

Student Spotlight: Chen Yang at University of Vermont



Course: GGP
Country: China
Progressed: Business Administration BS

The University

UVM is a fabulous environment for studying, and has a colorful campus life. It enjoys great reputation in China as a public IVY school and it has really nice environment! I feel a sense of belonging here. The campus has everything students need. My favorite place on campus is library. It has different study zones and is very quiet.

GGP / ISC

The GGP improved my English writing and speaking skills, which are so important for an international student to study abroad. [Teaching] is very interactive here. Professors are really patient and try their best to teach what's most useful for international students. I have become more active in class, began participating in class discussion and always ask questions. Besides the great classes, there were a large number of workshops provided by the GGP on how to choose a major and how to find internship. They were really helpful! Communication skills are very important for an accountant. In class, our professor will think of activities to help us improve this skill.

Careers

I was a staff writer for the Cynic – the campus newspaper – and senator in the student government. Now I am doing internship at Burlington International Airport and devote a lot of time to that. The [Careers Service] gave me lots of advice about networking, and the advantage of being an international student. There are lots of events on campus that provide networking opportunities like careers fairs.

Arrival

At first, I felt it was very cold. But then I got used to it, and don't feel it's that cold. The cold weather will be great for skiing and snow can be really beautiful.

Student Spotlight: Darya at Bellerbys College Oxford



Studied: Business Foundation
Now studying: Media, Culture and Society at the University of Surrey

Why did you choose Bellerbys Oxford and the Business Foundation?

I wanted to go to the best international college in the UK. Oxford was my choice of location because I wanted to live in a city that carries great cultural and historical heritage. I chose Business Foundation as, at the time, I didn't know what I wanted to do as my University degree. Business studies seemed to open a lot of possibilities as well as having a wide application. As a matter of fact, my business background helped me multiple times during my current humanities degree.

Can you tell me about your university and internship?

I go to University of Surrey and my course is called Media, Culture and Society, which comprises of sociology and media studies modules. It is a fascinating area of academic enquiry and I enjoy my course very much. Right now I'm doing my placement year in a PR agency in London, after completion of which I will come back to Uni for a final year and dissertation.

How did Bellerbys prepare you for university?

Bellerbys gave me the understanding of the British educational system, its standards and expectations. For example, it helped me to develop essay-writing skills - something which I had never done back in my home country.

How would you describe the teachers/staff at Bellerbys?

The teachers and staff at Bellerbys are considerate, helpful and creative. They care about every student's performance and wellbeing - not only of those they teach! On a number of occasions I was given support by the teachers and staff from different departments.

What was it like studying the British curriculum in an international school?

It was great having subjects like Economics and Accounting - something that schools in my country do not teach.

Student Spotlight: Ifeoluwa Ukoko at Merrimack College



Country: Nigeria
ISC Course: Pre-Master's Program
Progression Degree: MSc Management

Pre-Master's Program

The Pre-Master's Program was interesting because I got to learn how to write and speak in academic English. I gained confidence in public speaking, which is very vital for a management student. These things are not offered at Merrimack, so having that foundation before starting the Masters Program was a good thing for me.

Teachers

The teachers are awesome. I feel like everyone here has been nice to me, they just want to help me and it's amazing. They taught me all I needed to know, but they also provided outside classroom support, which was amazing. I could call on them if I needed extra help. There was a time I was going to write my own books and I had a professor who was really supportive and she would read my stories and encourage me.

Campus

When you walk into Merrimack it just feels like home; people smiling at you and saying hello. Where I come from I wasn't used to that. I remember coming here the first day and everyone was opening the door. I didn't know it was the system here. Back home no one notices you, people just go and close the door, but here it feels warm. Everyone respects each other's feelings and your race, they embrace you as you are and I feel that's special.

Studying abroad

It's amazing now, but I was struggling at first. The advisors were really supportive and I felt like they could see that I was struggling to adapt and they really paid attention to me. That's something I'm very grateful for, because I feel like if I didn't have that support I would have lost myself even more.

As an international student you need that, you need to feel that warmth, because it's not easy moving across the sea to a different place and different culture. I like the comfort that you get here. It's good knowing you are not alone and that you have support from people who are trying to help you through the transition.