

Name: Tianhe Zhang

University you are from: INSA Lyon (France)

Dates you were in Australia: 1 April 2011 to 9 September 2011



1) Background.....

I was born in China where I lived for 9 years. Then I came to France to live with my parents, so I spent my whole secondary education in France. I am now studying Energy and Environmental Engineering in an Engineering School in Lyon. For the purpose of this course, I did an internship at the UNSW WRC.

2) Choosing UNSW Water Research Centre.....

I really wanted to work in the environmental field and in all the courses I had at school, I was particularly interested in water quality, wastewater treatment... I found this internship by myself (I directly contacted the researchers working on the subjects I was interested in) and I had no idea about the Practicum program at this time.

3) Research Interests.....

I worked on the abatement of odorous emissions from sewers using activated carbon. For the future, I'd like to work on sustainable cities and development.

4) Living in Sydney.....

I absolutely love Sydney and Australia. Sydney is a huge city where I never got bored: the City, beaches, walks on the coast, markets, so many suburbs, parks, harbours... I also travelled near Cairns and Brisbane. Australian nature is amazing, I had on of the best trip of my life!

5) After doing my Practicum.....

Thanks to the Practicum, I know the world of research a little better. I used to be intrigued by research as I didn't really experience it by myself. Now that I have, I'd like to compare it with an industrial training that I will have further. Maybe I will return to the research field after a while. I will also come back to Australia one day!

6) My best experience while at UNSW WRC....

I cannot quote ONE experience. I would say that I really enjoyed all the conversations I had with my colleagues during breaks, farewell parties or lunch. I learned a lot from them about Australian way of life, about the reasons why foreigners come to Australia, about research...

7) My worst experience while at UNSW WRC

Wait for 30 minutes for the rain to stop, which never happened, and go back home walking in water-filled streets... !!! really, luckily, no bad experience happened to me at the UNSW WRC !! ☺

8) If I had known then what I know now, I would have....

Choose another subject for my internship, even if I enjoyed mine, I had another proposition that I refused.

9) The greatest lesson during my Practicum has been....

How to solve problems during experiences: that is why it is called "research". I really felt it and realized it during my Practicum.

10) If I could do it again I

No regrets!

11) The best piece of advice I have ever been given is.....

I had some really interesting discussions with my tutor Richard Stuetz. For a young student like me, the advice I have been given on the life of a researcher, on the way of life made me more open-minded.

12) My greatest achievement....

My internship report ☺ the first report I did in English!

13) I am happiest when.....

I am in Australia. That is all!!!