

Catching up with the CISS alumni

Since I left China in 2016, Chinese language and culture has remained an integral part of my personal and professional life. The experience sparked a love of foreign languages and travel that I have explored and built upon every year since.

**Erin Duffy,
CISS Scholar 2015-16**



2016



I worked as an assistant Mandarin Teacher at the Glasgow Chinese School. As I had attended a few Chinese classes there at the age of 16, this was a real full circle moment for me!



2017

I returned to China to work in the British Embassy Beijing. I camped overnight on the Great Wall of China with my work colleagues. It was one of the best experiences of my life! My Chinese language skills improved a lot whilst communicating with my colleagues in the Visa Office.



When I returned I started working with online language learning company Radiolingua, helping to create resources, notes and social media posts related to their course “Coffee Break Chinese”. It was such a great learning experience! For any prospective Chinese learners who may think Chinese language is too out of reach for them, check out the blog I wrote for them “Learning Chinese is Easier Than You Think” (link below)



2018



I worked with the English for Academic Study unit at the University of Glasgow and planned trips and fun events for overseas students to help them integrate and get to know Glasgow and Scotland's wonderful sights. Many of the students were from China and it was great to practice my Chinese with them! My knowledge of Chinese culture and language really helped me to bond with them and make them feel more comfortable and welcomed. I made some great friends!

2018/19



I moved to Huelva, Spain to work as an English teacher as part of my Spanish and Linguistics degree. After my experience in China, I knew how much living in the country of your target language could improve your language skills, and I'm so glad that my year in Spain payed off just as much as my year in Tianjin! I would advocate spending some time in the country to any language learner. I now have a great love for Spanish language and culture (and food!), and the little kids of San Juan del Puerto hold a special place in my heart.

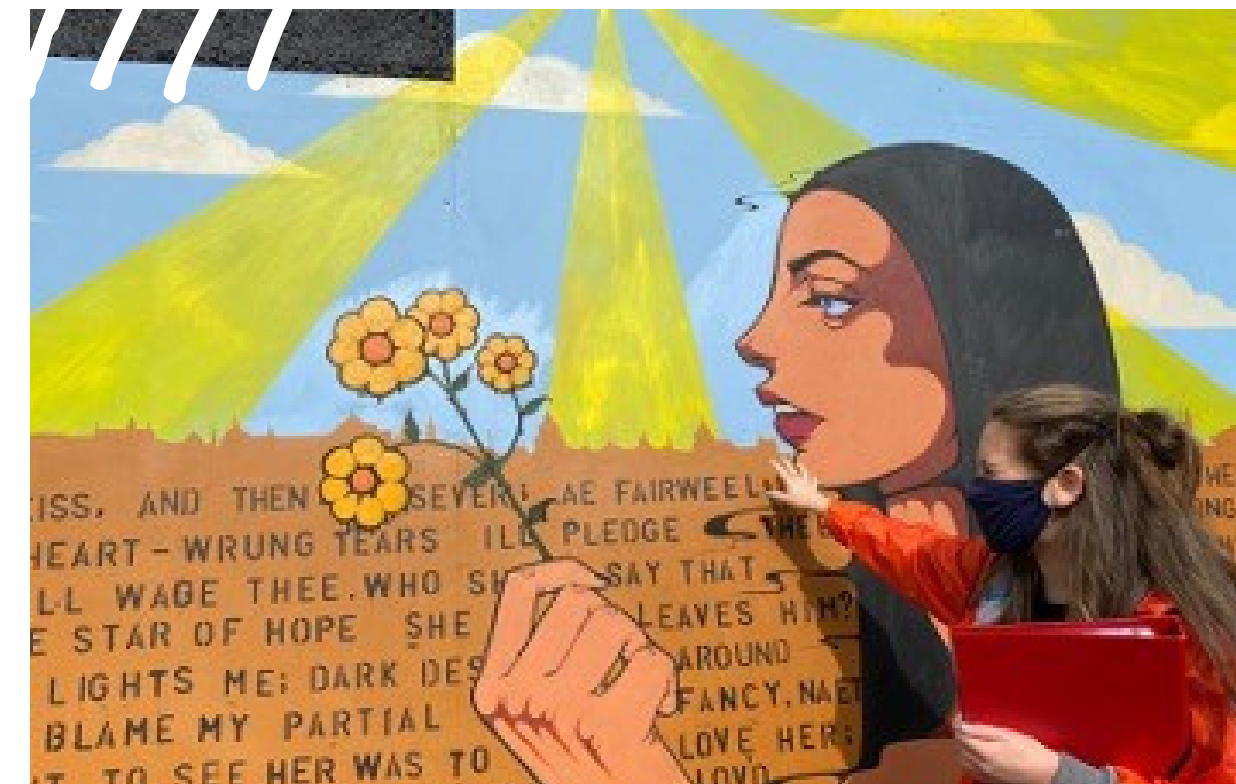


In the same year I met up with some Chinese friends who happened to be travelling in Portugal and spent three days speaking only Chinese in Lisbon. It was wild, and such a great way to meet up with long distance friends!



2019

One of the best experiences of 2019 was hosting the opening of the Ramshorn Building for CISS. If you had told me at 18 that a few years later I would be hosting an event in Chinese in front of many native Chinese speakers I would not have believed you! I'm so grateful that CISS continue to champion me and my Chinese language-learning journey every step of the way.

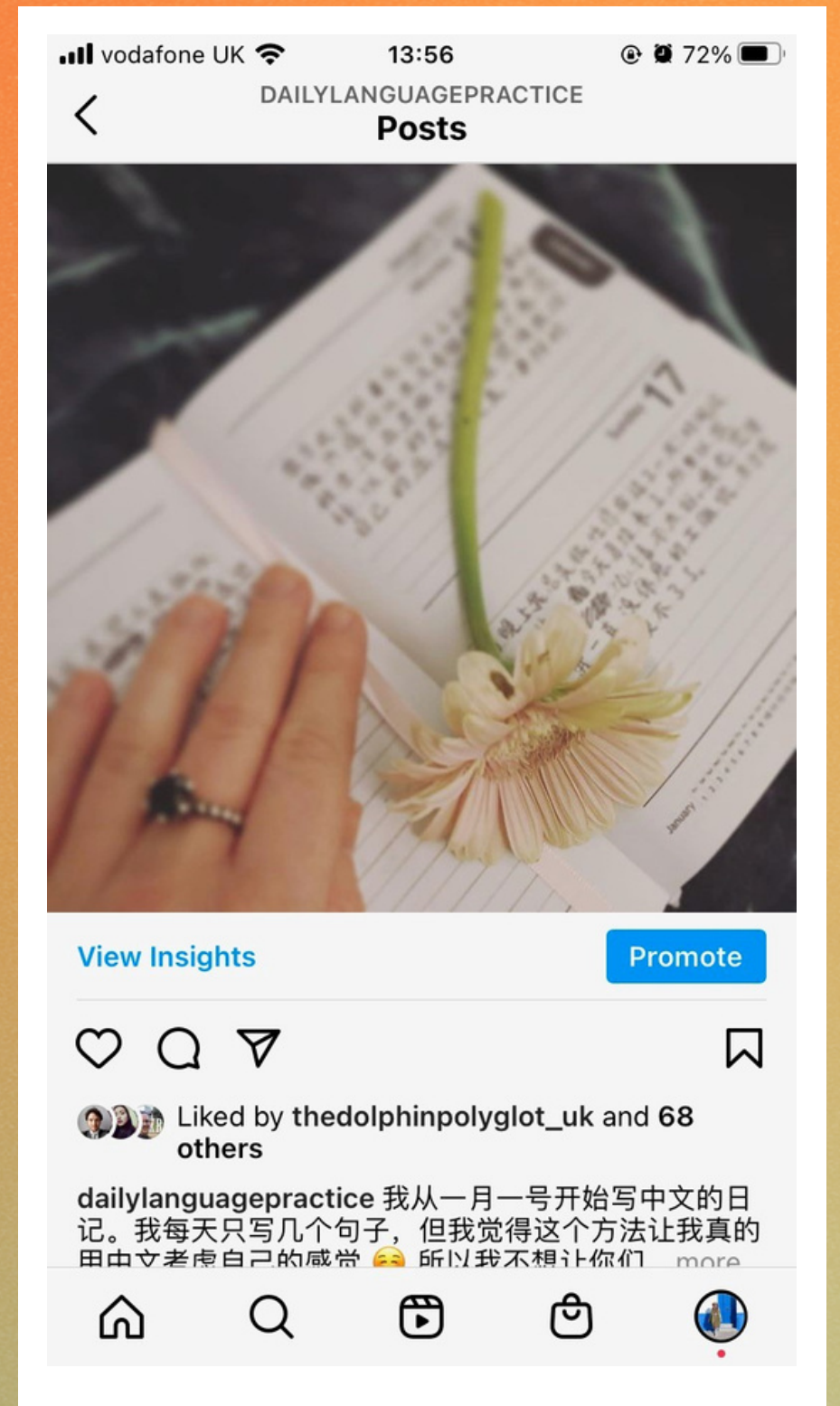


In 2019 I also landed my dream job of becoming a tour guide in Glasgow. This job allows me to combine my love of history and culture with my language skills. I get to interact with someone from a different country every day and show them my home city - which I'm very proud of. I have now been working as a tour guide in Glasgow for two years and I can't wait to tour again this summer.

2020

In order to keep me motivated to work on my Chinese language skills during the pandemic and the final year of my Spanish and Linguistics degree, I started a blog called @dailylanguagepractice on instagram. The blog motivated me to practice speaking with daily videos and conversations with polyglots who could share their tips and tricks for language learning!

At the same time, I've been keeping up my Chinese skills with some captioning work for a company called twig education. I caption educational videos in Chinese, and it's been a great way to learn new vocabulary in subjects like biology, chemistry and social science!





Dear Miss Duffy,

Application number: [REDACTED]

Further to your recent application, I am pleased to make you a Conditional offer of a place on the MSc Business Translation and Interpreting programme. Full details of the offer are attached.

You should accept/decline your offer within 21 days of this letter. If you need more time, please contact the academic department. Contact details for your department can be found on your course web page at <https://www.strath.ac.uk/courses/>. Please quote your Application Number [REDACTED] on any correspondence. If we have not heard from you within 21 days, the University reserves the right to withdraw this offer.

Please note that this offer is made on the understanding that in accepting it you undertake to abide by the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances of the University, and also to abide by the rules and regulations which the University makes for its students from time to time. It should be noted that this offer is subject to the acceptance by you of the terms and conditions set out in the University's Calendar, available at <http://www.strath.ac.uk/sees/educationenhancement/qualityassurance/> and then clicking on University Regulations. You must therefore read these terms and conditions before accepting any offer.

Yours sincerely,

S Black

2021

I'm very pleased to say that my journey with Strathclyde and foreign language study isn't over as I will be starting a Masters in Translation and Interpreting at the University in September!