such as the series "The Forbidden City 100." I actually watched all 100 episodes. I stayed up late several times to watch so that I would be knowledgeable.

The day we went to the Forbidden City was auspicious. It was a little cold but there was a blue sky and white clouds, and there were few people, so the Forbidden City was really beautiful in our eyes. Based on the ELP, I learned much in the Forbidden City and a little about the building models of large-scale palaces, and I am now collecting and researching some data based on that knowledge.



# Scientific Field Research to Save the Black Rhinoceros of the Great Rift Valley

- ||| Training in scientific research field work;
- ||| Monitoring the growth and damage conditions of trees in the reserve area;
- ||| Visiting the first chimpanzee sanctuary in East Africa;
- ||| 8 km land belt transect investigation: status survey of wild animals;
- ||| Visiting Sudan, the last male white rhinoceros in the world.

The number of black rhinoceros in Kenya has sharply reduced from more than 20,000 in the 1970s to just over 500 in 2016. At present, the surviving black rhinoceros are living together inside each reserve area in Kenya to avoid the threat of poachers. Scientists are devoted to reintroducing these surviving populations of black rhinoceros to their original habitats in the near future.

In this action, the project members became assistants of the scientific investigation stations in each reserve area. They carried out tasks presided over by internationally well-known scientists and entered the depths of scientific investigation reserve areas among wild animals where ordinary people and tourists cannot go. They monitored the growth and damage conditions of trees in the reserve area, investigated 8 km of land belt transect and started scientific research fieldwork which would change their lives.



Yang Shuning

## Look to the Past to Recall Africa

Africa, the continent that is considered to be full of a large number of mosquitoes, bugs, which are extremely dangerous, desolate cold, and chaotic houses, amazed me after the visit. I, as well as my team mates, would certainly stand out and declare that the common negative beliefs of Kenya are totally wrong. What we saw in Kenya were: colorful bungalows, neat neighborhoods even without the cover of flowers and trees that are used to block sands.

Combined with the blue sky, plenty of clusters of white clouds, and fallen trees due to natural accidents such as lightning and forest fire, Africa, in our mind, is the mostly friendly and natural place. The vast open, natural freedom, without much modification and artificial things, provide people a special atmosphere which is always like a kind of calm mixing with enthusiasm. Even the local people are different from our imagination. They are all honest, warm-hearted and generous. As the words say, you will never know until you go.

Kenya's memory in my perspective is always like this, sweet and substantial. I went to Africa to lose my mind and find my soul.

## Experience in Ol Pejeta

Besides experiencing the life in Africa, our trip's main purpose was to learn and assist the scientist in Ol Pejeta conservancy with protecting black rhinos. The result I got from the learning were that everything is changing all the time, toward the positive, but also toward the negative. I can still remember the last few days when Joseph and Douglas displayed the data on the poaching situation in the protected areas which gradually grew larger every year. What's



As long as we are here, everything can be changed



grew larger every year. What's more, with more and more advanced tools that poachers use, there will be increasingly large tombs in rhinoceros cemeteries. A Large number of young guards were injured in the reserve and the hunters fighting for protection because they were not allowed to use guns.

When we went to visit them, they looked at us with stiff and shy eyes, telling us about the work they do every day. They count animals all year long. Imagine, whenever they hear a gunshot and lose an animal, how heartbreaking that might be.

### Hopes

In Kenya, when more and more people are studying and volunteering to protect animals, people of all ages are coming from all countries and gathering. Also, the public are gradually raising their awareness of conservation. This puts wild life in a positive position. Objective

and subjective factors mixed together, result in the present situation. When we saw two giraffes with their necks fighting each other, we screamed in the car; when we saw the lions wandering free in nature, we felt so great.

Earth is obviously the home of all creatures, but why, now, are only humans enjoying the earth while animals are suffering? We reflect, we regard, we, the people who really do care about nature, as long as we exist, everything will change, and now, let us finally take a good look at you. Goodbye Ol Pejeta.



Salute  
the Watchmen  
Cheng Daian

Staring at the guards' honest faces and seeing the toughness in their eyes, I was much grieved. They are the stepping-stones of the rhino's future. The rare animals are bound to step on their bodies either on a road to prosperity or perhaps, extinction.

Whether or not they achieve the desired outcome, the pure souls of the guards were destined to be sacrificed for the animals. Like the warriors who gave up their peaceful lives to fight on the battlefield, the guards grapple day and night only for their faith and to guard their treasures, doomed to possibly face an unpredictable ending in the next second.

I was distressed to realize the possibly doomed destiny of the warriors, moved by their braveness but at the same time dreaded the immensity of their job. I felt much like a wartime woman who is torn between the dread of being associated with death and having the utmost respect and gratefulness for those who fight for me.

When I was talking to the guards, I was annoyed by my cowardice, and I was not willing to join them and spend our lives under such dangerous conditions. So, I told myself that, one day, when I both have the knowledge and the determination to help them, I will return to this land and, like a warrior, gloriously devote myself to the future of Earth.



# Exploring Bike Culture in the Hutongs

- ||| Entering a high-end bicycle shop and investigating and surveying its marketing conditions;
- ||| Learning bicycle maintenance, repair and applications;
- ||| Visiting the bicycle studio in the 798 Art Area of Beijing;
- ||| Conducting bicycle culture interviews in hutongs;
- ||| Experiencing cycling as a form of exercise.

China was once a great power in bicycles. The professional bicycle industry started to sprout domestically in 2003 and maintained a healthy growth rate up to 2009. The number of people taking part in professional exercise has been gradually increasing in recent years. However, there are more and more people in Beijing choosing to drive for transport. While cycling for exercise is developing on a large scale, many ordinary bicycles have been replaced by e-bikes, motorcycles and even automobiles and metros.

The project team members hoped to promote the understanding of the bicycle industry through an ELP: learning about bicycle culture in the hutongs of Beijing while exploring the operation and marketing of the high-end bicycle industry, and exploring the actual functions of bicycles for the green travel of Beijing people and the future prospects of the industry.



Enjoying  
Cycling  
Sun Junhao

On the way back, we entered a large garden, we watched the setting sun, Maa even sang. It was a remarkable day, to be precise, it was the first time at high school I hung out with some friends. We experienced the convenience which a bicycle has brought us every day, yet on that day, it was the entertainment that we felt. It was by no means an escape from tiring life, but a recharge for a better, more productive and efficient future.



Investigation of  
the Current Bicycle Situation  
in Quadrangle Dwellings  
Wu Xiaotong

In the areas that tourists do not go, the conditions are much more complicated. The owners of Square Houses would widen their street and add another floor to their house. The wide street could fit 2 car lanes and some houses built parking areas for about two cars. I think these owners are probably quite rich as I could see Audi, Bench and Maserati parked in the street. I also saw many tricycles and electrical bikes there. Many of the tricycles can take up to 3 passengers. And many of these tricycles are not in very good condition so I guess that the owners are not very rich and the tricycles are the only thing they could afford for their daily commute. I also saw that many of the tricycles have thick gloves attached to their handles, to protect the rider from the cold in winter. That was not common

in Southern China. So, I think the coldness in Northern China could be a blockage for the electrical bicycle industry and many of the bicycles there were not in very good condition too. I expect these bicycles wouldn't have been used for a very long time.

On the plus side, I see many people would try to borrow bikes for a short ride and borrowing bikes is very convenient, especially in tourism promoting areas, so the bicycling culture is not dead.

I began to see that the bicycling culture is fading and China may soon, not be that country flooded with bicycles. As more and more people are throwing away their old bicycle, I also realize that to recycle the rusted old bicycles could be a problem in the future.





# Entered into Nanyao Central Primary School in Henan Province



- Project field research: to learn about the conditions in villages and schools;
- Interviewing the local teachers, observing the environment and recording their feelings;
- Experiencing teaching: designing games and holding art workshops.

Foot prints can be found in education for every phenomenon in each age, and education is also the starting point of a generation's hope.

Some phenomena which can be found in schools include, stay-at-home children, insufficient resources, problems inside students' families and life... Even though today the problems of village schools have caused extensive concern and fundraising in society, the response is still utterly inadequate for dealing with such a severe situation. The project members utilized this chance to plan an experiential learning program (ELP) at Henan Nanyao Central Primary School through which its members could thoroughly learn about the difficulties faced by primary schools in villages, and try to stand in their own positions and provide the children with more assistance.



Wen Xin

## Reaching out to Local Schools

Yan and I were assigned to Class 2, Grade 4. After a whole morning listening to local teacher's classes, I found an insufficient level of quality in their teachers. Chinese teachers just simply put the answers to reading questions on the PPT and let students copy them down. The math teacher was smoking during class, the English teacher asked the children to read the English words loudly with an incorrect accent for forty minutes... Outside the window the construction workers were drilling walls. The rumbling sound and the pungent smell made children cough. The classroom was gloomy and cold. The children said that in winter, they burn coal to keep warm.

This afternoon we organized a class meeting with the children in order to enhance our mutual understanding. We let them write their information on a piece of paper and we let everybody in the class draw a big picture on the blackboard to feel the warmth of the class.

## Thinking about Change

I chose this ELP because I have always wanted to be a teacher and I like to spend time with children. The time with little children is always hard but happy.

These days also let me understand that the problems of Chinese education can't be improved in a short time and there are some things that we really cannot change, from the mountains to the city. However, I am happy to bring the outside world to those children and make a small or big difference in their lives. I am also glad for the valuable life experience of visiting the village school and thoughts that they gave to me.



## Agreement and Commitment

Yan Xinyue

It's the last day we spent with the kids. I cried. The children of the class I have stayed with these days, also cried. I have imagined this situation before. I still cannot hold the emotion. The kids asked for ways to connect with us, taking photos with us and gave us pens they used. These things were lovely. There was a girl who hugged me for a long, long time and kissed me.

This school is not affluent and lacks teaching resources and living essentials such as fresh water and heating supplies but the children themselves, are not different from any of us when we were in primary schools. Sometimes we felt helpless because we couldn't give them as much material support as they need. The only thing we can do is to let more people or more organizations be aware of their circumstances and give them actual help. Hopefully we can see schools like this improving in the future.



# Documentary in Dong Village: Recording a Cultural Reality

- ||| Living in a traditional Dong Village;
- ||| Experiencing the traditional lifestyle of the Dong people;
- ||| Composing documentary scripts, shooting and editing film and creating a complete documentary.

The Dong Minority is mainly distributed around the junction of Guizhou, Hunan and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Since ancient times, Dong Village has enjoyed a good reputation as the "Hometown of Poems and Sea of Songs". Along with the impact of economic development and global integration on culture, how can the Dong Minority develop today? In this activity, the project members lived in traditional dwelling houses and personally experienced the Dong people's realm of the senses. The current and real living state of the Dong Minority was recorded along with the changing times through the making of a documentary.



Adjust the Shooting Plan  
Wei Yuxuan

This semester, my ELP program is to make a Dong Minority Cultural Documentary. We film crew live in Yang Zhiwen's home, Zicheng village, Liangsan town, Hunan province, China. We stay with Yang's, try to do what they do, eat what they eat. We record their daily life and come up with a 20-minute long documentary.

Yang's are local people, the only income of this family is Yang Zhiwen's salary as a building worker. Yang Zhiwen's granddaughter lives with him while her parents are working in Shenzhen.

Actually, before we arrived, we had few information about Zicheng village because it is so remote that we cannot even make a script. Therefore, we spent the first day in Zicheng

village found the environment and daily works of Yang's, we decided to record one day of Yang Zhiwen and his wife.

First, we recorded videos in turns. Our fodders included shots of Yang's work and the natural environment, such as mountains, terraces, clouds and mists, chickens and cattle. Then, we interviewed Yang Zhiwen and his brother, Yang Linshu. When we came back, we combined all fodders we had and made a documentary.





## Rural Life vs City Life

Zhou Haina

When we finally arrived at the wooden house after climbing a small mountain by a microbus, I was shocked by the sight on the top of the mountain. The clouds in the sky is like the water in the sea, I can even see the moving of clouds, literally. It was the sight that I can not imagined before. I still remember the first night we live in the mountain, we filmed the clouds moving on the moon, I mean, we can see the view that moon moving across the clouds clearly.

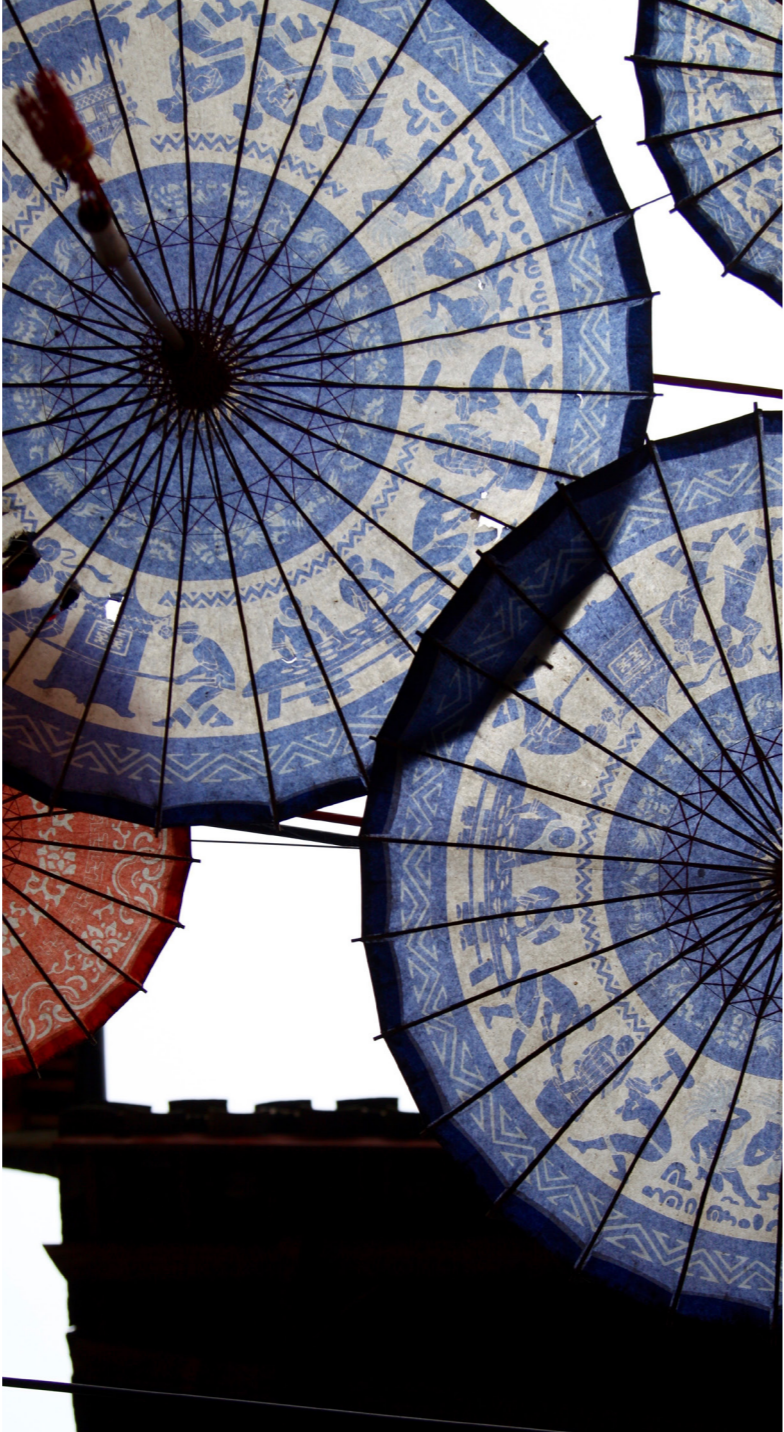
I have to say that I grow up in a good living condition in Beijing, and actually I was not completely comfortable with the living condition of the Dong minority in this village.

Wei Yuxuan

According to this experience, rural life is totally different from city life. Yang Zhiwen need to do both architectural and farm works, while his wife needs to cook meal, feed livestock, dig and sell wild vegetables to make some allowance. Their life is always about the food topic. They are afraid of bad weather, which can destroy plants, they worried about how to build a house with little financial support. Although they live poorer than city resident, they have those rolling hills and restless spring, which just as brad and pure as their minds.

However, people who live in cities do not need to do these work but work in offices, worry about the cost of cars, gases and houses. Cities are more crowded than countryside. Therefore, ity resident do not connect each other closely because people have a rapid pace of life in modern life. In other words, they have more advanced lives but less freedom. As a person who was born and grow in the city, I sometimes feel lonely in this big city. Without mountains or amazing mists, my heart is no longer open widely.

Rural people stay on the mountains, we city people stay in skyscrapers. It seems that we will never have a chance to know each other, but this ELP program gives me this chance. This is a very special experience, I really enjoy it, and I appreciate it.



## Recording and Discovering

Zhou Haina

As for the documentary part, the prophase filming is my strong point and what I am interested in. At first, I did not take the theme of this documentary seriously, then I found that it was the most important part of a documentary. In my anticipation, I wanted to figure out the current culture of Dong minority, whether the culture was inherited by people, what is the core of the Dong culture, and how did these culture have been passed down nowadays. However, after a few days interview and investigation, I found that it was difficult to find the real core or a branch of the inheriting process. Most of people was called Dong minority just because they lived in this area where Dong minority used to live in.

A simple example, Dong minority has their own language, but only a few of people in Dong minority could speak, not mention the ability to write. If we really want to understand the culture and history of a minority, we need to reach the people who was maybe in the important place of an important family. Unfortunately, we did not have this chance.

# Exploring Humanities in the United States

- ||| Visiting various key academies in the USA and experiencing life studying abroad;
- ||| Visiting all the top museums in New York;
- ||| Interviewing local overseas students and making a video named "Overseas Students in the USA".

In this project, I visited a series of universities and unique human landscapes in the USA, and experienced the full-bodied culture of a foreign land while visiting the exquisite and magnificent architecture of humanity. I visited the old and venerable institutions of higher education in the USA, experienced the important role played by education in human development at all ages, contrasted the distinctions of culture at home and abroad, and helped the students to prepare for their own life of studying abroad in the future.



**Finding the Ideal University**  
Wang Jiutianyue

The first part of our trip let us experience the new culture by ourselves, it reminded us of our responsibility to learn and spread these ideas to the future generations. The museums and universities we visited all have some long histories. The one I enjoyed most is the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The exhibits there are quite special and classic; some of them are very precious works, including the original works of Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet and many other well-known artists. It was my pleasure to see those great works of the world.

Among the universities we visited, I like the University of Pennsylvania best. I was quite influenced by the atmosphere of vitality there, and I hope that someday I can walk through that school gate again, as a student studying there.



**Interview with Local Students**  
Wan Jiayue

For the second part, during our university visits, we interviewed several Chinese students who studied abroad, in order to learn more about their collage lives in America. We chose 10 questions about security, study, social relationships to interview them. We got lots of different answers, but there was one question for which all of them had the same answer. That question was "Do you feel regret about studying abroad?". The answer of all of them was "No." Although it took them 3 months to 1 year to adapt to the life in America, it was hard to get really close relationships with their professor and classmates. They needed to spend lots of time on studying, and even through sometimes they would be discriminated against, they still felt it was worth. While studying in America gave them a meaningful experience which they cannot get in their own country.

From the interesting results, I know that studying abroad is not that easy. I choose this road. Although it is hard, I still need to persevere, and I am sure that I will also not regret it.

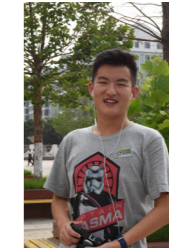


# The Inheritance and Attitude Towards Traditional Culture in Japan

- ||| Visiting the famous tea scenic spot, the holy land for paying respect to the Buddha and Kyoto Tower;
- ||| Visiting Hosei University in Japan;
- ||| Dwelling in local homestay hotels and experiencing daily life in Japan.

Japan, a country separated from us by the sea, has constantly inherited and adapted Chinese culture for a thousand years. In Japan, there are many cultural elements that we are familiar with nowadays. However, in terms of cultural inheritance, the Japanese nation has inherited most of the traditional culture that features their tenacity and rigorous spirit of self-discipline. These classics have never faded but become even brighter and more sacred from generation to generation through inheritance and preservation of later generations.

In this project, three directions were selected: paying respect to the Buddha, classic buildings, and scientific and technological innovation. We can look for differences and connections between cultures, and reflect on, comprehend and learn about our own culture in turn.

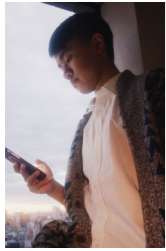


A Far-away "Relative"  
Xiong Haodi

I'd like to talk about our home stay family. Frankly, I was really frightened before our homestay. I was quite nervous to live in a stranger's family, especially a foreign one. After 2 days, at the end of our homestay, the first sentence I shouted out with my partners was "I still want to stay in their family!"

In general, the old couple were more likely a remote kinsfolk rather than a foreign stranger couple, they are quite "Lovely"! I can remember clearly when my partner and I were just stepped in their house, he introduced his wife like this "Let me introduce my beautiful wife, I am not lying but she's the most charming woman in the whole world".





## Small Details, Big Gap

Wu Chufan

I found something strange while we visit Hosei University, there were a lot of brown board covered a big window so that we can't see anything outside window. Then our guide told us, they were solar panel. They collected electricity for the electrical equipment in the school. There was a screen which shows the amount of electricity they have already collected. If this event wasn't surprising. Let me tell you another story.

In Oita, we lived in natives' house. It was in the countryside and very far from the cities even a small city. After eating dinner, the natives who treated us said they were going to check solar panel. It really shocked me. So I went with them. There were a lot of solar panels in the yard. In China, we even hardly find a solar panel for personal requirement in the city. We never think about setting a solar panel to save resource in our home and our school. In Japan, they use solar so well and so widely.



# Suzhou and Hangzhou vs. Sichuan and Chongqing: the Eastern and Western 'Greats'

## Chengdu

'The Land of Abundance' of Chengdu has a natural environment and profound humanistic accumulation. The most characteristic leisure culture attracts countless tourists with its relaxed and carefree charm. When visiting Chengdu, we can interpret the civilian culture and consciousness of the city from different angles.

## Suzhou, Hangzhou

Compared with the northern region, why does the south (taking Hangzhou and Suzhou as examples) pay more attention to doing business? What are the advantages and disadvantages for development? The project members visited Suzhou and Hangzhou to look for answers to these questions.



Lifestyle of "Avoiding Proper Work"  
Huang Jin

The most unforgettable experience during the trip is interviewing a mid-age man in People's Park. There's an interesting phenomenon in Chengdu that people of all ages show great enthusiasm about going to public spaces like some free parks. They consider this as an important part of their social life and a good way to unwind. Among a group of resting people, I talked with a man who looked outgoing. From the conversation I learned that they are members of a folk performing organization consists of thirty people in an average age of fifty. They gather in the park three days a week for rehearsal.

Actually, there are hundreds of spontaneous organized groups in Chengdu. No one judges their professionalism. Everyone is willing

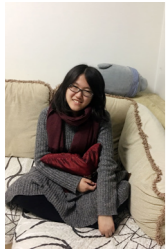
to respect and appreciate others' hobby and efforts. Seeing how happy, healthy and energetic the man is, I again learn about the great impact of traditional leisure and optimism in the culture of the city.

In Chengdu, popular consciousness is not just a term. It's presented in a cup of "Chuan tea", a fit of laughter, a spicy hot pot and a carefree mindset. That is my first time doing interviews in a completely natural and relaxed environment. It turns out that the ambience also affects part of my values. Isn't it more important to find the chance to experience the world and enjoy your life with great passion? Maybe this is the purpose of ELP—to learn and to feel.



Wang Junyang

The main attraction of Chengdu, in my perspective, is its inclusiveness or comprehensiveness. This City contains people from several different places, and it supports them by keeping the overall balance of the whole city.



Gong Chengyi

Economics, which is a worldwide perennial topic, is the continual focus of thousands of people. The reason for us to choosing it as a subject is that it is a curious of a phenomenon in China. In ancient ages, there was a policy of physiocracy and restriction of business, while the economic in Suhang was still furious. Nowadays as northern China pays the attention to heavy industry, the amount of private enterprises rises in the south.

We stayed in Hangzhou for three days and Suzhou for four days to make comparison. In Hangzhou, we mainly focused on the influence of West Lake and Qiantang River, while in Suzhou we focused on markets and pawnshops.

In Hangzhou, we discovered that water plays an important role. people used the river to connect east and west, and added advanced railroad to have even better transportation. The city is located in the middle of two main harbors, Ningbo Harbor and Shanghai Harbor, consequently the output is able to get priority. What is more, water provides abundant fresh water resources, including fish. The richness of the lakes landscapes attracts 200 million people and harvests of 2,200 million RMB per year.

## Exploring Reasons for the Economic Development of Suzhou and Hangzhou



Liang Yibao

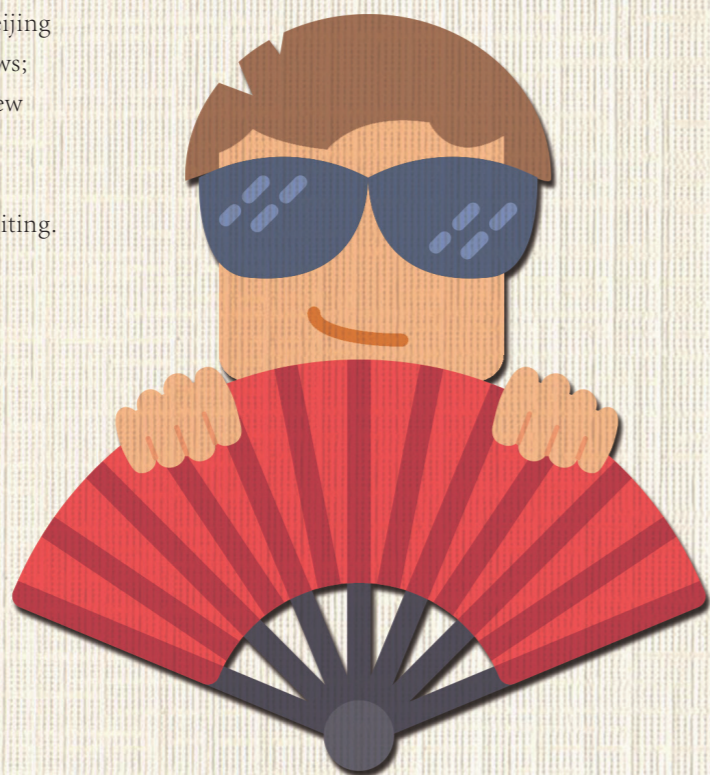
Our research topic is the Economic Differences Between the North and the South. Suzhou and Hangzhou, two famed cities of "paradise on earth", are also described as vivid and beautiful places. As a fertile land in southern china, Suzhou and Hangzhou are two excellent cities for us to use to compare and make an in-depth analysis of economic differences between the north and south.

There were also difficulties and setbacks in preparing another event, such as the problem of communication with parents, members of the group who have conflicting ideas and, so on. though we had some differences, students and parents learned to trust each other and reach a consensus. At the same time, we have been reminded of the negligence of Taiwan's exchange and the exchange project that we cannot take it lightly. Parents' full support and cooperation with the case made us Jiangsu-Hangzhou exchange project efficient.



# Investigation about Foreigners Living in China

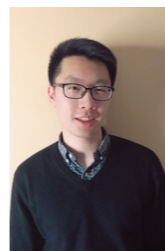
- ||| Going deep into the gathering places of foreigners in Beijing to conduct field interviews;
- ||| Training in street interview skills;
- ||| Shooting records and completing video clip editing.



歪果仁

Cross-cultural communication: how to better know and accept differences between different cultures. The necessity of discussing these problems seems more and more outstanding in the gradually "shrinking" global village of the world.

As a highly globalized city, Beijing gathers international friends from around the world. The organizers of this project discussed cross-cultural differences and explored the reasons for stereotyped images through interviewing various groups of foreign people about their life experiences in China. Extensive preparations were also made in cultural psychology before going abroad.



**Avoiding "Blind Self-Confidence"**  
Zhang Zhifei

I saw some videos about culture conflicts on YouTube last summer, and I'm really interested in those videos, because they overturned my view towards eastern and western cultures. I used to believe that I would have an excellent understanding of culture conflicts between China and western countries because I was raised in China and have been preparing for studying abroad since I entered high school, but some responses in those videos still surprised me.

I really wanted to make my classmates also know more about the conflicts or differences, but by themselves. Thus, I founded my independent program.



**Improve Interview Skills**  
Zhang Ziyue

When we asked permission for interviewing foreigners, they all agreed to accept our demands. I was very curious why foreigners are more passionate than Chinese people. Before we started our interview, we first needed to create questions. We felt anxious about whether our questions would be respectful to foreigners. It took us about one day to consider propriety of questions. In my opinion, the most difficult part is starting a conversation with strangers.

Before I asked them a question, I needed to organize my language properly so I would not offend any of them. What's more, how to start a conversation without feeling embarrassed is quite hard because some people in China would easily refuse to answer strangers' questions. And when someone refused to answer during our interview, I got hurt in my heart, and I was so disappointed about Chinese people's attitudes toward strangers. In a word, this trip not only helped me understand cultural diversity but also gave me a clear image of indifference of human nature in Chinese society.



**Photographer's Discovery**  
Du Fangzhou

As a Cameraman, I listened to all answers carefully, and some of them are pretty interesting. All Chinese people believe foreigners have a better appearance and can find a job in China easily, whereas all foreigners, not only students but adults, think it is very hard, even impossible, for them to find a job here. All foreigners met different kinds of difficulties, including language, culture and traffic.

We also noticed that there are many behaviors which are common for Chinese but weird to them. Spitting and jaywalking are two biggest problems, and these behaviors are disrespectful in many cultures. Of course, these behaviors are not good in China either, but Chinese people are more likely to ignore them. On the other hand, both Chinese people and foreign people care about their privacy, but the scope is different. While many Chinese students like to talk about the price of their computers, one of our foreign interviewees thought it is strange.



# Public Service Trip in Beijing for Nine Dong Nationality Junior High School Students from Guizhou Province

- ||| Trying to raise funds through website crowd-funding;
- ||| Designing the schedule in Beijing: visiting the museum and the ancient city;
- ||| Setting up experience courses for Dong students at the Affiliated High School of Peking University;
- ||| Holding a culture and art exchange to appreciate a performance by the Kam Grand Choirs.

In the southwest of China, the allocation of educational resources is unbalanced in most regions. What is more worrying than the lack of educational resources is that children have no confidence to express themselves freely, and also seemingly cannot see any hope for a brighter future. In this project, the organizers held a temporary exchange in Beijing for 9 junior school students of the Dong Minority in the southwest, hoping to plant the seed of a dream in them. For the organizers, this was not only a chance to serve and learn, but also a chance for mutual influence and warmth between people.

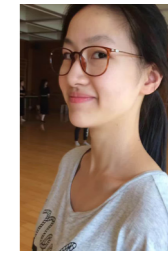
## Meet: The Same and Different



Gu Qingyang

Our project was to take the Dong minority students out of their village school to one of the most prosperous cities in China. We introduced them into the junior high classes in our school, taught them our own lessons and took them to visit museums and places of interests.

I regarded this as a way to help students from less developed regions to broaden their horizons and see a brighter future. We realized that the age when mountain kids kept their original style of living and knew nothing about the outsiders had long since past. With the help of electronic devices and the Internet, we could barely recognize their difference from us at first glance, apart their slightly darker skin.



Wang Yichen

Our Independent ELP not only had to prepare every single aspects for ourselves, but need to consider the children's requirements and their preferences. For instance, we need to book flights and hotels for them, choose the most interesting places to visit and great restaurants to have meals. Arranging the trip and leading the whole team encouraged us to try various roles: tour guide, narrator, consultant, teacher, close friends. We learned a lot from the experience of this ELP and this could definitely help us in the future lives.



## The Beauty of the Dong Chorus

Gu Qingyang

To us Han Chinese, music and art is something we take into account when all other necessities are fulfilled, rather as an additional skill or entertainment. The old Dong saying goes "crops are the food for our bodies, songs are the food for our souls."

According to the nine Dong girls we invited to Beijing, children at of three years or old all sing, not as extra trainings, but as a natural thing to do in life, regarding as naturally as we regard eating and sleeping. Their music is so well developed in such a way that us Han people could never reach such a standard without living in such an environment.

When the girls took off their typically modern shirt and jeans and changed into their traditional dress decorated with silver ornaments, I see in their eyes the truth characteristics in their inside, the simplicity in their voices as if they where singing in their mountain site, wishing guests on the nearby mountain could hear their warmest welcome.

## Multicultural Inclusion

Zheng Botian

This trip reminded me about the first time I came to Beijing when I was 7 years old from Yumen in Gansu Province. Comparing the different reactions about them and me, we can get a clear view about the development in the rural area in our country.

These kids seemed more tolerant than I did 9 years ago about the culture in Beijing. They were not as surprised as I did about how big Beijing was .One of the reasons was that they had come to Beijing several years ago and they had being to other major cities like Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Shanghai. This shown that the plan of the Communist Party to build "new rural areas" had achieved some degree of success, mainly economically. Another reason was that these children lived in areas of multiple minorities. For example, in their school, there were Miao people, Han people, and Dong people. They all have different customs. Living with them could help them to be more tolerant with other cultures (But they were not used to the food in Beijing since they were not spicy enough).



## Reflection on Lost Culture

Gu Qingyang

The Han nation has been going through so many changes and disturbances, the replacement of dynasties, revolutions of people and social changes, that has lost many of Han nation's valuable traditions developed throughout thousands of years. Many times we are asked what is the symbolic music and we could not answer; many times we found ourselves bonding the art of "Yangge" to old ladies and old ladies only.

This is not only the lost of history, but also a lost of national spirit, without which we would only be struggling for a meaningless living the whole time. What we lost still had in them, the Dong girls from the mountain site. We did try our best to show them the outside world, but should even pay more effort to keep them from losing what they already had in them.

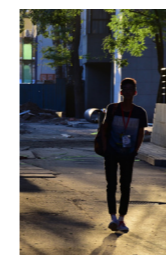


# Investigating German Economic and Cultural Influence after the Colonization of Qingdao

- ||| Learning about the functions of the land administration systems of Germany for urban development in Qingdao;
- ||| Learning about the history of China and Germany from 1897 to 1917 by observing the buildings in Qingdao;
- ||| Learning about the current situation of Christian churches in Qingdao.

Qingdao is a modern city with distinct features. In its modern history, Qingdao was not only occupied by the Germans but also twice occupied by the Japanese. The peculiar urban form of Qingdao has been formed against a unique political background.

Through these complex historic changes, the stage of the German occupation was the initiation period of the city, when both the urban form and architecture form were elaborately planned and designed. In this activity, a sociological method was mainly applied to investigate the urban planning of Qingdao, learn about the urban architecture culture of Qingdao and explore the "German Influence" that lasts today.



## Exploring the Cultural Legacy in Life Pan Bingqian

On another day, we went to the Christian church and the Catholic church, which were both built by German colonists. By now, the only reason I can separate it from Chinese high tower was its colorful window and the roof structure. Although the churches look almost the same as the European ones, they were rebuilt or decorated again for somewhat. I thought it was fine to keep the churches looking nice and protect them, but the use of the informal colors or even offensive decorations were not so appropriate to deal with those religious constructions. Especially, when they used these two places as scenery spots, which changed the inside arrangement and decorations, I thought there was no respect for those German buildings

and their culture.

In fact, the phenomena I mentioned above were signs of the whole Tsingtao city. Tsingtao was actually a very normal Chinese city with little evidence of influence by German colonists. All the influences they had left to us were the beautiful German buildings, and the great design of the underground water system. So we could tell that after the People's Republic of China established, the Chinese culture had a huge impact on every city and everybody's mind. Besides, the basic culture of a country would not be influenced easily by another colonial culture, especially for an ancient culture like our own.

## Looking for German Elements in Buildings

Zheng Tianhui

The most important reason why I went to Qingdao is the German Culture. Since Qingdao used to be the colony of Germany, many buildings are in German style. To my surprise, during my trip in Qingdao, I cannot find much German elements. Qingdao is very much a typical Chinese city, central part differs from countryside, and infrastructure level surplus local population level, since people most of building and mall is quite silent or even empty.

West town is part of Qingdao near the train station and a very special neighborhood. The ad and information we get about the West town is that it used to be a poor town during the German-ruling time. After the culture revolution, Government started to invest money to this area. They claimed West town is now a well developed town. The truth all I can see is scene of depression. There are so many empty apartments and buildings in the town. I can not see the prosperity a well developed town should have.





Wu Xiaotong  
Grade 2017



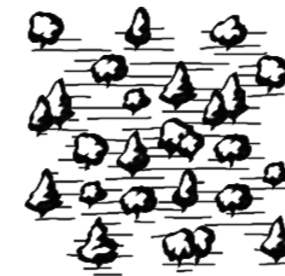
My ELP experience included study abroad programs to Sweden, Singapore and Malaysia. While in Sweden, I was fascinated by its high innovation rate and wondered whether its generous welfare policies might have contributed to this dynamism. I subsequently spent a year in further investigation and the resulting paper received

an award for excellence from my school. This experience influenced my decision on which academic program I would pursue in university.

Beside the ELP organized by schools, I have also organized some by myself. I would say organizing an ELP program can boost your

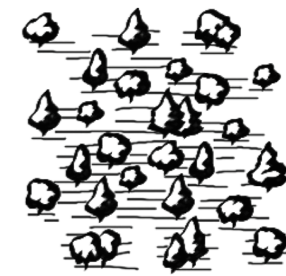
organizational and leadership skills, not to mention help you make more friends. However, this would be a huge amount of work and student organizers would encounter a lot of difficulties.

ELP is an important part of your high school experience and I hope you enjoy it.



## Zale

Grade 2017  
Drop out of school and start a new project



It is my honor to be invited here to share my experience and thoughts in regard to ELP with junior students.

You will realize that it is the moments when you and the people around you actually try to reach a certain goal that will bring you

unforgettable memories and uncommon chances for improvement.

In fact, on vacation, there are many opportunities for you to think about doing something together for your school after your applications have been sent. The most

significant and memorable part, however, is to complete a meaningful mission with the local people of another city.

S · E · N ·

I · O · R ·



Chen Yaoxin  
Grade 2017



Personally speaking, there are two programs that are especially unforgettable and equally meaningful to me. One was the ELP in Singapore and Malaysia, and the other was the independent project at the Forbidden City.

I participated in the former ELP when I was a Senior One. That one was organized by Skillseed under the theme of architecture. Coincidentally, I'm going to major in architecture at university, and that ELP

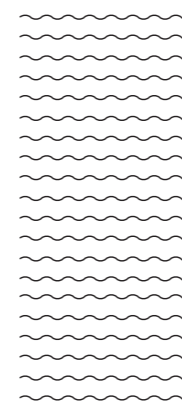
experience had an influence on my choice to a certain extent.

The most unforgettable thing is that the project urged me to leave my comfort zone. I never imagined that I would share my room with bugs and bats, or saw timbers to build a treehouse in the sun. Well, these exercises and activities indeed provided me with a different kind of pleasure through letting me behave differently. The experience of living without the internet or

even electricity taught me a great deal.

At that time, I knew almost nothing about architecture, so I did things without a clear vision. But now when I look back, I realized how cool the projects and places we visited were. I would take another trip there given the opportunity.

And it is amazing to discover that the community mode and "green city" concept that I saw then is what I really



want to learn now (By the way, to live in a tropical area is wonderful because you can grow strange and beautiful flowers there.).

I think the best course of action is to select the project that interests you, and the selection does not necessary have to be related to your future major. There are two kinds of conditions. For those who participate in activities, they will generally be challenging, so you'd better select the one that interests you the most. For those

who are willing to plan an independent project, it is best to stay in a relatively familiar field and design activities in the simplest way so your team members can understand as much information as you; in other words, carry out the theme in the most easily comprehensible way so that your team members will incorporate the research of the project more easily.

Finally, I want to tell you that ELP activities will give you many good experiences if you

make the right choices. So, make sure you explore more while you are in high school.