

Personal Growth:
Adapting to cultural
differences

My Expanded World:
Meeting people from
all over the globe

Foodie Exchange:
Whipping up a Slovakian
dish in Down Under

Wanderlust:
Leaving our footprints
in Australia

Stories of Overseas Career Experience

Special Issue | 2020

Overseas Career Experience:

Why your career isn't complete without
an experience in some of the world's
best spots to work (and play!):

Sydney + Adelaide

#BakerTillyXperience

 **bakertilly**

Overseas Career Experience in Sydney



I've met folks from Denmark, Slovakia, Cayman Islands, Fiji and the Philippines!

OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Levina shares her thoughts on working in a multi-cultural accounting network: "I've always appreciated the diversity in our network, and being on the overseas career experience gave me a wonderful experience to interact with my peers on an international level. If you backpack, it's pretty much like this - you share a common space which is brimming with new perspectives and thought processes - in a short span of time, you'll learn a lot about the world through the people you'll meet! I've met Baker Tilly folks from Denmark, Slovakia, Cayman Islands, Fiji and the Philippines!"



Above: Slovakia's national dish, *Halušky*.

I LEARNT HOW TO COOK SLOVAKIA'S NATIONAL DISH!

"That's right! You see, one of my housemates happened to be from Slovakia, and it was pretty amazing that he taught me how to whip up Slovakia's national dish, *Halušky*. It's a type of thick, soft noodles or dumplings with lots of cheese and bits of bacon. It's like mac and cheese. I felt like I had levelled up my culinary skills as well while on secondment!" Lance's face beamed with delight as he recounts his culinary adventures in Australia.

THE CAREER EXPERIENCE

Who: Lance Ng & Levina Aw

When: July - September 2019

Where: Sydney

What: Audit Engagement

ADAPTING TO CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

During their 3 months stint in Sydney, both Lance and Levina learnt valuable lessons that could not be experienced without venturing out of their comfort zones. "Early on, we learnt that we have to adapt quickly to the local work culture and social expectations to fit into the new environment better." Lance shared.

"For example, the 9-5 workplace etiquette is very respected - from what we had experienced, the Australian workplace culture separates their work and personal time very well and the Aussies are a great social bunch!"



...some things are still universal, such as being unprepared for meetings or late are totally uncool.

Levina adds: "Initially, it took some adjusting for us to get used to a new workplace culture but over the weeks, I find that we had assimilated very well. The work culture is distinctive compared to Singapore, but some things are still universal, such as being unprepared for meetings or late are totally uncool."



Above: One of our many Friday Drinks sessions!

"It was a great experience for me career-wise because I gained knowledge of new industry sectors that I normally wouldn't deal with. The new contacts I've built from around the world enrich my professional life as well."

Lance Ng, Senior, Assurance

The Xperience



Diversity in action - Everyone had a slightly different idea of how a rooster should look like!



Best of both worlds - Enjoying the great outdoors while on our overseas career experience!



Overcoming Challenges - Bridge Jump in Sydney: we *finally* took the plunge...We did it!!!

Preparing you for a mobile future

Our people are at the heart of everything we do. Being a highly-collaborative global network grants Baker Tilly the competitive advantage of allocating relevant resources and expertise to our clients around the world in an agile and efficient way. It also offers our people outstanding opportunities for personal and professional growth.



"We send our talents on these overseas career experiences to broaden expand their horizons by working in different environments and business practices outside their comfort zones. Just as importantly, great relationships can be fostered among our talents across member firms."

Joshua Ong, Managing Partner





Overseas Career Experience in **Adelaide**



Besides exploring Adelaide, we've also covered Melbourne, Perth, Gold Coast and Sydney

WE WERE ON WANDERLUST MODE EVERY WEEKEND!

When you roll working in a completely new environment, exploring fantastic travel hotspots and an equally amazing cast of international colleagues, you get the Baker Tilly Xperience!

"Only until recently, I never thought I could walk so much in my life - I literally spent all of my weekends hiking in exciting locations, and the views were simply breathtaking!", Cervonne shares her travel exploits with us. "Yeah, we covered quite a lot of new places - besides exploring Adelaide, we've also covered Melbourne, Perth, Gold Coast and Sydney! I'm exhausted every weekend, but happy!" exclaimed Betty.



Above: Aww...isn't this baby Koala really cute?!

ON THE ART OF CASUAL CONVERSATIONS

Having great communication skills in the workplace definitely helps a great deal, not to mention the positive impacts it has on our personal lives as well. Betty recounts from her personal experience: "I observed that the Australians do quite a fair bit of small talk all the time, even before a serious business meeting.

THE SECONDMENT

Who: Betty Chung & Cervonne Chui

When: July - September 2019

Where: Adelaide

What: Audit Engagement

The ability to diffuse the ice and instantly connect with anybody is a great skill set to have, especially when meeting new people for the first time. Also, to put our art of casual conversations to practice, we had a good time mingling with colleagues from other departments during our regular Friday drinks-cum-firm-update sessions - we meet new people every time we get together!"



Having great communication skills in the workplace definitely helps a great deal

"If you have a valuable observation or insight, don't be afraid of presenting it across, even when you're the most junior member of the team. Sometimes, holding back your thoughts might come across as not being actively participating in a meeting." Cervonne observed. To this, Betty fully agrees: "Just like our office back in Singapore, staff are encouraged to speak their minds and be proactively involved in discussions. In the Adelaide office, workplace communication is more direct when compared to an Asian office setup. In this context, even the clients are different over here - so it certainly helps that we are cognisant of the cultural intricacies to be able to communicate effectively."



Above: Cape Woolamai's one of our favourite spots to visit!

"My secondment was a wonderful opportunity, and I would highly recommend it! It provided me with a practical learning and discovery experience that one usually wouldn't come across in your day-to-day corporate life."

Cervonne Chui, Senior, Assurance



The Xperience



Picking up a new sport - guess where we're off to for the day???



Nature lovers, rejoice! There are plenty of beautiful hiking trails to satisfy the adventurer in you.



Social life - One of our many Friday drinks-cum-firm update sessions!

Career Support & Professional Development

At Baker Tilly, we walk alongside you in your growth journey. We're committed to supporting you with robust learning and development opportunities to excel as a professional. Welcome to an environment like no other: collegial, collaborative, and where *everyone* matters.

"We are always very pleased to see our young potentials embarking on the Baker Tilly's International Overseas Career Experience Programme to broaden their global business perspectives as well as to enhance their professional value."

Khor Boon Hong, Assurance & Staff Partner



To learn more about graduate opportunities with Baker Tilly, scan the QR Code or visit www.bakertilly.sg!

