

## Challenge Your Limits; Never Miss an Opportunity – My CityU Undergraduate Journey

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I am honored to be invited to share my learning and discoveries during my time at CityU. In the eyes of others, I might seem to be one of the bright students at CityU: I won several case competitions, interned at global corporations in the consulting, finance, banking, and risk advisory industries, and won scholarships to travel to Singapore, South Korea, and Denmark on overseas exchanges and study tours. Looking back at these accomplishments, I feel very lucky to have received so many opportunities from CityU and other organizations. I believe that the key factor that

differentiates me from other students is my enthusiasm and eagerness to step out of my comfort zone and grasp all of the opportunities available to me.

### ***Career Development***

Looking back, I initially felt lost when trying to plan my career, as I had no idea what opportunities were open to me during my freshman year. Luckily, my mentor, Jade, who was assigned to me by the AC, shared her knowledge and guided me along the way. She told me to apply for the Big 4 student clubs even though there would be intense competition among undergraduates from the eight local universities. As you may know, each Big 4 club only recruits around 20–30 students each year from 400+ applications. Eventually, I was lucky enough to receive an offer from Deloitte, who invited me to be one of the Deloitte Club student members. I received mentorships and training from professionals at Deloitte. Moreover, thanks to the student member privileges, my internship application to the Consulting department got fast-tracked and I eventually secured an offer. The experiences I gained at the Deloitte Club and Deloitte Consulting served as stepping stones for me to apply for other internships at various



prestigious organizations. For example, I successfully got to the final interview round of the JP Morgan Global Business and Finance Management Summer Analyst Program, and secured an offer for the Citi Commercial Banking Summer Analyst Program.

## *International Experience*



Aside from career development, I am also grateful for the international exchange and learning opportunities offered by the College of Business (CB). In my first year of study, I joined the South Korea study tour organized by the Young Scholar Program of the College of Business, during which we visited Amore Pacific (a famous cosmetics brand), Samsung, KRX Exchange, and the top 3 SKY universities. In year 2, I went to Singapore with other CityU Student Ambassadors, where we visited the National University of Singapore and

built relationships with their student ambassadors. What is more, we learnt about the New Water strategies initiated by the Singapore government at the NEWater Centre. This is a water purification facility offering reserved tours with interactive exhibits and factory viewings. We were truly amazed by how innovative technologies could improve the environment without sacrificing economic efficiency. The study tours in South Korea and Singapore were truly eye-opening.



## *Double Major – IS*



Unlike other my classmates, who focused on their home major only, I took Information Management as a second major, as I saw that modern technologies like blockchain, big data, and so on were going to bring disruptive changes to the modern business world. I felt that solely focusing my major on accountancy would limit my academic exposure, so I took Information Management so that my skillset would be in line with upcoming trends. I feel it is important to share that I am not at all a technology-

savvy person. Prior to joining the Department of Information Management, I had no idea what programming and Information Systems were. To me, programming languages like Java and Python looked like random typos. With no technical knowledge, I encountered many difficulties in taking IS courses like Database Management, Java Programming, and IT Auditing. However, at the end of the day, I am glad that I made this decision, as I have found that many companies are looking for people capable in both business and technical aspects. That is also the reason why I was selected as one of the Risk Assurance Interns at PwC during my penultimate year of study, where I spent one semester working on IT Risk Management projects with PwC professionals.

Majoring in IS not only enhanced my employability, but also broadened my social circle and professional networks in the IS industry. I joined the CityU ISACA Student Group (“ISG”), and the student chapter of ISACA Hong Kong, for which I served as the Internal Secretary from 2019 to 2020. During my time in these groups, we promoted knowledge of IT governance, auditing, and cybersecurity to fellow IS students at CityU. We also launched various IS-related activities (e.g., Big 4 Alumni Sharing, ISACA Annual Case Competitions) to provide precious opportunities for CityU students interested in related professional careers. The opportunities I had in the ISG enabled me to connect with successful IS alumni working in the Big 4 and IT industry. I maintain active correspondences and seek advice from my buddies and mentors whenever I encounter challenges in job hunting and career development.

***My advice to current AC students***

I am grateful for the abundance of opportunities available to me at CityU at the departmental, college, and university levels. I do encourage AC students to grasp these precious opportunities and to make the most of them. Practically speaking, try to define your objectives and understand what you want to achieve. Once you have a clear idea of your goals, keep an eye on school emails and make sure you don’t miss any important programs and deadlines that are relevant to your goals. For instance, if you are interested in joining the Big 4 upon graduation, you should keep an eye on school emails related to interview workshops, jobs openings, and sharing sessions conducted by alumni who are working at the Big 4 firms. If you are unsure about your goals, you can always reach out to your professors and student mentors for advice. Thanks to our AC open-door policy, you can feel free to knock on your professor’s door and ask whatever you like. You will always be inspired after coffee and chat sessions with your teachers!