



Alumna Yi Zhang
Subject Asia Pacific Business
Graduated 2009
Place of Work China Everbright Bank
Position Financial Consulting Advisor



China Everbright is a financial services company primarily specialising in investment activities. It was floated on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 1997.

Yi Zhang has been working as an Advisor since returning to China after finishing her Masters degree.

Great minds go on to great places

What were your main reasons for choosing Royal Holloway?

I like the association with the University of London – I think that's important when it comes to applying for jobs. The campus is absolutely beautiful, particularly Founders Building. I think that every student likes that building. Before applying, I had heard about Royal Holloway from a tutor, who had graduated from the university himself. I also checked out the league tables to get a better sense of the university's standing.

Why did you choose to study Asia Pacific Business?

I think that the course is really useful for students who want to work in Asia and for Asian enterprises. The course itself is not too stressful, but the classes were excellent and gave me a broad range of knowledge about areas like Human Resources and Economic Development. The Management of Asia Pacific MNCs included speaker presentations and seminars from Sanyo and Samsung.

What were your favourite aspects of the course?

I really liked learning about HR in Asia, as well as Japanese Management Enterprises. The lectures were really good.

Why did you want to study a Masters?

I was studying at Staffordshire University for my undergraduate degree and I wanted to go straight into a Masters. There are so many qualified people in China that you need something extra to set you apart; I think the Masters qualification does just that. Around the time I graduated, the financial crisis hit and it became very hard to find a good job. My parents were keen for me to come home, and this opportunity came up in the bank, so it seemed like the right thing to do.

What was your experience of studying in the UK like?

After graduating from high school, my parents wanted me to go abroad to complete my education. They really liked the UK and many of

my school friends were also going there to study. In addition, there was so much information available to prospective students about UK universities. So those were my main reasons for choosing the UK over the States. I would have liked to stay on afterwards, but it was too difficult at that time. One thing though, I wasn't too keen on the British food!

Did you join any clubs or societies?

I didn't join any societies, however our classmates often organised group excursions and activities. During the year of study, we went to London frequently, but also York and Portsmouth and other places outside of London. Our lecturer, Robert Fitzgerald, also organised class parties in the School of Management. We were very happy to attend the parties, and it was so nice of Robert to do that for us.

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