


**Outstanding Student,  
Faculty of Construction and Environment 2018**

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It is a great honour to be selected as the Outstanding Student of my faculty. I would like to take this opportunity to share my learning experience and my life in Hong Kong, as well as to express my sincere appreciation to those who have supported me throughout the years through this article.

The “seed” of becoming a civil engineer has been planted in my heart early in my childhood. My father is a structural engineer and my grandfather was a scholar in mechanical engineering. Both of them have great impact on my choice to major in civil engineering. Another reason why I chose to this major was the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. I was totally shocked by the building collapses, destructive effects and horrors caused by the mother nature. From that moment, I set my goal to become a civil engineer, and to contribute in infrastructure development for disaster mitigation. It is my privilege to study in FCE of PolyU. Thanks to the well-established curriculum and comprehensive teaching contents, I am allowed to gain a better understanding of the fields of civil engineering. I took good advantage of the resources that the faculty provided to student and built up my professional network during my internship, which is particularly important for my future development. I have learnt a lot from the professors in the past three years. By interacting with them, my will to become a scholar focusing on earthquake research in the future has become stronger.

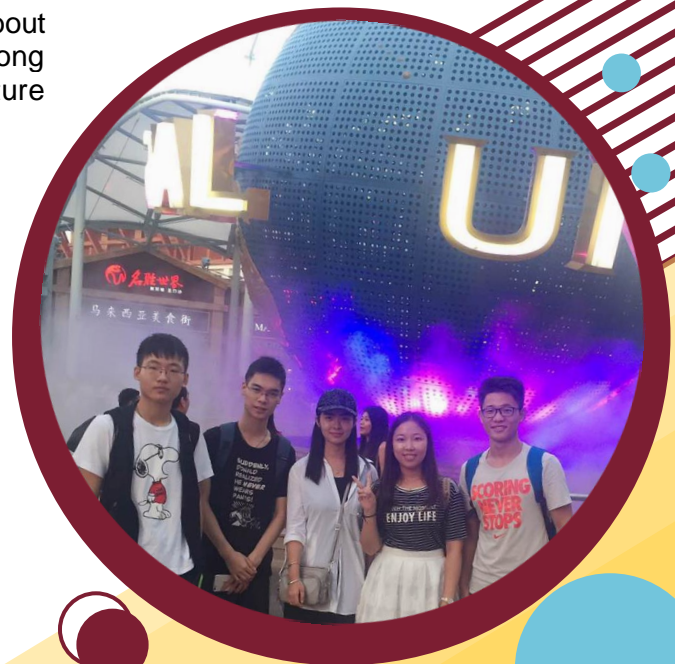
One of the most memorable experience that I had during the studies in PolyU was the exchange study at the National University of Singapore. I made a lot of friends from Indonesia, Australia, Singapore, etc. Spending half a year in Singapore gave me a chance to experience a different lifestyle. I have two suggestions to students who are planning to go on exchange. First, try to learn from what you see and experience in the host country and think of how you can apply what you have learned to contribute to your own country. When I was in Singapore, I was greatly impressed by the development of infrastructure there and the application of modular construction. Then I started to think about how such advanced technologies can be promoted in Hong Kong and Mainland China. This probably will be my future research topic. My second suggestion is to always stay humble. When going overseas, try to integrate yourself into the local culture. There is no such thing as good or bad culture. All the cultures are valuable treasures from the long river of history. What we need to do is to stay humble, and embrace diversity and different perspectives.

My tips on how to live your university life to the fullest and to be outstanding would be:

**1. Always thirst for knowledge.**

There is one old Chinese saying from *The Analects of Confucius* (論語) that I would like to share with you:

“仰之彌高，鑽之彌堅；瞻之在前，忽焉在後。”



“The more you look up, the higher it seems. The harder you study, the more you find how deep knowledge can be. It looks like it is in front of you, yet it suddenly seems to be behind you.” I believe this should be the positive attitude towards learning. What we learn in class is like a shovel and it is our own responsibility to use the tool to dig deeper. Keep enriching your knowledge and enhancing yourself, no matter what you do in the future.

## 2. Exercise is important.

University life is full of challenges and stress so we should have a strong body to face all those challenges. Try to make good use of the resources that the university provides us: the gym, swimming pool inside Block X, Joint Sport Center (JSC), etc. Take myself as an example, I am a member of the PolyU Mainland Students' Soccer Team and play soccer twice a week. Playing soccer not only offers me a chance to strengthen my body, but also allows me to make new friends. Besides playing, I also assisted in organizing Hong Kong Mainland University Students' Soccer Competition as one of the committee members, during which I have improved my interpersonal skills.

As I mentioned earlier, my ultimate goal is to become an outstanding researcher in earthquake engineering in the future and to make contributions to natural disaster mitigation. I am now working my way firmly towards the goal. My current research topic is on high-performance seismic-resilient structures. That is to say, while undergoing a severe earthquake, not only must the safety of residents be assured, but it should be a requirement of a modern sustainable city that building functionality and integrity remain essentially unaffected. My supervisors provided me with lots of useful suggestions about how to conduct a research project systematically and gave me constructive comments on my progress. The main experiment of my research is still on the preparation stage and I believe there will be satisfactory outcomes. To realize my goal of becoming an earthquake engineer, I plan to further my studies overseas before entering the research field. I aspire to contribute to society with my acquired knowledge and skills.



Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who have supported me all along. Many thanks to Prof. Kwok-Fai Chung, Prof. Jianguo Dai, Dr. Zhen Leng and Dr. Songye Zhu for their kind supports and sharing their insights with me; and to Dr. Bin Wang for his guidance throughout my research. To my civil engineering classmates at PolyU and National University of Singapore as well as my PolyU Mainland Students' Soccer Teammates, you all truly lightened up my university life. To one special girl, thank you for your companionship and warm encouragement all along. Last but not least, my genuine thanks to my parents and grandparents, who offered me unconditional help through ups and downs.