I am a final year Material Science & Engineering student at QMUL. I went to the Renmin University of China summer school in June 2019. I learned about the summer school from the QMUL Global Opportunities website and decided it would be a great opportunity to partake in an additional module outside my current knowledge pool. I waited until the Easter holidays to get feedback about the summer school and then even longer for my application to RUC to be approved. RUC finally let me know I was fully accepted about two months before the school was to start, so once I was accepted, I immediately had to book tickets and decide on my itinerary. The money that was kindly provided by the fund went towards the flights.

Upon arriving in Beijing, I was met by an ISS (International Summer School) buddy, who calmly told me to wait while some others arrived. Afterwards they directed us to a bus, a short one-hour journey later we were at the university campus. The campus was bigger than any campus I had ever seen in the UK, with row after row of high-rise student accommodation, furthermore, departmental buildings had more floorspace than possibly the entire campus of QM.

During the days I attended lectures on Contemporary China’s financial problems, the lectures were 4 hours long and began at 8AM which was a shock to the body. However, it left a large chunk of the day available to explore and sight see. The tube system was very easy to navigate once you got your metro card, which wasn’t as easy. All in all, I visited many of the attractions such as the Zoo, seeing the Pandas, the Temple of Heaven, the Pearl and Silk Markets, the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City and finally the Summer Palace. Furthermore, after an aural presentation and a written exam I passed with an 87 in my module. A month in Beijing flew by and after making friends from all over the world (Switzerland, South Africa, Italy and Finland) to name a few I returned back to Manchester airport overwhelmed and grateful for the experience.

I am truly grateful to Queen Mary University of London for financially contributing towards my flight, which made the trip more affordable for me.