

## **WOW! 2011 attachment to Museums**

### **Asian Civilisations Museum & Peranakan Museum, Education Department**

Being attached to the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM ) and The Peranakan Museum (TPM ) very own Education department was a truly eye-opening experience for me, as I am a student from Temasek Junior College with barely any prior knowledge with regards to working in a Museum. Well, my attachment to the ACM & TPM completely revolutionised the way I view the Museums.

How does it feel to be in a real-life working environment? Apprehensive will definitely be an apt word to describe my feelings on the first day of my internship. However, once I found my mentors, I felt reassured as they were extremely friendly and tried their best to make me feel comfortable. This was done through their friendly and concern gestures, lunch invites and occasional questions.

There were other interns and staff whom we were quick to become friends. It was then followed by our mentor, Cherry, giving us a mini tour to show us important places in the ACM. She also shared a lot about her experience working in a Museum and briefed about our duties and attire. I truly appreciate that she took the effort and time to teach me and explain to me the rationale and aims behind many of the interactive on display, such as the ExploreAsia zones and interactive stations. After all the guidance, I suppose I am ready to face the challenge of real working life.

I have gained a deeper insight into the 'Museum' world through this internship. Not only have I learnt the different strategies employed by the Museum to attract visitors, I have also learned the importance of collaborating with vendors. On a more personal level, I have learned to be proactive, have a positive learning attitude, interact well with colleagues, put in the best in whatever I am tasked to do and be willing to learn as much as I can.

The overall experience of being an intern at ACM and TPM is one that cannot be summarised into words. Although the going might get tough sometimes, the reward of seeing your hard work and sweat fruits of your labour can be quite rewarding. Furthermore, it gets even more interesting when you get to survey visitors, who provide valuable feedback and giving direction on how the Museums can make the subsequent interactive installations even better. Unlike what can be offered in an academically-oriented environment such as a school or college, an internship at the Museums requires a lot more than just memorising and regurgitating of knowledge, requiring the individual to make his own choices and find the best angle to portray any subject matter . Finally, the flexibility of the job and the learning experience make up for the long hours spent at work, and your hard work won't be in vain.

I recommend this internship to any TJCian who's up for a challenge. You'll need all your passion, purpose and drive for the four weeks' worth of surveys, sorting of collaterals/archives, and guided/school tours that is a daily ritual in the Museum. Though it won't exactly be easy, the rewards will be aplenty.

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