CAFCE International Committee

Student Engagement Sub-Group

First Name: *Beverly Ho*  
Institution: *University of Waterloo*

Where did you work abroad (city, country): *Hong Kong, China*

When did you go abroad: *September 2010*

Which work term (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc..): *6th*

1. What motivated you to seek out an international work term?  
   *- to experience different working culture and environment*
2. How did you fund the travel and other costs associated with this opportunity?  
   *- saving from previous work terms and part-time jobs*
3. Can you tell me what steps you took to secure your co-op position? Did you feel it was hard to secure your co-op position and how would you advise other students to make the same effort?  
   *- it wasn’t hard to secure my co-op position. I set my goals, focus on the tasks that lead to my goals and try to finish every task ahead of time.  
   - do a lot of research is very important too*
4. When conducting your job search did you find that many of the jobs available were in specific sectors? (ie: corporate, non-profit, government, etc.) Where, or how, would you suggest other students focus their search?  
   *- it depends on the goal of the students. If he/she would like to work in the government sector they he/she should consider government jobs in co-op. however, I would suggest other students to work on private company or small organization to experience a larger variety of work types.*
5. Tell me about the cost of living in (city or country). How did your expenses compare to your income based on the salary you were earning? Were you able to save any money and where did you find savings or discounts which reduced your expenses?   
   *- salary that I earned in this particular co-op can only cover my daily expenses such as food and transportation. Other expenses such as rent and flight ticket are supported by my saving from previous co-ops.*
6. How did you find accommodations and what rent can you expect to pay in (city or country)?  
   *- rent an apartment with other friends (its almost 80% of my salary of that co-op)*
7. What, if any, cultural barriers did you have to overcome and what were some of these challenges?  
   *- long working hours  
   - using public transportation  
   - write in Chinese in some circumstances*
8. Did you find it difficult to meet new people? What steps did you take to integrate yourself into your new surroundings and make yourself more comfortable in a new setting?  
   *- it wasn’t difficult because I was born in this city and lived for 10 years. The best way for me to integrate myself into the new places is to be friendly and modest, take every situation as an opportunity to learn.*
9. Overall, what advice would you give co-op students who are seeking international opportunities?  
   *- One common thing about many university students with a few co-op experiences is that they thought they are “better” or “more experienced”. I’d say don’t let your ego blind you. Self-confidence is important but too much of it will cease you from improving.*
10. Is there anything else you want us to know about your experience?  
    *- working in Asia needs a lot of dedication because of the long working hours and heavy work load with little pay back. But after all, the experience and skills that I learned there are definitely worth it.*