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*Travel Story 2019*

**Name:** Qianyu Wang

**Year and line of study at KTH:** 2018/2019

**Which university did you visit?** Arizona State University

**Time frame:** 7/1/2019-10/1/2019

**Visa type:** J1

**Insurance:** 60\$

**Scholarship:** 30000SEK

Project description

**Can you describe the project you were working on?** I worked as an assistant of a PhD in Arizona State University fuel cell laboratory at Polytechnic Campus. The project's subject is designing functionally graded gas diffusion layer (GDL) with PEG and silicone in fuel cell.

**What subject area did it cover?** Electrochemistry.

**How did the contact with the Professor/supervisor work?** CHUST helped to build a bridge between the students and the professor. Thanks to their effort, I can discuss the research plan and settle my visa issue with the professor.

**How long was an average day in the lab?** There is no strict restriction upon the time. We often started at 9:00 a.m. in the morning and left at 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon from Monday to Friday.

**What new things have you learned during the project?** I grasped Python during the time. We have massive amount of data sets to be analyzed. It is inefficient to put them one by one in the origin to find the peak values and draw the graphs. Using a Python program all the required information can be obtained with a double click.

**Was your prior knowledge sufficient for you to handle the tasks presented to you?** The tasks require additional knowledges that are not covered in the courses. You may read articles to find these knowledges.

**How much responsibility were you given?** I was guided to assemble catalyst with electrolyte and GDL, and instructed to operate the device used to collect data in a working fuel cell in the first week. I collected the data which will be used in a publication after being able to run the whole system independently.

## Campus life

### **What was life like at the university you visited? Campus life, nightlife and potential trips?**

I spent the nights exercising in the gym close to my dormitory. I took a short trip to the Great Canyon during the autumn break.

### **How much did it cost living in your city? How did you finance the stay in the U.S? Scholarship or private funds? If you received any scholarship, did you need to send any documents to the university in order to receive the funds?**

The expense for renting a single room varies between 650\$ - 1000\$ per month. Usually I cooked so it did not cost much. But eating outside at least costs around 7-10\$ a meal. I was financed by CHUST scholarship. To receive this stipend, you need to follow their instructions, like registering the designated course and do some paper works.

### **How did you find housing during your stay at the university and how much did it cost?**

**How satisfied were you with the housing situation?** ASU provides exchange scholar (J1 visa holders) dormitorie. The price floats with around 650\$-1000\$ per month. I can't be more satisfied with it, as there is a kitchen, a washing machine, a washing room and a living room combined with a TV set and a sofa in the dormitory.

## Application

**Were there any problems that did arise during your stay, that you think future students need to know about? In such case, which problems did you encounter?** I had a visa issue during the application process. We (future students) must apply for J1 visa, and if there is any delay to the journey, you must inform ASU International Student Center. They will renew your DS-2019 form which is of vital importance at the US custom.

**What documents do you need to send to the university and what did you need to bring to the embassy in order to get your visa approved?** The teachers will inform you the required materials that they need to initiate the exchange program. Please contact the university for detailed information. They will mail the DS-2019 form across Atlantic to your house. You may use this form and other essential materials (accessible at US embassy website) to apply for the visa.

**May we publish your travel story on the official CHUST webpage ([kongligkemi.com/chust](http://kongligkemi.com/chust)) so that future exchange students can be helped by the information? (Yes)**