Bethan Dean, BSc International Business | Year abroad in Hong Kong

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As part of her **International Business BSc (/undergraduate/courses/business/international-business.aspx)** degree, Bethan Dean spent a year abroad worked in Hong Kong as a Merchandising Trainee in a garment supplier that suppliers global retailers including Levi's and Mamas & Papas.

My experience

When starting the search for my year abroad I decided to email family, friends and contacts from previous work experience to see if there were any opportunities available.

I was very lucky and was offered the chance to work in Hong Kong as a Merchandising Trainee in a garment supplier. The company supplies for many retailers globally such as Mamas & Papas and Levi jeans.

A great opportunity

It was a big decision to make as Hong Kong was an unfamiliar city with a completely different culture and so far away, but it was an opportunity I couldn’t say no to.

Immersed in a country and office where I didn’t know the native language was a scary experience but I had an incredible year learning a lot from my job, making new friends, exploring Hong Kong and the surrounding places such as China and Taiwan, and learning a new language.

What did you learn?

I built up my business experience and knowledge from my work but the year itself taught me a lot about self confidence, how to handle myself in tough situations, how to adapt to new cultures among many other things.

Although it’s a daunting year I had a fantastic time and would recommend Hong Kong and working abroad to anyone."

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