

Reflective Report: Summer School at HUST

Bridging Cultures

This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Chinese Language and AI Robotics Summer School at Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) in Wuhan, China. It was a unique blend of cultural immersion and academic exploration, and the experience turned out to be far more transformative than I had anticipated.

Expectations

Heading into the program, I was eager to dive into the technical aspects of AI robotics while also gaining a deeper appreciation of Chinese culture. As a Marketing and Digital Analytics student, I hoped this program would help me understand how AI can intersect with my field, giving me an edge in applying technology to marketing strategies. On a personal level, I was excited—but admittedly a little nervous—about stepping out of my comfort zone and navigating life in a completely different culture.

What I Did

The program was intensive and rewarding. Academically, we explored topics like autonomous agents and humanoid robot control. We also had practical training with data analysis tools like NumPy and pandas, which will undoubtedly be useful in my studies and future career. Visits to innovation centres allowed us to see how cutting-edge technology is being applied in real-world contexts, which was both inspiring and eye-opening.

On the cultural side, I took Mandarin classes and participated in traditional art workshops, like calligraphy and paper cutting. I also visited iconic landmarks like the Gude Temple and experienced the vibrant local culture through its incredible cuisine (hot dry noodles are a must-try!). One unexpected achievement was learning how to ride a bike—something I had always been afraid of but finally overcame during my time on campus.



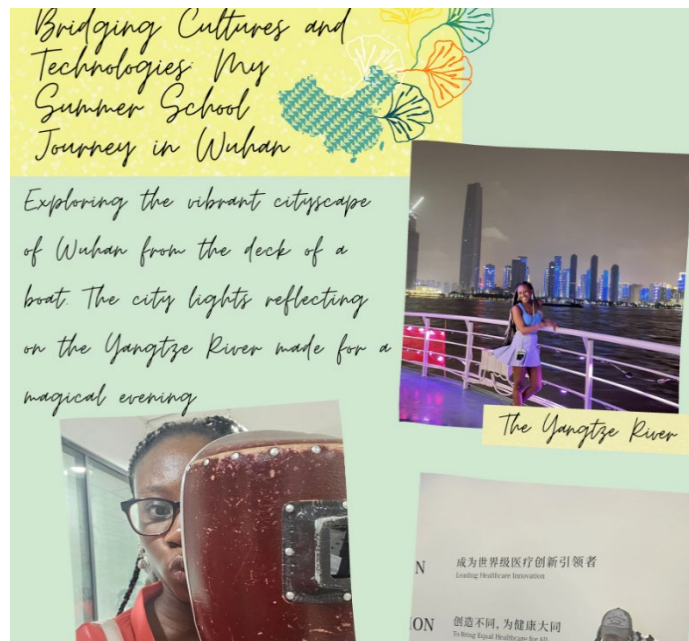
Impact on Academic Progress

This experience directly enriched my academic journey. The knowledge I gained about AI and robotics has opened my eyes to new ways these technologies can be used in marketing and analytics. Being able to analyse data trends more effectively using advanced tools is a skill I'll carry into my coursework and beyond.

Personal Growth

On a personal level, this trip was all about growth. Adapting to a completely different culture taught me resilience, flexibility, and the importance of open-mindedness.

Overcoming challenges, like the language barrier and my fear of cycling, showed me how much I can achieve when I push myself. Most importantly, I learned the value of stepping out of my comfort zone to embrace new experiences.



Highlights and Reflection

The highlight of my trip was the balance between academic and cultural activities—learning advanced robotics in the morning and exploring Wuhan's vibrant streets in the afternoon. The friendships I made with classmates from around the world were another unexpected but invaluable part of the experience.

Looking back, I wouldn't change a thing. This program has shaped my academic focus, improved my practical skills, and inspired me to continue seeking opportunities to connect technology with marketing. I'm incredibly grateful for the support that made this experience possible, and I can confidently say it has had a lasting impact on my personal and professional development.

