A great summer has passed, and before setting off to a new fall semester, it is vital to review the great time that I have had with the CEO program. I would look back in several perspectives and say something specific about the CEO Shanghai program which I attended.

Internship: the main component of the program. CEO consists of mainly small companies, but with high standards. The company I interned at, Z-Ben advisors, is a boutique investment management company based in Shanghai. I was assigned to a one-to-one mentor inside the company. Different from a lot of interns in the giant companies doing trivial and dull routine work, I had quite a bit of chances to get familiar with the company’s product, its main services, plus plenty of time to learn what I was interested in with the company’s resources. Furthermore, there was moderately more things that were new to me, and I enjoyed the feeling of exploring and getting familiar with them.

Work-life balance: the working time was fairly reasonable, and the fantastic housing funded by CCE enabled us to lay back and enjoy life. It was so nice of CCE to find a housing that of high quality yet within realistic distance from every student’s company. All the CEO target cities are major cities of that country, and they are international enough. Besides London, even in those developing Asian countries, English is widely used. Therefore, every CEO participants can enjoy the different style of life, as well as speaking the language that he/she is mostly comfortable with. For me I worked in Shanghai, where I do speak the local language Mandarin, but as Shanghai is, after all, not my hometown, I had quite a lot of new experiences. Personally I always compare Shanghai to New York: both cities are giant metropolitan cities of its own country,
financial center, lots of good food from all over the world, night life, etc., you never get bored in these cities.

Recreational activities: as I mentioned above, Shanghai is a city with a huge amount of attractions. Other CEO target cities are just similar. During your stay as a visitor who has a stable living place for 9 weeks, it is never a bad idea to travel around. I used some of my weekends to travel to nearby cities, and I felt so much fun even before I got to the destination. The mood just changed since I checked in the first day. Rather than thinking about your student identity, that two months period was more like experiencing life from an earlier stage. To my mind, it was like a get-away from thinking of my GPA or planning for the future every day, but learning things in new directions. If you have the mood of relaxing, you will never miss the delicious food, interesting sites, or simply hanging out with friends. None of these cities lacks the recreational activities to amuse you.

In all, this has been a wonderful summer, maybe (one of) the best in my entire life. I have been hearing good comments on CEO program ever since I came to Columbia. Applied, admitted, experienced, it has surely not let me down. I would also recommend this program to anyone who has not yet had a clear target of what to do in the summer, it is just so great and worthy.