



Alumna Suping Wang
Subject Management with Japanese Studies
Graduated 2006
Place of Work Uvic
Position Manager, China Recruitment Market



Uvic advises prospective students about universities and courses in the UK, taking them through the application process and assisting them with obtaining visas before travelling. They have four offices in China and one in London.

Suping is responsible for the Chinese markets, as well as collaborating on company strategy with the London office. She manages the Shanghai office, dealing with all operational and strategic matters. Suping travels extensively across China meeting students and agents

Great minds *go on to* great places

What were your main reasons for choosing Royal Holloway?

I went to the UK in 2001, studying English at a London college before applying to several universities. A current Masters student recommended Royal Holloway to me, and when I visited the campus on an open day I just fell in love with the place. It's a beautiful environment and the teaching and research quality is also very high.

Why did you choose to study Management with Japanese?

I could speak fluent Japanese before I came to the UK and, although English speaking economies dominate the global markets, Japan also has a strong economy so I thought that it would be useful to learn more about the culture. My father has had a very successful career in business, and this also influenced my decision as I believed that Management would set me on a good career path.

Can you tell us about your Royal Holloway experience?

I was living in Kingswood for the first two years, before moving to Gowar in my final year, which was really cool – I couldn't have imagined that I would have had such a huge kitchen and double bed as a student! My flatmates were from eight different countries, and we often shared food from each of our cuisines. We studied together in the kitchen so we could exchange ideas when we were writing assignments. I could also practice my Japanese with my Japanese flatmate!

Were you part of any societies or clubs?

I tried lots; dance, volunteering, basketball and football because there were plenty of opportunities to take part. It's great because you are able to communicate with people from lots of different countries and degree backgrounds. For international students, I think that joining clubs is a good way to

make friends with people. Don't just stay with your Chinese group: you have to improve your English as much as possible. It was definitely worth it. If I had studied in China I would not have had the opportunity to find a part-time job, to meet different people or to experience new ways of living.

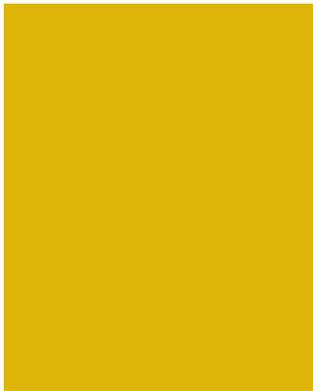
Have your studies helped you in your career?

The course really encouraged us to be professional and to integrate with each other on team projects. The management modules gave me great confidence to lead my team here, as well as teaching me how to motivate and train new staff. One of the most useful skills I learned was how to give a successful presentation because I now have to do a lot of training for our agents and staff. I liked the case studies too as they give you the chance to apply your theoretical knowledge to real life situations. Studying really set me off on the path to be a manager.



people with passion

“Everyone has to push themselves out of their comfort zone, so just grab any opportunity that you can.”



Do you have an outstanding memory from your time at Royal Holloway?

I have so many! My favourite is probably the time we spent hanging out in the kitchen, having dinner with my flatmates. I made lots of friends and we're still in touch now. I have to travel for work, and it's great to know that if I'm flying into a particular city a friend might pick me up from the airport and we can go out to dinner.

Tell us about your current role at Uvic.

I am the manager of the China offices. We have four offices in China so it's a small organisation but a big responsibility. I develop company strategies with our London office, as well as running daily operations to make sure that we are functioning efficiently. I travel a lot in China to meet students and agents, so that I have a good idea of what our students are looking for; I then feed back in our international meetings with the CEO, suggesting which universities we could form partnerships with. I also sometimes travel to the UK for business.

What are the best parts of your day?

Using my own UK study experience and personal experience to relate to our students at Uvic. I am able to guide the students to the course and university that is right for them based on my knowledge of the system. Students often have a limited knowledge of the UK university system, so I can provide them with practical advice and guidance for applying. We build up a great relationship with them, and they will often keep in contact while they are studying to let me know how they are getting on.

What projects are you currently involved in?

I have two that I'm involved in at the moment, one is web-based and the other is managing a team to produce a course finder for Chinese students. I am dealing with all the translations prior to them being put through this system. I am also involved in setting up partnerships with universities to offer '2+2 programmes' – two years studying in China and two years in the UK.

What challenges are you currently facing in business?

UK immigration law changes pretty quickly and on a regular basis. I have to get up to speed with the new rules quickly so that we can advise our students and update our materials; I attend meetings with the British Council in China, as well as researching on the internet. It's quite challenging keeping up with the changes.

Do you have any tips for students thinking about studying abroad?

Firstly, taking an interest is the most important thing. Figure out what you are interested in and don't just listen to your parents! Secondly, improve your language skills before you start studying because you will be able to learn so much more about the culture. Thirdly, do something crazy: everyone has to push themselves out of their comfort zone, so just grab any opportunity that you can and make the most of it!

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