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Institution: Han Yang Ling Mausoleum Museum

I am very grateful to work as an intern in the ministry of Social Education at the Han Yang Ling Mausoleum Museum in Xi'an from May to June. The overseas internship has given me valuable insights in the operation of the museum. I get to know how a museum works through observation and participation in the daily operation of Han Yang Ling Mausoleum Museum. It is an excellent experience to "live" and work in somewhere far away from Hong Kong.

Xi'an is a thousand-year-old ancient capital which is full of historical and cultural connotations. It is also the capital of thirteen emperors. After travelling and visiting to this city for a month, I really appreciate the government and local people who pay a lot of attention to the sites and cultural relics because they try to use various methods to protect the artifacts. On the other hand, the concept of preciousness of the "previous" here is also amazing. Just because of the preciousness of the "previous," modern people can understand about their ancestors more clearly by reading books or visiting museums nowadays. Xi'an answers the question of "how Chinese people act in the past." Before I came to Xi'an, I used to say I want to go to Xi'an to see the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor. Then, I took part in this cultural and tourism industry internship programme and discovered that Xi'an is not only about Qin Emperor, but also the Chinese history. It is also the main reason that I chose this programme to come to Xi'an.

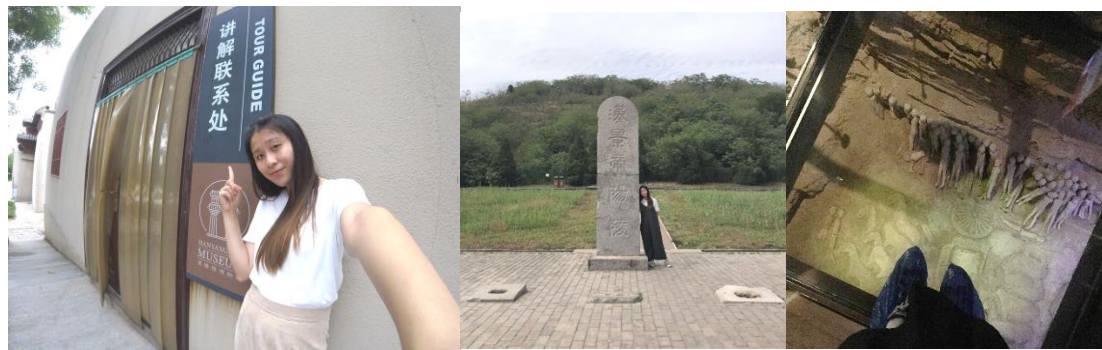
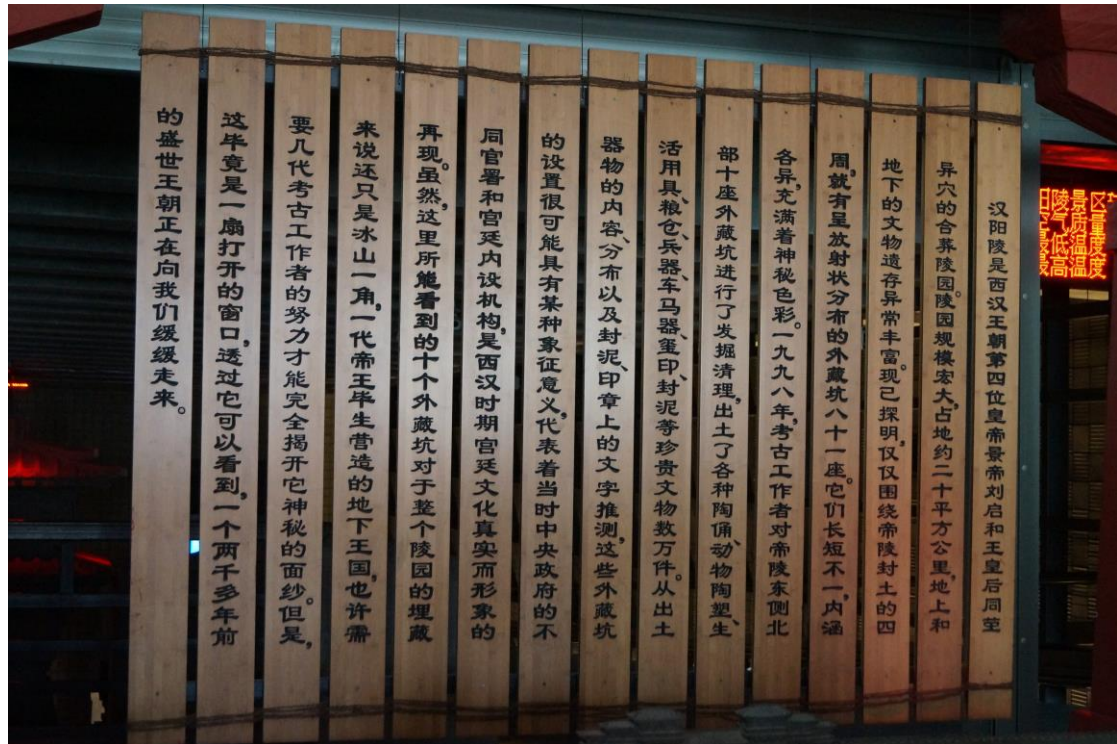
Compared to the famous terracotta warriors, Han Yang Ling may not be well-known to the world. However, I think this museum is a fabulous place where everyone should visit once in their lifetime. Han Yang Ling Mausoleum Museum is the joint mausoleum of Emperor Jing di and Empress Wang, who is his consort. People believed in afterlife in the Han Dynasty, thus, people attended to the dead as if to the livings. All the belongings of the dead would be buried underground, placing them at their disposal of the dead. Therefore, in addition to burial objects, many secondary burial pits were built inside the complex to symbolize official organizations, army and daily utensils related to emperor's daily life. No wonder it was named as a unique museum for its natural scenery on the ground and rich contents underground. It is an underground museum which aims at balancing showcase of the site and the archaeological fruits to the public, making further research on the site and also protecting the historical and natural features. It is interesting that visitors need to go down to the underground and walk into the site in person.

During my internship at Han Yang Ling Mausoleum Museum, I was assigned to different jobs such as reading different cultural and historical information about the Han Dynasty in daily. I also helped to organise the educational activities. In the first few days of my internship, I read the guides books which is provided to the tour guide in the Han Yang Ling Mausoleum Museum and I needed to prepare the script to introduce the museum to the visitors. This is also the first time I learned about a museum in such an in-depth way. At the same time, I experienced that being a good tour guide is no piece of cake. You need to read and prepare a lot in order to gain abundant background information such as knowledge of the sites, history of that Dynasty, as well as Chinese history because the visitors may ask about anything that comes to their mind. When I could not answer those questions, I was embarrassed and felt like I am not a professionals.

In addition, I feel lucky to be able to assist the organisation of some educational activities such as visiting local primary schools to teach children how to make a pottery figure like chicken that Han Yang Ling Museum has. I learn how to make a pottery animal figures during the activities as well. Moreover, I helped with an activity called Han Culture Experience Day. My main job is to translate what the professor said from Mandarin to English to the foreigners immediately. It was a big challenge to me and I tried my best to finish it. It is an unforgettable experience. I learn cultures and history through working in this activity. The Han Culture Experience Day provided different activities to the visitors such as the information talk about makeup of Han Dynasty, wearing Han Fu and learning Han Li. Besides, I also participated in the activity “Ancient Poetry Reading Day.” I needed to find a poem about Dragon Boat Festival and read it loudly in front of all participants. As you may be aware, people need to understand the poem and be able to read it with emotion.

In this internship programme, I met a lot of lifelong friends and they are not only CU students, but also local people, colleagues and students. We walked through Xi’an and had dinner together every day and built up a strong friendship. This programme is good to gain experience in places out of Hong Kong. To sum up my time at Han Yang Ling Mausoleum Museum, it has definitely given me a clearer picture on the operation of a museum and the job duties as a museum tour guide or an activities planner. It has strengthen my interest in pursuing a career in the museum sector. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Department and my colleagues in Xi’an who arranged different works and opportunities for me and provided me with this memorable lesson. With great pleasure, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and

thanks to all staff for their care and support, especially in my beginning of the internship period. Overall, this internship opportunity was fruitful and unforgettable.



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Han Culture Experience Day



Teaching the children how to make a pottery figure