2017

Newsletter

Overseas Summer Block Placement

Australia
Melbourne

Canada
Toronto
Vancouver

Japan
Osaka

Taiwan
Taipei

Singapore

USA
Michigan
Placement in Chinese Community Social Services Center Inc. (CCSSCI) was a very unforgettable experience in my study life. In these three months, I knew much about social policy and welfare services of Australia and learnt how to provide these services to needy clients. The placement learning opportunities being assigned were diversified, and I could apply the social work knowledge and skills through delivering cases, group and program. Besides, supervisor and colleagues were very kind and nice to support me, with their useful suggestions and patient guidance, I could finish all assignments successfully.

GAO Shangting (MSW FT)

It was a wonderful journey for my overseas placement in Melbourne. This was a unique opportunity for me to engage with clients from a wide spectrum, which strengthen my social work knowledge and skills in dealing with different service users. Also, with the support and guidance from colleagues and fieldwork supervisor, I delivered my work assignments in a way that best fit my learning style. Melbourne also reminded me the importance of work-life balance, how to handle work and life as equally important. Lastly, the journey was even more wonderful because my field mates were also my hotpot-mates!

CHENG Ho Him (BSW FT)

I was so glad that overseas placement allowed me to test out different approaches which we had learnt from University. During my group work project, I was inspired by our teacher in introducing the eight-sectioned exercise (八段錦), fall prevention exercise and Traditional Chinese medicine health maintenance to our members. At first, I was not familiar with the body-mind-spirit approach as I only learnt it from lectures but never put into practice.

Yet, overseas placement allowed me to integrate theories into practice. It also allowed me to make errors and learn from it. It is truly a fruitful journey for us to sharpen and polish our skills.

LEE Wai Ling (BSW FT)
I felt very lucky that I had the chance to go to Toronto to undertake my final placement in CFSO, it was a fruitful and fantastic experience. I was so happy to meet different friendly, helpful and experienced social workers or counsellors at there. I learnt a lot from their experiences and sharing as they showed me how a professional and compassionate social worker should be.

CFSO gave me lots of chances to explore my interest and ability, I became more familiar with the CBT and EFT model, which enlightened my wish to enhance my skills in counseling and group work.

KWOK Lai Wun
(MSW PT)

This summer, I had the chance to have my overseas social work placement at the Chinese Family Services of Ontario (CFSO) in Toronto. This was a great opportunity for me to explore the social work profession in a different setting. My cultural sensitivity and independency had also been sharpened through this experience. I had understood more about the social welfare system in Toronto and their comprehensive services being provided especially for youth and elderly. This allowed me to develop my critical reflection and further widen my social work perspectives. This experience was not only eye-opening, but also memorable for life.

LI Wing Yan, Flora
(BSW FT)
In this overseas placement, I was responsible for conducting 10 cases, 1 psycho-educational group, 2 programs, and 90 assessments for the seniors living in Toronto. These experiences enhanced my understanding towards the micro and macro social work practices, as well as the opportunities in integrating different theories into practice. Further, having got the experience to work in a different welfare system and working environment in Toronto, I realized the importance of bringing back the strengths of Canada’s welfare system and working style into Hong Kong practice, which would facilitate my growth and development as a competent social worker. Overall speaking, it was a fruitful experience to work in Canada!

LAW Tak Hong Roberto (BSW FT)

When talking about social workers, people always compliment them on their compassion and kindness. Ever since I started my MSW study, I usually tried to be noncommittal to that saying, because I knew that social work is a profession with its own set of work ethics than providing altruistic service. But in Toronto, I have met a group of social workers who makes me believe that “Yes, you have to be caring, compassionate and devoted to do what they are doing.” They have shown me how cooperative a good team can be, they have breakthrough my blinkered thought and guided me on my way to pursuing this profession.

MA Ranli (MSW FT)
During this placement, I followed one group training program, produced a promotional video for my agency and completed a community research project on Alzheimer Disease situation in British Columbia. Also, other than completing the work duties in the organization, I also had the opportunity to visit a variety of other social service centers in Vancouver. This placement has truly been a fulfilling learning experience. I am blessed to have colleagues who were willing to teach me, and supervisors who created opportunities for me to broaden my exposure towards different social services here.

WONG Sze Chai Cherry (MSW FT)

I enjoyed my overseas placement very much. I was pleased to be given lots of support and agency visit opportunities from the placement supervisor and agency. I appreciated the Canadian values and cultures and loved to work in the multicultural environment. This placement was a self-discovery journey which helped me to understand more about myself, including strengths and limitations, as to prepare myself to be a better person and a reflective social worker in the future.

LAU Shuk Yee (MSW PT)
I was so glad that I had the opportunity to undertake the placement in Osaka, Japan last summer. I was placed at The Centre for Health and Rights of Migrant (CHARM), which provided community support services for foreign residents who were diagnosed with HIV. The placement broadened my horizon and understanding about Japan. It allowed me to experience a more down-to-earth aspect of Japan apart from its fast-growing tourism development. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the lovely people whom I had met during the memorable journey. And I hope that we can meet again soon!

**CHAN Sin Yiu YoYo (MSW FT)**

I have an amazing summer in Singapore. Singapore is a multicultural country, I am lucky to have chances to interact with various people, and learn from different cultures, which broaden my horizon. The medical system in Singapore is also inspiring, which balances between the socialism and the individualism model. I think this unique design is a very good model for other country to learn from. Moreover, the amazing Medical Social Workers whom I met in Changi General Hospital have great influence on my professional development. Their passion in helping the patients really touches me and motivates me to equip myself better in being a helping profession.

**SU Yuen Chieh (BSW FT)**
If you are passionate about life-and-death services, you must go to the Mackay Memorial Hospital. It is the first hospital in Taiwan providing palliative wards. It is now an educational hub that shares their clinical experiences of palliative care with different professionals. You will meet many different staff and interns during the placement period, such as doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, and clerical staffs. At there, you can earn frontline experience about end-of-life and bereavement cares, in serving terminal ill patients and their families through case work and group work in palliative ward. Also, you will gain a lot of insights towards life.

CHENG Wai Kei (MSW PT)

The 10 weeks’ social work placement in Taiwan had been a very fruitful one, helped not only in my social work professional development but also in my personal growth. The various kind of services being provided in the Taipei City Hospital has given me a chance to broaden my horizons in the medical settings, as the services are all-rounded both including in-patient and out-patient services. I was so glad to have the chance to come across most of the services, especially for the home care schemes that the Taipei City Hospital have been actively developing on.

LI Wang Hin (BSW FT)
I was happy and thankful that I was placed in the foster care services of Taiwan Fund for Children and Families. I had much professional growth by handling three foster children cases, one foster children group and assisting in many other programmes and camps. I had lot of chances to learn from the experienced social workers. They were enthusiastic to share with me. Also, I gained many precious friendships there. We had many cultural exchanges including the discussion of social work values, education system of social work profession etc. These exchanges broadened my horizon a lot.

CHENG Wai Kei MSWPT
LI Wang Hin BSW
YAU Ngo Yee (MSW FT)

The overseas placement offered unique experiential learning experience to consolidate my professional values in social work practice. The opportunities of participating in a wide variety of programs held by different sub-teams allowed me to contact with service users with diversified needs. The agency kindly arranged lots of learning activities, ranging from group supervisions, book reports, case sharing and staff meetings, for placement students to explore the working culture and practice of the agency. It provided a holistic insight for me to understand different types of service provision in Taiwan. I had learnt how to use different mediums to engage service users through joining diversified group and programs.

KWOK Hiu Ching Emily (MSW FT)
It was a precious opportunity to undertake my first placement as an exchange student with U-M and being placed at CSSW. U.S. is the incubator of world-leading social work research and practice; therefore I was able to learn and practice the frontiers of social work intervention in my fields of interests—domestic violence and child welfare. Learned from my two experienced supervisors who are experts of their fields, I acquired not only the evidence-based intervention models including Trauma-Focused CBT, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, and Alternatives to Domestic Violence, but also deepened my knowledge on family system, child attachment, gender-based violence etc. into interpersonal and group practice. I strongly recommend future students to apply for this exchange opportunity!

HUANG Shixin (MSW FT)
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THANK YOU!
2017 Summer Block Overseas Placement Report Back Session