

Throughout my three months in China, I had the opportunity to grow as an individual, a student, and a researcher. My exchange to Shandong University School of Basic Medical Sciences for a medical research internship was my first introduction to research experience. Working on two contrasting projects in the lab allowed me to gain experience with animal experiments, brain imaging techniques, and analysis of neuroimaging data. Weekly lab meetings allowed me to learn about other ongoing research in our lab and also allowed me to make some great friends. My supervisor and mentors in the lab are, to this day, some of the kindest and most knowledgeable people I have met, and I will forever be thankful for all that they have taught me.

Outside of the lab, I got to experience the history of the Shandong Province with visits to the hometown of Confucius, Qufu. My favourite stop in Qufu was Mount Ni, which looks most beautiful at night. I also joined my lab in Qingdao at the 29th Annual Conference of Anatomy and Histoembryology of Six Provinces in One City in Eastern China and the 2023 Academic Conference of the Shandong Anatomical Society. I got to see my amazing lab mates present their research and win awards. The conference was a prominent academic experience as I got to meet and discuss with other researchers from across eastern China.

My experience at Shandong University has solidified my hopes to pursue neuroscience research and has also made me consider further studies in China. Ever since I got back, I've been recommending CLIC to everyone and anyone. It's a great way to see and experience China while completing studies or research. I can confidently say that participating in CLIC is one of the best decisions I have ever made. I stepped out of my comfort zone and tried many new things in the lab and off campus. Most importantly, I made many lifelong friends and some great memories along the way.

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Summer 2023 Research Internship

Shandong University