

REPORT AL RIENTRO DELL'ESPERIENZA DI SCAMBIO - A.A.

_Cognome	YU
_Nome	ZHU
_Matricola	813106
_Anno di corso	3
_Corsi di studi	Design della Moda
_Sezione	M3
_e-mail	yuuzhu@hotmail.com
_Sede di scambio	Southampton Solent University
_Stato	UK
_ID ERASMUS (per sedi in EU)	UK SOUTHAM04
_Semestre svolto all'estero	Secondo

Testo

As a student of Politecnico di Milano, I have participated in the Erasmus program to the Southampton Solent University from February to June this year. It was absolutely a unique and wonderful experience for me.

First of all, southampton is a small but very functional littoral city. The climate is good, and not like London, it is always sunny. And it is not far away from London (only one and a half hour in train). The location of Southampton Solent University is excellent. It is in the center of this city and it is very convenient to get there from my accommodation. I shared a traditional English house with other five Erasmus students – four of them are from Nederland and one of them is a Chinese girl who has been studying in Canada. We got along well with each other and we have hold a home party before everyone's leaving. I have met many different people there and made some friends from other countries, which is also an amazing part of this period. We have had a good time together in the spare time during the normal university life.

And Southampton Solent University is much better than I have imagined before. I was late than anybody else because there had been some problem with my visa. I was very worried at the beginning and afraid that it would be hard to complete the procedures which the others had done two weeks ago before I arrived. But it was a smooth going and every staff there was very nice. Everyone would love to help you and their work efficiency is very high. I finished all the things I had to do on my arrival in two hours with their help, the student card and the BRP card included. And it gave me a good feeling about the new beginning of my life in the UK. The equipment in the campus is good, too. There are both Mac and PC in the classrooms and the library, which satisfy the different requests of the students. And there are many scanner and printer free to

be used in the library. The library is amazing, and it might be the favorite part of my Solent life. The staffs are helpful and friendly and you can ask them for help without hesitation if there is any problem. There are many useful books about the professional field, which for me is the fashion. I have found a limited edition of Yohji Yamamoto there and I got a 'study' at it without buying it at a high price. There are also many books about the fashion designers, stylists, costumes, art histories and photography, and fashion magazines, too, even the vintage ones. The most important thing is that it's open 24 hours 7 days, except the holidays. It is very convenient for students and it absolutely applies a nice atmosphere for studying. I could spend an all day there and read everything I am interested. And of course there is wifi covering the whole campus and you have no worries about losing the connection with the Internet. Besides, there are many professional photography studios and also the recording studios. The equipment is abundant and the space is wide. Students can borrow the cameras both for studio and outside shooting.

Secondly, the content of the courses in this university is quite nice, too. Because I am in the second semester of the third year, the valid units I could choose are limited. But I have chosen a lesson based on my personal interest, which was also the motivivity of my application for the Erasmus program this time, the Styling Practice. Basically this unit allows us to examine the role of the stylist and explore the creative relationship between a stylist and a photographer. 'Despite fears that the digital revolution would render the magazine market irrelevant and unnecessary, exciting new publications continue to be produced, catering for increasingly obscure and varied tastes and subcultures. For a practicing stylist or photographer, editorial work is the most creatively stimulating way to showcase their abilities'. As it's said in the brief of this unit, we had to shoot an eight pages of the editorial plus two different front cover of a magazine we chose ourselves at beginning of this course. There was no condition on the kinds of the magazine. It was totally free and it was all about personal choice. I felt quite good about this because it seemed like I could actually do something based on my personal taste and I got that freedom to do whatever kinds of style I like. Besides, I have my own favorite magazine which I have been paying attention to for a long time. All the professors do was to help students achieve their ideal images in a better way. I have chosen another unit called Fashion Design Portfolio. This lesson is about how to build your own portfolio after your graduation, which helps you to get a job, even a better position in a company. 'This unit aims to provide students with an overview of presentation, promotion and communicative skills that will be of utmost importance to them as potential employees in their chosen specialist field. Activities will help students to optimize the effectiveness of their portfolio in support of their final degree project. The unit will also involve the production of a professional portfolio. This unit will enable the student to develop the strengths and skills needed prepare them for their chosen career. This unit will aim at increasing the student's employability within their chosen career'. I have learned the cv construction and critique, portfolio construction, portfolio design and communication, multiple channel communication, which would be personal web, blogs, business cards, social networks, and the cover letter constructions. And at the end of this unit, I have had my created cv and a proper and official cover letter, a constructed portfolio, and got the basic skills to create a personal website. In my opinion, this unit is very helpful especially when I am going to be graduated next year. It helps me to complete my personal information and present myself to my future employers in a much better way. And I have learned that the personal social media is very important actually. It is the way to show your personalities, your aesthetic tastes and your previous work to others, including your future bosses or partners. It is a part of

your portfolio, too. I think this is the most important thing I realized through this unit. And surprisingly, the professor also taught us a new software, which I did not know before, about the website constructing. I have learned some basic skills of HTML and CSS at Politecnico di Milano last year, but I thought this software is much easier and more convenient to build a styled personal website. And I think this must be the newest thing I got from this unit.

What's more, the relationship between the students and teachers is a little different from that in Politecnico di Milano, and even that in Chinese universities, too. It is more like a kind of friendship, which means you could talk and communicate with them in a more comfortable way and it is easier to get the help which you wished to get from them. My photography professor is a professional photographer based in London. He is very gentle and helped me a lot to catch up with the course. I got useful advices from him about how to get a higher quality image in the spite of the setting of the lighting, the distance between the lens and the object, and some other basic theories about the photography. Basically I have been cultivated the interest about photography through this unit. And another professor, who was in charge of our research part, is very nice, too. She appreciated a lot about my work and helped me to build my self-confidence. And I like the way she taught. She let us to go outside and take photos whatever we saw and thought to be interesting and relevant to our own project, and then called us back to have a conversation person to person to help us get the very first step of our research. She also took us to the library and introduced the books she thought to be helpful. And the videos, the films she played in classes were inspiring, too. I have learned many ways to get inspiration and to do the research with her teaching. It is the most important that she gave a very positive attitude every time on what I have been doing. The professor of the Fashion Design Portfolio unit is very kind to get close. He treats his students as friends and has a good relationship with them. He cared me a lot and paid more attention to me than I expected. I did not feel isolated in his class and enjoyed his class a lot. To be honest, I was quite hesitated about the direction of my future life, in the sense of the special area of fashion. But I feel it is clearer now after this unique and amazing experience of Erasmus and I am more confident to keep going without fear.

And the luckiest and most amazing thing happened during this period is that I have got an internship at Gareth Pugh studio in London. During this one-month internship, I have gained some experience as a helpful intern in a fashion designer's studio, doing some hand sewing work, drawing some flats, and preparing for the new collection. The studio manager is very nice, and also are the other interns there. We have become friends during this period. Some of them are the students of London College of Fashion, some of them are in their gap year, and some of them are going to do a master degree in RCA. It was a pleasure for me to meet them and work with them. There is no doubt that this would be a knocking-door brick for my future career in the fashion field. I have enjoyed a wonderful time with the most positive attitude ever. I learned how to face the difficulties and the hard parts of life with a positive attitude and powerful mind. I have been to the gym after a day's work, to the galleries at the weekends, and to the open days of the fashion schools. There were many good exhibitions in London, especially in the Victoria and Albert museum and Tate Modern museum. I have got a lot of inspirations visiting the galleries. London is such an ideal place to study and to live an enriched life, making me have an eager to go back again and base there.

Time flies and these months are more like a dream to me when taking a look back. After this Erasmus program my English has become much better than before, which is unnoticeable but true. And I have travelled England during the spare time, such as Brighton, Birmingham and Sheffield. It is a pity that I could not travel a lot this time because it is too short, but I do believe that I would be back to the UK one day and there must be a chance to visit other beautiful places such as the highlands of Scotland, Edinburgh and Belfast. One of the places I have been to during the Easter holiday is the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, which is the most impressive to me. There are many famous artists' works. Not only the sculptures, but also the paintings and experimental videos. There was an exhibition about KAWS then and it was amazing. Many of them stood in the wide field and far away from each other. It was a beautiful view to see them in the nature. The park is very big but far from the city center, so it was a little hard to get there. But it is absolutely worth to get there. My horizon has been getting widen.

Conclusively, the Erasmus program has been a wonderful experience in my life and I am satisfied with myself a lot. It is undefinable that everyone would experience differently and learn new things from different aspects, and Erasmus would mean differently to different people. But going out to see, to know and to experience the differences is the most essential part of it to me, and I did. I feel very happy to realize that I have grown up again thanks for this meaningful experience the Erasmus program provided. It is totally worth. Highly recommended.

Autorizzo al trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo n. 196/03 da parte del Politecnico di Milano.

Firma *Uzzh*