



“ I come from China. I am very honored to be one of the first exchange students from Jiujiang University to go to Kajaani University of Applied Sciences. In the short six months, I have not only enhanced my language skills but also gained more understanding of different cultures, communicative skills, more ability to adapt to an unfamiliar environment and independent problem-solving skills.

In Kajaani I studied game development, specifically the creation of game art or graphics, such as characters, items or game environments. The digital art is created using Photoshop, 3ds Max or some other software. In Finland, the studying is more independent. The teacher might give us an assignment to do even though we have little experience doing that, and we must find out ourselves how to do it. In China the teachers go through everything step by step. There are advantages to both methods, but it really depends on the individual. Motivated students can learn very well independently and learning methods of acquiring information is also a good asset.

Additionally, I got a five weeks internship in Kajaani at a company called Planray Oy. Planray is a company that specializes in high quality electronics manufacturing services. Planray also has partners in Shanghai. My main responsibilities at Planray were translation, research and design work - in other words quite different work compared to my field of study - in a real Finnish company. At Planray I learned a lot about working with Finnish people, especially their ideas and the way they work and approach things. I also learned a thing or two about managing my own tasks and schedule when it comes to school, work and free time. Compared to the Chinese, the Western way is very different. Western people are more independent and creative. If you give them a broad task without detailed information, they can improvise the missing information. This can lead to very nice but sometimes also questionable results. Chinese people usually require very specific details and instructions on the task, but if they have the information they will certainly deliver good results. Most Western people are very exact about their work hours, and don't usually work any more than they have to. Chinese people on the other hand quite often work extra hours to show their dedication to their employer.

Looking at the future and its opportunities, I think no matter where I work, I will combine this important experience and the Chinese way of thinking in regards to work and study, to achieve a certain height. This will be a valuable asset and experience for the rest of my life!

I want to thank the teachers, students and other people who helped me during my stay in Finland. I will keep you in my mind.”

*Miao Tian, China*