

SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION MARKETING

Summary of the UK programme 2016

- UK partner university: University of Reading
- Chinese partner university: Wuhan University

Art is arguably the last thing one would associate with construction sites, but some beg to differ.

A cohort of students from Wuhan University and their counterparts from the University of Reading embarked on a journey under the UK-China Arts Education Exchange to explore “Secrets in Construction Sites” in the two countries.

The programme, sponsored by New World China Land Limited and managed by the British Council China, offered an opportunity for students studying different disciplines – architecture students from China and arts students from the UK - to exchange arts ideas and co-develop arts exhibits.

In May 2016, the University of Reading welcomed eight students from Wuhan University on a three-week visit to kick off the programme. Students were introduced to arts, culture and architecture from both countries through lectures, workshops, field trips and business visits, followed by hands-on workshops where they worked together for an arts exhibition.

Professor Susanne Clausen, Head of the Department of Art from the University of Reading, thought highly of this cultural exchange through academic collaboration. She said: “This is a truly wonderful project. We are delighted to be hosting Professor Huang and his students from Wuhan University here at the University of Reading. Over the last few weeks, our students have embarked on an intense programme together and are all working hard on developing a series of exhibition proposals for our joint exhibition later in Wuhan. We have been able to share our ideas and experiences as artists and architects, and to get to know each other whilst creating new works. We would like to thank the British Council who have supported us extremely well throughout, as well as our sponsors for making this project possible. This is cultural exchange at its best.”

Li Anhong, a student from Wuhan University, viewed this as a “once-in-a-life-time opportunity” because it “encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone to try something new and creative. Working with UK students also helped develop my cross-cultural awareness, which I believe will be extremely helpful in the future.”

Students will continue their collaborations using an online learning platform hosted by the University of Reading, until the eight UK students land in Wuhan in October to work further on their projects for three weeks. Their final jointly produced artworks will go on display at Wuhan’s New World China Land Limited Art Centre. Wang Na from New World China Land Limited says: “We are proud to be part of the China-UK exchange through this innovative arts programme and are excited to welcome the final artworks at our Art Centre.”

Images

