

Travel report

My name is Olena I am HTI master degree student in the University of Tampere. During summer 2018, I have been participating in the Tsinghua Santander World Challenges of 21st-century program in China. I have taken part in the program with a team of HTI students from the University of Tampere.

Student name: Olena Saienko

Student number: 428810

Country of destination: China

Study period abroad: 29.07.2018 – 11.08.2018

The institution organizing my studies abroad: Tsinghua University

Arrangements before leaving Finland: As a Ukrainian citizen, I am required to have a visa to visit China. Two weeks before the study program started I had applied for a visa through the Chinese visa center in Kyiv, Ukraine. For the visa application, I had to collect general documents, invitation letter, tickets, and pay fee. I got the visa in 7 days after applying. Our plane tickets were from Helsinki airport, so 28.07 I flew to Helsinki and on the same day, we had a plane to Beijing.

Services provided by the organizing institution: After arrival to the Tsinghua University, we registered as a student (received student card), moved in to the provided student accommodation and get the instructions. Tsinghua University has covered fees for flight tickets, part of the food spending in the university campus.

Accommodation: Student accommodation was provided by the Tsinghua University on the territory of the University campus. It was an individual room for each student in the student dormitory.

Studies: We had intensive two weeks of studying and competition work (preparing our prototype, presentations, and reports). The Study process was mostly in form of the workshops, lectures, and visiting the companies. After each day we supposed to write the reflection of the day from the team. On different stages, we had to make several presentations that reflected our progress. At the last day, we presented our project that is also a summary of our two week of work

Other topics of interest: During the trip, we had the opportunity to visit some historical destination in the Beijing and travel to the Great Chinese wall. Even though we have traveled a bit, we spent most of our time on the University campus. The campus has all needed facilities for students such as shops, canteens, pharmacy, and bank. The territory is equipped with sports fields and recreation zones.

Recognition of our studies abroad as part of your degree at UTA: We have received credits for the competition as part of our degree program in UTA. Credits have been counted for course HTIS84 "Human-Technology Interaction Project Work".

Significance of this project in terms of your future career: This program has given me a useful experience of doing a project in the international environment from the scratch. It has definitely developed my soft skill as a designer and for sure will adorn my CV. Moreover, we can develop our project idea and continue to work on it in the future.