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As an Indonesian student residing in Hong Kong, one of the most frustrating yet amusing experiences I encountered is trying to explain to people that Indonesia is not India. In Mandarin, Indonesia is spelled “Yin Du Xi Ya (印度尼西亚)”, while India is spelled “Yin Du (印度)”, both bearing very similar pronunciation and sounding. It is totally understandable, though, how people can easily be confused.

They say that knowledge is power and so in this given opportunity, I will briefly educate the masses that Indonesia is more than just Bali.

Past, I will give you a secret insight of what local Indonesians think about Bali: hot Australians and an overpriced vacation. But with a view that captivating, I personally think it is worth the visit.

Bali might be the only island you know, but in actuality, there are more than 17,500 islands in Indonesia. If you are lucky enough to marry a rich Indonesian, you might even get an island as your wedding gift. I'm not joking.

One can be considered a middle-class citizen if they can read and speak English, and be able to enjoy a meal out at least once a week. Sadly, there is a very large income gap between the middle class and the poor. The poor have to survive with less than US$2 a day.

Indonesians, like any other East Asians, are very family oriented. The low standard of living in Indonesia has made a lot of people migrate outside in search for a better life. We live and thrive in a community. The very apparent evidence can be seen every weekend: you can see hordes of Indonesian helpers in Causeway Bay – it is their community. Being exposed to a new work environment forces them to learn and speak Cantonese. I still bow my head in shame to know that I’ve been residing here for a year, and have still yet to overcome the language barrier.
WHAT’S LOCAL INDONESIAN?

What better way to know more about Indonesia than dwelling right into the weirdest local behaviour, right?

1. Flip-flops!

Indonesians love wearing flip-flops. We use them anytime, anywhere. It is a bit hard to differentiate Chinese-Indonesians from Hong Kong locals or mainland Chinese, but if you spot someone wearing flip-flops on the street, then almost definitely that person is Indonesian. We love flip-flops with a dying passion, period.

2. Foreigners are life, foreigners are love

In Hong Kong, foreigners are called “gweilo”. In Indonesia, we call them “bule”. Just like flip-flops, we love our bulas. If you don’t live in Jakarta or Bali, chances of you meeting a foreigner are very minute. Thus why, Indonesians make a big fuss when they see bulas. They will point, giggle, and approach you for pictures, just because you look “foreign”. If you ever want to feel like a celebrity, Indonesia is the place to go.

3. We don’t use toilet paper

Our toilet comes with a hand-held bidet instead of the usual toilet paper roll. Yes, we use water to clean ourselves after a number two. Chances are, you have never encountered this if you live in Europe or the US. I definitely recommend you to get one for a more thorough cleansing!

ONE BELT ONE ROAD

~ the phrase seen everywhere, but do you know what it is? (It’s not THAT boring, I promise!)

Indonesia is one of the countries included in the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. Not a lot of people know this, but Indonesia is the one country that will benefit the most from this OBOR project, with more than US$7 billion pumped into infrastructure projects.

OBOR is a strategy initiated by China in 2013 to boost trade and political relation between China and countries/regions in Asia, Europe and even Africa. The project in Indonesia focuses on development opportunities in infrastructure and logistics, trade and investment, and education. This will create more employment opportunities not only for Indonesia but also for the Belt and Road nations. An ongoing project since 2015 is the construction of an industrial park in Western Java, where Chinese investors and Indonesian companies will develop manufacturing plants that are ready to go global in the trade industry.

Indonesia’s interest towards seeking membership of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has been halted following the election of Trump. So in the meantime, Indonesia is putting a lot of hope in the success of OBOR. Companies have also begun preparing for OBOR by looking for joint venture partners and potential acquisitions.
WANT TO BEAUTIFY YOUR INSTAGRAM FEED? COME TO INDONESIA!

Now heading to a more interesting topic: travelling! Who doesn’t like to travel, right? As an avid traveller (despite the lack of time or money), I’m here to give you a few tips on travelling around Indonesia.

1. ON A BUDGET HOPPER IS THE APP TO EASE YOUR TRAVELLING NEEDS!

I haven’t explored a lot in the app department but I can tell you that Hopper is very convenient to track your flight prices to the cheapest. Simply enter the date and it will notify you when prices drop!

Goodbye to all the times you had to sneak open budget airline websites during a class to check your prices!

2. BALI: GET YOUR MONEY’S WORTH!

If you’re planning to get married with a gorgeous backdrop, golden rays of sunset showering upon your face as you walk down the aisle, then yes, go to Bali. Bali is nice for those who want no hassle and has a couple of extra bucks to spare. Since it is a well-known tourist area, you will definitely get charged more for your temporary cool tattoo and your Barong shirt. The touristic beaches like Kuta, Jimbaran or Nusa Dua, in my opinion, are dirty and quite meh. To maximize your travelling experience, I recommend you going the extra mile to discover new private beaches, like the ones below.

3. WHERE TO GO?

There are a LOT of islands to explore in Indonesia. If you’re a nature person and you love the beach, take note!

Labuan Bajo, Komodo
(Source: cdimage.sebisport.com)

Labuan Bajo is one of the recent places opened up to tourism. Here, you can go to the national park and see a real live Komodo dragon. Labuan Bajo is surrounded by tiny islands, so you can easily go to Pulau Kalong (literally translated as Bat Island), and watch bats fly over during the sunset.

For you adventurous souls, you can also scuba dive and snorkel. Be prepared to be mesmerized by the gorgeous marine life.

Indonesian Community in CityU

If you want more local places to travel, don’t hesitate and approach any Indonesian at CityU. We don’t bite, promise! There are about 80 of us scattered around CityU and we’re a very tight-knit community. We share the mutual feeling of being away from home and so we treat each other like family since Hong Kong is now our second home. To other non-local students, you surely know how we feel. This is why we want to welcome other people from different nations to experience a tiny part of our home. You’re more than welcome to share yours too!

There is a group of Indonesian students at CityU hosting cultural events with the hope of spreading awareness among people about Indonesian cultures and hopefully break through stereotypes that people have towards our country. One of our biggest events is “Indonesian Night”, held annually. Check out our Facebook page to get the latest update of our upcoming events!

“Friends are the family you choose for yourself.”
Diary of My MUN Conference

Text: Rohit Shyla Kumar, Creative Media
Photos: Nirav Sunil Jethani, Business Analysis

1 February 2017 – Day 1

--Begin record-- Today, I attended what is widely considered to be the World Cup of “MUNning” with the other fellow CityU students. The World Federation of the United Nations Association (WFUNA) International Model United Nations Conference, dubbed “the most accurate simulation of the United Nations in the world”. Over six hundred delegates participating from all over the world at the university and high school level. Needless to say, I was quite nervous. The conference features 12 enthralling committees this year with a special regard for the actual rules of procedure used at the United Nations. In the evening, I attended an illustrious opening ceremony at the United Nations General Assembly Hall, the temple of every MUNner in the world! There were speeches made by ambassadors who had actually spoken at the United Nations! That’s when it struck me, soon, we too would have spoken at the United Nations! Of course, you could argue that since the listeners would be mock-delegates and not the actual representatives of their countries, but you can’t deny the significance of the location. Our head delegate, Nirav Jethani, got the opportunity to address every attendee at this gathering and spoke on behalf of the delegation on building just and inclusive societies. The Secretary General declared the conference open after a few speeches and we broke for dinner. Our roles as delegates really only begin tomorrow. We’ve gotten the motivation and knowledge we require from today’s session, now we must simply hope for the best. -- End of record for Day 1--

2 February 2017 – Day 2

--Begin record-- Day 2, the team had to split up to take part in the proceedings of their respective committees. Each committee featured its own unique agenda, ranging from the Rule of Law and Disarmament of Landmines to Human Trafficking and the Peacebuilding in Conflict Zones, but centered around the same theme – building just and inclusive societies. CityU was represented by an eight member team with Nirav Jethani and Liam Collins in the first General Assembly; Rishab Tandon, Daniel Arnot and Reshma Punjabi in the second General Assembly; Rohan Sabharwal and Florence Chan in the third General Assembly; and myself in the United Nations Security Council. We were allotted the nations of France, Lebanon and Burundi to represent. Each of our committees had training programmes, and as a member of the most powerful organ of the United Nations, the Security Council, I had to go through the most vigorous brushing up on the new rules and
procedures the conference followed and the standard of points they expected from all delegates. A speaker delivered a detailed talk on how war is different from what it used to be with the rise of radical terrorism and groups like the Islamic State. I thought through the implications and volunteered to speak first in the committee. The session increased exponentially in terms of intensity with every passing minute as we were asked to draft documents that would be considered by the actual United Nations Security Council. I couldn’t say I didn’t feel a sense of relief as the session broke for dinner, so I could return to the hotel room to further research what we discussed today.-- End of record for Day 2--

3 February 2017 – Day 3

--Begin record-- Since this morning the tense aura around us seems to be fading away as we met new people and began forming our blocks. The first session of committee brought with it a renewed desire to perform to the best of our abilities, constantly speaking out against what we thought was wrong through the lens of our respective countries. We toiled through the day, going to the extent of skipping lunch and tea to ensure we put forward the best possible resolution in each of our committees. We worked to impress our chairpersons and peers, fueled by the desire to be the best, all while having the time of our lives. The highlight for me personally was when I was able to spin around a question from the International

4 February 2017 – Day 4

--Begin record-- We walked down to the United Nations Headquarters one last time for the final session and closing ceremony of the conference. Not much was said as we were tensed. The award distribution began shortly after a few speeches of appreciation from the organisers. From our team, Liam, Nirav and Rohan received individual honours for their outstanding performances in their respective committees, but the cherry on the cake was being adjudged as the Outstanding Delegation from the Asia-Pacific Region after the four most exhilarating days of our lives. Truly a magnificent experience in the best city in the world filled with memories I will cherish forever.-- End of record for Day 4--
跟我一起去旅行，好嗎？

深呼吸一口氣，想像你不再聽到冷氣機的嗡嗡聲。若隱若現的摩天大樓和擁擠的街道突然融入雲中，你的座墊被粗糙的岩石取代，磨擦著掌上的皮膚，秋風也停止呼嘯，相反，暖暖的空氣像毯子般包裹著你。你聽到溝出來的水聲，但蜿蜒流動的水看起來太渾濁，顏色近乎於⋯⋯

Aha! You realise that you are sitting on the shore of the Yellow River, an ancient site referred to by many as “China’s Cradle”. The smells of fish and old leather hang heavy in the air. The donkeys and camels that you and your friends rode here are grumbling impatiently behind you, but you are too entranced by the outlandish shapes of the rocks that remind you of the Journey to the West to actually pay attention to the mumbling of the animals.

One group of CityU and Lanzhou University students do not have to imagine this scenario. Last summer, the students who participated in “CityU Omnibus on the Silk Road: Serving Ethnic Minorities”, were not only lucky enough to wander the sleepy slopes of this site and many other rare and endangered ecosystems, but also to interact and bond with the local ethnic minority groups, such as the Tibetans, Mongols, Yugurs and Kazakhs.

The participants also had the chance to engage in numerous programmes, many of which were not only educational, but also remarkably fun and amusing.

In one of the voluntary services the students participated in, the goal was to create a product that promotes ethnic cultures. One group decided to create Macbook stickers based on a pattern the Yugur uses for decoration. The group attempted to copy the pattern, but they weren’t able to get it right, no matter how many times they tried. Not much later, the locals revealed that the patterns weren’t random curves, but were actually depicting a goat, an animal that has considerable significance for this ethnic group.

Although there were many entertaining moments like this, the trip wasn’t just a blissful holiday. The students were exposed to the harsh realities of poverty and eclipsed cultures. The towns that ethnic minorities live in are often isolated, and the children there have limited access to modern entertainment, they find other ways to have fun and learn. For example, the Yugur children have fun and learn. For example, the Yugur children have fun and learn. For example, the Yugur children have fun and learn. For example, the Yugur children have fun and learn. For example, the Yugur children have fun and learn.
crowded and tense, with a never-ending throng of cars
snaking through the narrow streets. The begrimed houses
are slender and soaked in the smells of soot, sweat and
cabbages. People seldom have two pennies to rub together
after spending money on meals and education. Even stable
electricity is only a dream to the majority of these people.

However, this penury is not what surprised participants
the most during their time spent with these isolated
communities, rather it was the fixed gender roles and the
bias against women that alienated them. Due to female
illiteracy, the men of these communities tend to demean and
mistrust their female counterparts. Meanwhile, the women’s
duties are to take care of the household and the children,
and of course be a caregiver and wife. Building a career or
enjoying a carefree afternoon are not options.

Hence, when the students organised a carnival for the
communities, it turned out to be a massive success. The
delicious meals, fun activities and vigorous dances resulted
in one of the most euhoric days of the trip. Naturally,
nearing the end of the event, many tears were shed.
According to Rachel Wong, one of the participating students
from CityU, ‘Many women started crying at that point...from
happiness, simply because it was the very first time in their
lives that they were able to just relax, sit back and enjoy an
afternoon together with their children and families...It was
very moving!’

Luckily, many are working towards smashing this glass
ceiling that confines the possibilities for these women to
traditional female gender roles. In one of the towns, a
hardworking woman had launched a programme that
provides tutorial classes, free of charge, to women and
children, allowing them to obtain education and build a
foundation of skills and knowledge. Such programmes are
theirs for a fixed sex role in society. Thus, they have a
poor education, and are often seen as inferior. The few
women who do manage to exceed the gender expectations
are looked down upon by the community.

As a result, many children are not able to access
modern education and are often driven to pursue
traditional roles in society. This lack of access to
education can lead to poverty and cultural stagnation,
especially in communities that value the continuation of
hereditary traditions.

Therefore, initiatives aimed at empowering women and
children in these communities are crucial. By providing
education and training, these programmes not only help
in breaking the cycle of poverty but also promote gender
equality and cultural preservation. The success of such
initiatives serves as a testament to the potential for
positive change and progress.

The next generation is eager to learn. The children of
these ethnic minorities are incredibly enduring and steadfast
in their pursuit of education. Even though they don’t have
access to modern entertainment, they find other ways to
have fun and learn. For example, the Yuruk children have
developed a very particular learning habit. The admittance
to their local museum is free; thus after school the youngsters
go there and spend the afternoon learning about art by
themselves. When the students asked for the Yuruk
children’s help to create brochures for the museum, it turned
out that the children knew the museum like the backs of their
hands.

Regrettably, it is highly unlikely that these children will
cherish their cultures to the extent that their ancestors did.
For the sake of economic prosperity, families are already
relocating to cities. Children are being educated in
Putonghua (Mandarin Chinese) and often cannot speak the
languages of their own communities anymore, as the ethnic
languages and cultures are considered trivial on a global
scale. Therefore, every step taken to conserve their cultures
makes a difference, even an educational service trip like the
“Omnibus”.

“CityU Omnibus on the Silk Road: Serving Ethnic Minorities”
was co-organised by CityU’s Global Services Office;
Lanzhou University’s Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Affairs
Office and School of Management; and the Culkor
Committee for China Youth.

Stay tuned for other exciting travel and service opportunities!
In spite of my short stay in Essex, I participated in many different activities and sports, joining the Mid-Autumn Festival event, Halloween activities, the One Day Colchester Tour, and Brownies and Hot Chocolate Night and making a gingerbread house with my flatmates, as well as trying archery, fencing and squash. Of these sports, I particularly loved archery. Not only did it strengthen my arm muscles (initially I kept shaking, even though I took the super-light bow), it also helped me set a target and accomplish it. Although my progress was rather slow, I was so glad that I managed to hit the balloon and the centre of the target.

To facilitate cross-cultural communication, I invited international friends to my accommodation to share some Chinese cuisine and soup, such as stir-fried chicken filets with celery and tomato and potato pork rib soup. They also introduced me to some local food! It was so fantastic to stay with friends speaking different languages together.

My flatmates were from different countries: Australia, Germany, New Zealand and Singapore. I often had friendly chats with the German girl, Daniela, in the kitchen while I was cooking. She would talk about what happened to her and about her home country, Germany. She was so nice that she cooked some traditional mulled wine at Christmas for all of us and of course we had a great time. A Singaporean boy called Reuben was friendly too. He generously shared his food with me, such as strawberries, ice cream and cakes. It made me feel warm, although the weather was cold.

Meeting Professor Andrew Spencer and taking his course on morphology was my greatest reward. He is truly inspiring – the adjective “hope-less” is not limited to situations, but can also describe a person; we “de-frost” microwave food, but “de-ice” the car, although the two verbs have the same meaning; “cat” in the compound “catfood” is neither singular nor plural, as it merely denotes the concept of cat; the affix order of “long-haired” is [[long] [hair-ED]] rather than [[long hair]ED] and so on.

From him, I learned not only linguistics, but also important attitudes to the teaching profession and life. Although he is retiring soon, he kept revising his teaching materials up until 2015, and prepared thoroughly for each class discussion. He even told me that he would pursue linguistics research after retirement. His proactive and lofty ideal teaches me that retirement is not the end of learning, and schooling is not the only way of acquiring knowledge. We should enhance our understanding of the world by every means possible, throughout our lives.

Moreover, he helped me a lot, as I was the only exchange undergraduate student there. He arranged special assignments and examinations for me and made me feel more comfortable. I was so lucky to be his student and to have a satisfactory performance, even though the course was for postgraduate students. I hereby salute Professor Andrew Spencer for all his contributions to teaching. As Henry Adams said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops”. I hope that more and more people will be influenced by Professor Spencer.
Happy Valentine’s Day — the “Unique” Romance Chemistry in the World

February – the love-hate month. For those who love it, congratulations! I know you are in a relationship. For those who hate it, uhhh... single and lonely. Some said the Christmas month makes them puzzled, but at least you can have a food party with your family or friends. Who will celebrate the Valentine’s Day with your grandma? Anyway, no matter what status you are, you should still read this article – couples may find how boring your dating times have been and the singles may increase their chances of getting a boyfriend/girlfriend.

Good memory is required in dating?
South Korean couples place high importance on anniversaries. Not just on a yearly-basis, but every 100th, 200th, 300th... or 1000th day together. Additionally, couples have their own special way to celebrate on the 14th of every month. On top of the traditional Valentine’s Day and White Day, they are also celebrating Rose Day, Wine Day, First Kiss Day... I bet lovers in South Korea must have their schedules full of anniversary marks and their bedroom drawers full of gift wraps. The younger and more affectionate couples do celebrate in this way, though not every single couple does so.

Original Text in English: Tasha Wong, Criminology

February – the love-hate month. For those who love it, congratulations! I know you are in a relationship. For those who hate it, uhh... single and lonely. Some said the Christmas month makes them puzzled, but at least you can have a food party with your family or friends. Who will celebrate the Valentine’s Day with your grandma? Anyway, no matter what status you are, you should still read this article – couples may find how boring your dating times have been and the singles may increase their chances of getting a boyfriend/girlfriend.

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Travelling in London, Edinburgh, Munich and Paris was also a valuable experience. Instead of hanging out with friends, I decided to travel on my own. It is not easy to plan ahead, especially when the places that you would like to visit are not familiar to you – independence is the key.

I was in Edinburgh in November 2015 when a series of terrorist attacks occurred in Paris. I felt sad about the incidents and also worried, as I had pre-booked a ticket to Paris in December. I hesitated – to go or not to go? I went there eventually. It was worth a visit – the Eiffel Tower was indeed spectacular!

What most impressed me about European countries is that even though people might not share your language, they enthusiastically offer help using body language, by asking other pedestrians to help you or by checking their mobile devices. I was so thankful that not only did I visit so many marvellous places, I also remained safe and met some friends during the journey. For example, I met Josephine at Heathrow Airport upon my arrival in London. She helped me a lot even though we did not know each other. Coincidentally, she said goodbye to me at the same place, where we met before my departure. Because of these friends, my journey was more fruitful and unforgettable.

All in all, I really enjoyed meeting people from all over the world. As an introverted and quiet girl, I didn't expect to make friends easily, but a little change made a huge difference. I still remember my flatmate Daniela asking me how I was whenever I didn't seem alright. This might sound trivial, in fact it was a great step forward in our friendship. Later, she was so delightful when I cooked some food for her when she was sick. Thus, building a friendship is not as hard as I thought – it's not only about what you learn/take from others, it's also about taking the initiative and expressing your concern. I believe the same principle applies to every relationship – if everyone was willing to step forward and show his/her concern, the world would be far more harmonious and lovely!
Night hunt courtship?
Known as “bomena” locally, night hunting started in the eastern rural areas of Bhutan where men would sneak into a girl’s bedroom and spend a night there. If caught, he would have to either marry the girl or work it off on the fields of the girl’s family.

The most romantic guys in the World?
Kissing with a French guy in front of the Eiffel Tower in the sunset is probably the most romantic dreaming scene for most girls. However, some said French guys seem to have perfected the art of “non-dating” dating. Couples usually hang out in groups instead of in pairs. “Dating barely exists in France,” says Lindsey T., an American who lives in Paris and is married to a Frenchman. “From the moment you express interest in one another and kiss, it can be assumed you’re in a relationship.” This is the place for fast hook-up and quick romance.

Kissing your friend’s husband/wife, publicly in their wedding?
The most romantic part in a wedding is probably the kissing between the groom and bride. Yet in Swedish tradition, it is common to find the groom disappear for a period of time during the wedding for any unmarried guests kissing the bride. Similarly, when the groom is with other female guests, the bride should leave the room. If you just want a kiss, attend a Swedish traditional wedding.

Fatter = Better?
In Mauritania, a man having a wife in large size symbolizes his wealth, i.e. his ability to provide in excess of his family. Husbands can gain face if their wives are fat enough. Yet, this ritual has been doubted as women there are suffering from obesity and health issues.

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“So, where are you from?” is a question that I dread very much. Why would I dislike this question, you ask? Well, because of the sole reason that my response prompts long and awkward silent moments – a reaction completely comprehensible considering that most people have never heard of my country before. “Is that in Europe?” (Yes), “Do you speak German there?” (No), and “So are you Hungry? HAAHAHA!” (I’ve heard this joke a thousand times before) are just a few from the most popular queries that follow after. No wonder, Hungary is a rather small and insignificant country on a global scale – which means that there are a lot you can learn about it. Buckle up and let’s head into it!

ORIGINS AND MYTHS

According to most sources, the ancestors of Hungarians were horse-archer Scythians who were living in the steppes of Eurasia and the Mount Ural before migrating to the west. The most popular origin story, commemorated in the 13th century, tells the story of two brothers, Hunor and Magor. The brothers, who would later become the forefathers of the Huns and the Hungarians respectively, were one day out hunting in the marshes when they spotted a miraculous white stag in the wilderness that they followed until it vanished. Hunor and Magor decided to settle there, but the stay of the descendants of Magor (later known as ‘Hungarians’) in the steppes was short lived.

Conforming to the follow-up tale the Hungarians’ further journey is linked to a dream that Emese, an ancestress had. In her dream, a mythical eagle-like bird, the Turul, had impregnated her, and told her that she would give birth to a High Prince who was destined to lead her people to a new land they would claim as their home. Later Emese did give birth to her son named Álmos (meaning ‘the Dreamt One’) who began the Hungarian Conquest to today’s Central Europe.

SHAMANISM AND THE SUPERNATURAL?

Early on, Hungarians, being pagans, had their own mythology system: instead of heaven and hell, they believed in the existence of the ‘Tree of the World’ or ‘Tree of Life’. According to the myths, only a chosen few, called ‘Táltos’, were able to travel between the realms of the Tree. The Táltos in the tales were all-knowing, shaman-like people. The sign of a Táltos birth was a birth abnormality; the Táltos were born with an extra finger or tooth, white hair, etc. Generally their role in society was to advise kings, to protect the nation, and to heal others both mentally and physically. Interestingly the Táltos are still believed to be around, therefore in Hungary the sign of the aforementioned birth abnormalities is in fact considered good luck.

HUNGARY TODAY

Of course my country today is far from the fearful horse-archer nation that chases after funny looking animals and starts conquests because of weird dreams.

Here are some facts you should know if you are planning on visiting Hungary!

- Hungary’s capital city, Budapest, is often compared to Paris or Rome because of the lavish architecture, the narrow cobblestone alleys, and great gastronomy. In fact it looks so similar to these cities that big budget Hollywood films shoot footages in Budapest that they eventually use for a Paris, London or Rome setting in the movie.
• Hungary is a paradise in terms of thermal baths. Budapest alone has around 120 of them!

• Budapest is a capital city that has zero skyscrapers. The city centre is filled with 19th century buildings and there are hundreds of old churches for the history lovers. And of course, above the Danube, the river that divides the two parts of Budapest, Buda and Pest, stands the Buda Castle, first completed in 1265, overlooking the city from the top of the Gellért Hill. In fact the tallest building in the city is the Parliament, which is one of the oldest legislative buildings in the whole of Europe.

• Don’t clink your beer glasses when you are in Hungary!
Legend has it that after the Hungary lost its war for independence in 1848-49 and the Habsburgs executed the 13 most powerful generals, the Austrians celebrated the occasion by clinking their beer glasses.

• Being the first among the European nations, Hungary is in the Belt and Road initiative – a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa put forward by China in 2013. The initiative is expected to generate plenty of opportunities for improving bilateral ties.

• Digital computing, the Rubik’s Cube, Vitamin C, the Gulyás better known as the Goulash soup, the late Hollywood star Zsa Zsa Gábor, the ballpoint pen, hydrogen bombs, and Real Madrid’s football legend Ferenc Puskás… all share Hungarian origins.

LEARN SOME FUNNY SAYINGS!
Some of our sayings and phrases surely leave foreigners dazzled, because they seem so arbitrary. To tell you the truth, even I have no idea where they come from, but honestly, these are widely used.

• ’Most ugrik a majom a vizbe.’ – This phrase literally means ‘The monkey jumps into the water now.’ Figuratively we use this saying when the conversation is about to get a serious or interesting turn.

• ’Apád nem volt üveges.’ – This phrase translates to ‘Your father wasn’t a glassmaker.’ We use this whenever someone stands in our view, thus kindly implying that we cannot see through them.

• ’Miért itatod az egereket?’ – Hold on, this is going to be the most random one. It literally means ‘Why are you feeding the mice?’, but actually this old saying means ‘Why are you crying?’

• ’Sehol sincs kolbászból a kerítés.’ – This saying literally translates to ‘The fence isn’t made out of sausages anywhere’, but in fact it is used to imply that life will not simply get better by moving to another place, town, or country.
As university students, it’s hard to pinpoint experiences that we are all familiar with. We come from different cultures and backgrounds. We all watch different TV shows and play different games and read different books to procrastinate instead of doing our assignments. But there is one thing that many CityU students are familiar with, and that is staying in the Student Residence at 22 CORNWALL STREET.

I can still recall the sheer anxiety and the low-key panic that gripped me by the throat the first moment that I learned that I was going to have a ROOMMATE for the next three years of my life. It’s really a surreal concept when you think about it. In a lottery-like scheme, you are paired up with a TOTAL STRANGER you don’t know anything about to share your most private space with.

The flooding questions in the back of my mind were pressing: what if we don’t get along? What if it gets really awkward? What if she finds it impossible to cope with my Harry Potter obsession? Frankly, I WAS TERRIFIED. But the anticipation was worse than the real thing, and when I finally met the Roommate with a capital R, all my anxiety went away – it turned out she was even more nervous than I was, and we have become good friends.

But naturally, when you live together with someone, you start to note some of the peculiarities that she or he has. This idea got me thinking: what are some of the ODDEST EXPERIENCES fellow students have shared with their roommates? I started the interviews with high expectation, and honestly, they did not disappoint. Here are some of the stories my friends have shared with me.

“My roommate’s weird obsession is LOCKING OUR DOORS. It has happened multiply times before that she accidentally locked me out! I was in the bathroom, and I wanted to go back to the room and then I just found the door locked… She tends to forget that I’m in there. Now we have a sign up on the bathroom door whenever I’m in there, so that I don’t have to bang on the door every time I get stuck.” – Elisa

“My roommate has CRAZY SLEEP HABITS. Basically, what happens when he goes to sleep is that he will either SPEAK URDU and talk with a very funny accent in his sleep, or because he watches a lot of anime, he talks Japanese. Yeah, he is SLEEP-TALKING IN JAPANESE. I’m not sure what he is saying, I don’t understand Japanese, but maybe it’s for the best.” – Archit

“My roommate and I normally don’t talk much, actually. We don’t have any classes together, and we have different friends, so we don’t spend time together outside our room. But it all changed when the COCKROACH PROBLEM in our room got out of hand… From the beginning of our first semester of being roommates, my roommate has started keeping a count of all the cockroaches that she has killed, and at one point, it just became a casual topic between us. It’s really weird and funny, but it’s true that the cockroaches brought us together.” – Anonymous

INTERVIEWEES:
Archit Choudhury, Computer Science
Anna Leuchterova, Asian and International Studies
Elisa Tseng, Creative Media
Anonymous interviewees

TEXT & PHOTOS:
Nora Vincze, Creative Media
“Last semester, my roommate was an exchange student, and she had the weirdest habit ever. She always SLEPT NAKED, she would just take all her clothes off before going to bed. Yes, EVEN HER UNDERWEAR! I found it really odd, and it was quite funny because she always said she was cold when I turned on the AC because of this. This one time I remember that I had a Skype call with my boyfriend and she was actually undressing behind me, I didn’t know what to say. Honestly, it was one of the most absurd experiences that I’ve ever had. I saw things, you know.” – Anonymous

“I don’t even know where to begin. My roommate has many… quirks. First off, he is obsessed with chess and he takes arranging his things in pairs and all that very seriously. In fact, he gathers used bottles and lines them up. It’s sort of a BOTTLE COLLECTION now, there are just so many. Other than that, what I can recall is that he sometimes stands up from his bed or his chair just to stroll around the room and then he sits back. Oh, and his GIRLFRIEND! He has long conversation over Skype with his girlfriend, and he doesn’t use headphone, so I always hear them argue a lot. It gets kind of awkward when she starts crying, I feel so bad for him.” – Anonymous

“My roommate is the type of person who NAMES EVERYTHING. I mean everything. Let it be my cactus, our Wi-Fi adaptor, or even the huge cockroaches from our bathroom. Also, she has this gigantic energy, I remember this one time, at the start of this semester, I already got back to the room when she got back to Hong Kong from the semester break. So she got home from a seventeen hours long flight, and instead of going to sleep or taking a shower or packing out, she proceeded to put her luggage in the middle of the room, and get the fairy lights and a large decorative scarf she got from home, and went ahead to tape those on the wall to DECORATE it. Priorities.” – Anna

“Oh, where do I start? I think the oddest thing about my roommate is her absolute obsession with her GUITAR. She plays it for so long, even late at night, and honestly she is just mad about her guitar. I feel like they have this intimate relationship that I feel like I’m disturbing sometimes! But it’s not that surprising because this is only one weird attribute of hers. To tell you the truth, she is a junkie for INTERNET MEMES and she has exactly the meme-kind of sense of humour, so even around 2:00 am a lot of times I hear her laughing, looking at her memes.” – Anonymous

“Basically, my roommate is a dedicated fan of KOREAN DRAMAS. Many times when I look over to her desk, I see her watching them. It’s pretty entertaining, because many times she is rolling around in her bed because of them. Also, she loves wrapping herself in her blanket like a taco and looking out of the window, just WATCHING the people walking downstairs, much LIKE A GRANDMA. Apart from these weird quirks, I have never met anyone who is more obsessed with CHICKEN NUGGETS and the MCC CHICKEN BURGER than her, and HONEY… oh, the amount of honey that she consumes… it’s crazy.” – My weird roommate story
Let’s admit it: amidst the throng of Asian-looking faces we see every day, sometimes seeing a foreigner is like a breath of fresh air. You see them in a horde, chatting away on the grass patch of the Student Residence. Most of the time you see them outside of Hall 4, ready to kick off the night at Billy Boozers or LKF, or out and about in the city of Hong Kong.

They are adventurers, ready to travel thousands of miles away from their hometowns to visit the city that never sleeps. They are curious souls, ready to explore a culture that is so different from their own. However, we – the citizens that call Hong Kong home – are often so involved in our own worldly affairs that we forget to explore and stop reaching out to take what Hong Kong can offer. We stopped being adventurers and we stopped being curious. What better way to rekindle that flame than to talk to those who know it best?

During the Study Abroad Fair organised by the Global Services Office (GSO) held on 27-28 October, DiverCity got up close and personal with CityU’s inbound exchange students to sneak a peek into their lives. Let’s admit it: amidst the throng of Asian-looking faces we see every day, sometimes seeing a foreigner is like a breath of fresh air. You see them in a horde, chatting away on the grass patch of the Student Residence. Most of the time you see them outside of Hall 4, ready to kick off the night at Billy Boozers or LKF, or out and about in the city of Hong Kong.

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Hey, Rohit! How are you doing? I haven’t seen you all week.

Deewaa- what is that?

Dee-Wa-Lee. It’s the most important Indian festival ever and it’s celebrated by millions of Indians like me all over the world.

India? Isn’t that one of the countries that’s part of the One Belt One Road initiative?

It’s an initiative spearheaded by home country, China, to embrace the trend toward a multipolar world, economic globalization, cultural diversity and greater IT application.

Yeah, it’s basically an economic tie-up, aiming to promote orderly and free flow of economic activities and deeper integration of markets. So if countries coordinate their fiscal policies, everyone wins.

Interesting...
And that’s not all, its goal is to setup all-dimensional, multi-tiered and composite connectivity networks, and realise diversified, independent, balanced and sustainable development in these countries. This initiative taps into market potential in this region, promotes investment and consumption, creates demands and job opportunities, enhances people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and mutual learning among the people of the relevant countries, and enables them to understand, trust and respect each other and live in harmony, peace and prosperity.

Wow! You’re really good at explaining this stuff, Maxwell. I don’t even need to be an Economics major to understand what you’ve just said, but which countries are included in this plan?

It's a long list, mostly Asian countries. Wait, I'll show you a picture…

(Source: Wikipedia)

Since I've taught you something, you can return the favour by telling me a bit more about the festival you were mentioning earlier. What was it? Dee-

Diwali, Maxwell. The story behind it is one of the most interesting tales I've ever heard actually. Lord Ram, after winning a historic battle in Sri Lanka, returned to India. The people celebrated his homecoming by lighting up their houses with lamps. That's why Diwali is often called “the festival of lights”.

(Source: cpwdoablogging.wordpress.com)

Really? An Indian festival in Hong Kong? Wow! So not only are our countries coming together economically, but also culturally? Do Indians follow the pop culture of Hong Kongers too?

Indeed! And CityU and other globalized universities in Hong Kong are at the forefront of this change.

So how did locals and other international students enjoy the festivities, I mean, how did you celebrate your cultural heritage this far from home?

The Indian community tried their best to engage students from all over to take part in the merriment. There were tantalizing performances by beautiful women and scrumptious food prepared with love, all at our very own Multi-Function Hall A of the Student Residence!

(Source: auckland-west.co.nz)

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Sweet! All of that sounds amazing! I'll make sure not to miss out next year. My stomach is grumbling already…

(Source: auckland-west.co.nz)
Integrating oneself into a brand new culture is never easy. When it comes to non-local students, what they need above all is a companion who can share real life experiences and selflessly provide the best advice on how to fit in. To support the students, the International Friends Club (IFC) is the perfect platform. There are passionate IFC buddies who are more than willing to dedicate their time and energy to creating a “home” for international students. Other than helping in the orientation for non-local students such as campus tours and city excursion, they also create mind-blowing cultural events like watching the “Fire Dragon Dance” and wrapping dumplings. IFC buddies also consider themselves lucky, as the programme allows them to participate in life-changing experiences and build lifelong friendship.

Rachel

“As buddies, we are the ones who take active roles in terms of bridging the gaps experienced by exchange students, so we must be prepared. I personally pay more attention than ever to international issues so that there are lots of common topics that I can discuss with the exchange students. This process has also really expanded my vision of the world.”

Angie Leung

There was once an occasion when I helped an exchange friend to buy ingredients for a Korean dish. I was confused by the amount of meat he wanted, and the mathematical units. I was busy converting kilograms into catty and catty into something else. It was definitely a fun and challenging experience.

Enhanced cultural awareness

Angie

“It’s important to think with empathy and sensitivity before acting. You need to be aware of whether a topic will offend your mates, and whether the restaurant you choose is fine with everybody’s tastes. After all, they are from different cultural backgrounds, and you do not want to hurt their feelings.”

Paper

“MK is a significant cultural element in Hong Kong. We showed the exchange students a local MK band named Bird of Paradise to explain the culture, and they couldn’t stop themselves from saying Awesome!”

Appreciation for local culture and developing a sense of belonging

Angie

“Buddies are like CityU ambassadors to the exchange students, so escorting skills are involved. You learn how to conduct yourself among different people, and get to know the etiquettes of different nations.”

A chance for personal development

Rachel

“If you are interested in being a part of this exciting and diverse club, send an email to the Global Services Office (GSO) at gsoins@cityu.edu.hk.”

JOIN US!
Go Green, Eat Green

I have been a vegetarian my whole life, and, because of this, I can still remember feeling shocked and baffled when I first saw the menu of the University canteens during my early days in Hong Kong. There were so few vegetarian options! In my first year, survival here was difficult and finding food to eat used to be a herculean task. However, now, after two years, things have become significantly better. Many of my friends are vegetarians, and I have no trouble finding vegetarian food in Hong Kong. I have even organised a vegetarian festival – an event that took place in the Student Residence that featured vegetarian food from all around the world! But, before getting to that, let me walk you through my two-year journey.

People in Hong Kong are brought up with meat as their primary source of food and eat meat at almost every meal of the day. I found this very strange because in India, meat is considered a luxury and even the non-vegetarians eat it no more than a few times a week. But here, it seems like meat is a necessity. The difference, I realised, lies in the societal mindset. It appears to me as though the society here views animals as food, rather than living creatures. Take “vegetarian fish cutlet” for example, a bean curd cutlet served in Homey Kitchen at the Student Residence. I have often wondered, why it has “fish” in its name – and why can’t they just call it “vegetarian cutlet”?

Over the first year, I often hunted for the food in school canteens and after having a closer look, I found there were various vegetarian options for me. I was happy, I could finally survive. But going forward, I realised it was time for me to really “live”, so I began learning to cook. For many of us, cooking might seem a complex and ethereal art, as it certainly did for me – though, in reality, I realised it is simply the art of mixing the right ingredients at the right time. I taught myself how to cook some Indian dishes I grew up with, and utilised online resources to learn further. By the end of first year, I was a pretty good cook. In fact, I was so decent that months after that I taught a sophisticated “Shahi Paneer”, a dish containing cottage cheese in buttery Indian curry, in the “Cooking Mama” event organised at the Student Residence.

Then, I decided it was time for me to spread the message of vegetarianism. So, I decided to organise a vegetarian festival or “Veggie Fest”, as it came to be known. The Veggie Fest took place in Alumni Civility Hall (Hall 3) in the Student Residence last Fall and was a blend of delightful food, art, music and education. 12 volunteers worked hard to make this event a success, compiling vegetarian food from five different cuisines. These delicacies were of course the highlight, and it was so good that at the end of the event, you could see a wide smile on the faces of all

Go Green Eat Green

Text: Akash Malhotra, Electronic and Communication Engineering
Photos: Hall Artist Team, Alumni Civility Hall (Hall 3)
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The primary motive behind this vegetarian event was to promote the vegetarian lifestyle in the residence community and Hong Kong, as well as to get all the vegetarianism enthusiasts under one roof to have some fun. With events like these, the residence community is forced to think about subjects which they would have never had thought about before, like global water shortage and malnutrition in Africa. Even if they don’t become vegetarians, at least they will become more open-minded towards this alternate way of life.

Many studies have shown that by going vegetarian, we can reduce the impact of climate change, rainforest destruction and pollution whilst also saving the water and other precious resources. In fact, raising animals for food produces more greenhouse gas emissions than all the cars, planes, and other forms of transportation combined. There has never been a better time to go green by eating green. Also, a vegetarian diet reduces the risk of heart disease and cancer, and is an overall healthier food source.

For me however, the ethical reasons to follow such a diet matter most. Paul McCartney once said, “If slaughterhouses had glass walls, everybody would have been a vegetarian…" – and he was right, animals can experience pain and feel negative emotion like fear and grief, just as human do. We should rethink about our choice of diet.

It is understandable that going vegetarian instantly is nearly impossible. If you are curious as to how you can make a difference this way, you can start off by reducing your meat consumption. For example, have one meat-free day every week, then add one more meat-free meal every month and so on. A change, no matter how small it is, will make a difference.
It seems like not long ago that we’re cuddled in our mom’s hugs but now next on our priority list is finding a job. Next thing you know, you’re getting married, doing taxes and raising a kid. Whoa! Feeling overwhelmed? We all are. Where to start? What to do? Who to ask? If only life came with a manual book…

There are, of course, others who made it. Kudos to you guys! Andrew was a year-long exchange student in 2014/15 who now landed a job as a teacher in Hong Kong. Joseph was also an exchange student in Semester B 2014/15 who is now working in Taiwan. Both from the States, working in Asia was definitely a big step in their lives. Let’s hear some tips and advice from them, shall we?

**#1 I DON’T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE…**

It’s totally fine to be confused about what you want to be in the future. However, it’s not okay to not do anything about it. University is the perfect time for you to learn about yourself.

“I was never sure if teaching was something I wanted to do in the long run, but it was only through my exchange in CityU that I realised teaching is my true passion.”

– Andrew

“I went to Hong Kong for an exchange and I loved it! That’s when I knew I wanted to work in Asia.”

– Joseph

“It’s totally fine to be confused about what you want to be in the future. However, it’s not okay to not do anything about it. University is the perfect time for you to learn about yourself.”

– Natasya Viona Chandra, Quantitative Finance and Risk Management

**#2 I DON’T WANT TO GO BACK TO MY HOME COUNTRY, I WANT TO WORK ABROAD!**

It’s good to step out of your comfort zone and explore the world out there whilst you’re still young. You might need to follow a few steps to make sure you’re not leaping and falling.

**STEP 1:** You need to know yourself – Are you adaptable? Are you okay being around new people?

**STEP 2:** If your answer is yes, then you need to research on your destination.

**STEP 3:** More research! Search for job openings in that specific country. Nowadays, a lot of job openings are posted online. Keep updating your CV, be persistent and apply to as many job openings as you can.

**STEP 4:** Set your mind into it. Keep on learning. The moment you stop learning is the moment you won’t move forward. Instead of going to rave concerts or cafes during the weekend, sometimes it’s better to spend your weekend attending workshops and talks. You might be a creative media student, but you’re really interested in big data and programming. There’re a lot of talks held around Hong Kong that you can go to. The price and time you’re paying now will pay off big time in the future, promise!

“I got to see how Hong Kongers perceive the outside world versus how we see them.”

– Andrew

“I wanted to work as a teacher, so I searched for teacher forums in Hong Kong. There are usually job openings there.”

– Joseph

“I wanted to work in a law firm, so I applied to law firms around Asia through their website.”

– Joseph

“I went to Hong Kong for an exchange and I loved it! That’s when I knew I wanted to work in Asia.”

– Joseph
It's never too early to kick-start your career planning. There're a lot you can do in the meantime. Go to recruitment talks, improve your soft skills by attending CV and interview workshops. You can even join internship abroad to test the waters – see if you really want to live abroad for the long haul.

Sometimes binge-watching Netflix instead of researching for internship offers is a lot more tempting and fun, I get it. We're all guilty of it. However, as a CityU student, we're blessed with the abundant facilities the University provides us. If you ever check your student email (which most of us don't, let's be honest), there's always something from the Career and Leadership Centre that will help us in our career path. Take the initiative and time to enroll in some of their workshops! There are CV writing workshops, group interview workshops, mentoring programmes, summer internship programmes, the list goes on and on. You can check their term calendar to see what you can sign up for.

There are even websites like JIJIS or LinkedIn that can help you search for an opening in one simple click. The process is really simple – you just need to fill up your personal details and tada! You'll be able to finish it while munching on your lunch. Save time and multitask!

We still have a long way to being a real adult, and everyone is "adulting" in their own way. I hope the advice above could be useful for those who are confused and lost. After all, we're all here to help one another. Students unite!

"Learn their culture and be respectful. It's nice to learn their language as well, they will definitely appreciate the effort."
– Joseph

"If you love what you do, no amount of challenge can make you leave your job."
– Andrew

"Network! I can't stress enough the importance of networking. It is also important to always keep in contact afterwards."
– Andrew

"I can survive in Hong Kong without having to speak Cantonese. There are a lot of foreigners here, so you feel less lonely!"
– Andrew

"Asian food is delicious. I live 5 minutes away from the Taipei 101. Going everywhere is also really easy and convenient"
– Joseph

Asia is a world of new potential and opportunities. No one expat in Asia is staying here because they want a boring life. They want a new adventure, the excitement of figuring out what to do next. Impromptu trips to tropical islands! Discovering exotic culinary! New faces! New people! Weird sounding languages! Life is too short, so explore as much as you can.

Challenges will always come in your way. However, if you treat others with respect, they will respect you back. We don't grow when it's easy. We grow when we face challenges.