

Report on completion of the short-stay study abroad program

I hereby report completion of my study granted by the program and shall submit a final report separately.

School and Dept.	School of Multidisciplinary Sciences. Department of Informatics		
Year	2017	Doctoral course	5 year
Name	BUI VAN THACH		
Destination country	United Kingdom		
Receiving univ./institute	Imperial College London, London, UK		
Period of study	03/10/2017 – 31/10/2017 (4 weeks)		
Date of report	01-12-2017		

My name is Bui Van Thach. I'm a 5-year PhD student at Department of Informatics, School of Multidisciplinary Sciences. I applied the short-stay abroad program for the second time in May, 2017. The receiving university is Imperial College London, which is the top 5 of the most prestigious universities in UK and also in the world.

I was lucky to work with Prof. Mahdi Cheraghchi, who mainly works on complexity of Group Testing. The basic goal of group testing is to identify at most very specific d defective items among N items, where d is usually much smaller than N . Because testing each item to identify whether it is defective takes time and is expensive, pooling subsets of N items is more preferable. Normally, if there is at least one defective item in a subset, the test outcome of that subset would be positive, and otherwise. We talked about finding an efficient scheme to find the specific items and tried to improve the state-of-the-art schemes as well as increase the power of a test. He was really nice and had so many beautiful ideas. Every time I came to his office, I always brought some new ideas back. As a result, I got a new idea to write a paper with him. Beside, we not only talked about research but also about life. It was really nice experience.

Regarding daily expense, it was a little bit expensive. If you want to get full, it costs about 1,000jpy for fast foods and 1,300jpy for healthy foods once you have a meal.

You should have a credit card before going to UK. Most of transactions are only done by using credit cards. To those places I visited such as London or Manchester, the traffic lights likely were not for pedestrians. They lasted for 10-20 seconds. Moreover, you have to wait for 1-2 minutes for red lights. You should get used to cross red lights when visiting UK because it is common there.

To future applicants, I wish you maximize benefit from the short-stay abroad program. Although the staying period of this program is short as its name, you can get good results if you plan well. You also have chance to get connections with academic community in the world. I hope you will make your trip great in terms of academic and social life.

Here are some photos I took in UK:

Imperial College London – South Kensington Campus



British Museum



Platform 9¾ in Harry Potter

