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COVER FEATURE

Wanderlust

Aerospace engineering student Andre Lim has travelled to four countries under NTU's various initiatives. He did his six-month internship in Toulouse, France

By Christopher Ong



Lovely Louvre: At the Louvre Pyramid in Paris

Andre Lim is happily ticking off his destination checklist: France, the United States, Hong Kong and Malaysia. He has visited all these countries in just three years – and all as part of his NTU education.

Lucky chap!

The ardent globetrotter first went to the University of Washington in Seattle for a 21-week exchange in 2010.

This was followed by a six-month research attachment at the École Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (French Civil Aviation School) from January to June last year. That stint opened his eyes to something that we hardly experience in fast-paced Singapore.

Says the 24-year-old: "My colleagues at the school felt I was working too hard, so I had to slow down. It showed me what was really important in life. The French have a very good work-life balance."

And under NTU's CN Yang Scholars Programme, which is open to top science and engineering students, he took part in a research dialogue with The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He also headed to Malacca for the 1st University Scholars Leadership Symposium, where he shared his experiences in humanitarian work.

"I enjoy travelling, meeting new people and experiencing new things," says Andre. "When I graduate, I would love a job that allows me to travel or be based overseas for a period of time."

"The more we explore other planets and our own, the more we learn how to save our planet."

The final-year student has certainly made the most of these overseas stints by exploring neighbouring cities and countries. In Seattle, the rollercoaster junkie was among the first to visit Universal Orlando Resort's The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

Fuelled by his passion for aerospace engineering, Andre also dropped in at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida to catch a glimpse of NASA's 30-year space shuttle programme before it ended. He says enthusiastically: "I saw the sacrifices man made to go into space. The more we explore other planets and our own, the more we learn how to save our planet."

While in Toulouse, the big rugby fan was part of the exuberant celebrations that erupted when the rugby-crazy city's team won

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WUNDER-BOY!



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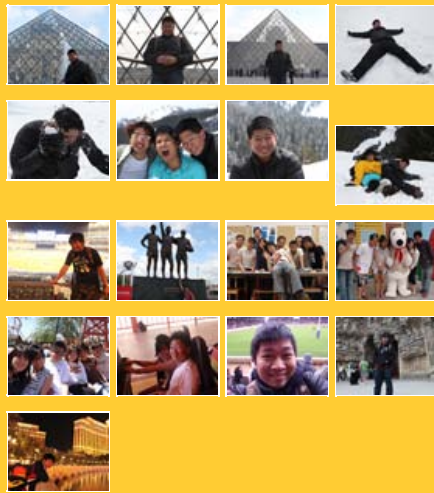


WANT TO BE A SCHOLAR-



Snow fun: At Mount Rainier National Park in the US

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the prestigious Top 14 Orange competition. On his time in France, he adds: "I've dined at Michelin-star restaurants, bottled wines on my own in Lyon, and I was in Monaco when Prince Albert got married!"

Andre had chosen to join the École Nationale de l'Aviation Civile as a research intern because he wanted to find out more about research as a career. He was also drawn by the school's location in Toulouse, "a very strong aerospace hub, where Airbus is headquartered".

"At NTU, we strongly believe that our students should have an international mindset and the sociocultural skills of a true global citizen. We encourage our students to go on overseas internships, attachments, and global immersion programmes. Currently, one in two NTU undergrads has an overseas opportunity during their NTU education and we hope to raise this to 70% of the undergraduates."

– Prof Er Meng Hwa, Vice President (International Affairs)

Over 22 weeks, he worked on a camera system for unmanned aircraft that can be used by electrical distribution firms to inspect high-voltage power lines. He felt keyed up for the task, having previously researched on airborne vehicles under the CN Yang Scholars Programme Undergraduate Research Experience.

It is not just Andre who has gained from his overseas exploits. After all, travelling is also an opportunity to share one's culture with the world – as Andre did with his colleagues at the École Nationale de l'Aviation Civile. "I'm a huge foodie, so I decided to cook curry chicken and chicken rice for them before I returned to Singapore."

"They really enjoyed the chicken rice but I think some of them found the curry too spicy!"



SHIP HOLDER?



YOUNG AND RESTLESS



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