

Get to Know the New Members of the Nanyan Observer Team!

By Zhidan Xia & Team

My name is Zhidan Xia. I am the president of the Nanyan News English Team and 3L student from Peking University School of Transnational Law. I believe that the meaningfulness of youth lies in trying new things and getting involved—this is the passion of my life.



The Nanyan English Team is such a place where you can meet people from different cultural background and broaden your horizons. I joined the Nanyan English Team when I was a freshman. It is a big family and has given me plenty of sweet memories. I am so happy to see this family continue to grow.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome these new members to the Nanyan Observer. We are very excited to have them on board with us! Take a look at how amazing they are! Stay tuned for their future work!



Hailey / Qiu Minmin

Hailey / Qiu Minmin is a first-year student at Peking University School of Transnational Law. She comes from the beautiful coastal city, Ningbo in Zhejiang Province. She likes working out and watching movies in her spare time. After she graduates, she wants to become a great lawyer!



Andrew Fong Tsze Hei

Andrew is a first year student at Peking University School of Chemical Biology and Biotechnology. His hometown is Guangzhou, which is the provincial capital of Guangdong and not far from Shenzhen. He enjoys playing violin and singing. In the future, he hopes to do further study abroad.



Lyu Haipai

Lyu Haipai is a 1L student at PKU School of Transnational Law (STL), originally from Nanjing, Jiangsu province. Her given name Haipai means happy in English. She's a sweet girl who likes smiling a lot. Her hobbies include singing, running and travelling. She can speak a little French as well. With a bachelor's degree in economics, Haipai has the desire to engage in foreign financial legal services in the future.



Hou Zhizhong

Born in Jinan, a beautiful northern city of China, Hou Zhizhong is now a first-year graduate student studying in the nearly most southern city, Shenzhen, with lots of enthusiasm and expectations. Zhizhong likes watching films and reading, not limited to any genre or field, which is due to the belief that diversity and inclusion make harmony happen.



Gillian Mutyambizi

Gillian Mutyambizi is a second year at the Peking University HSBC Business School. She comes from Zimbabwe, a country in Southern Africa. Gillian enjoys working out and creating content in her spare time. After graduating in 2021, she plans on getting a job in the financial industry and also travel to some of her favourite destinations.



Li Zhe

Li Zhe is a first-year student at HSBC School of Business from Jilin province, northeast of China. She enjoys dancing and drawing in her spare time. As a new student of PKU, she wants to make more friends and promote her skills in many ways.



Wang Haozhe

Wang Haozhe is a first-year student at Peking University School of Transnational Law. She is from Shijiazhuang, the capital city of Hebei province. In her spare time, she usually watches movies and hangs out with friends. She also loves swimming. While following her dream to be a good lawyer, she would like to lead a colorful and fulfilling life in Nanyan.



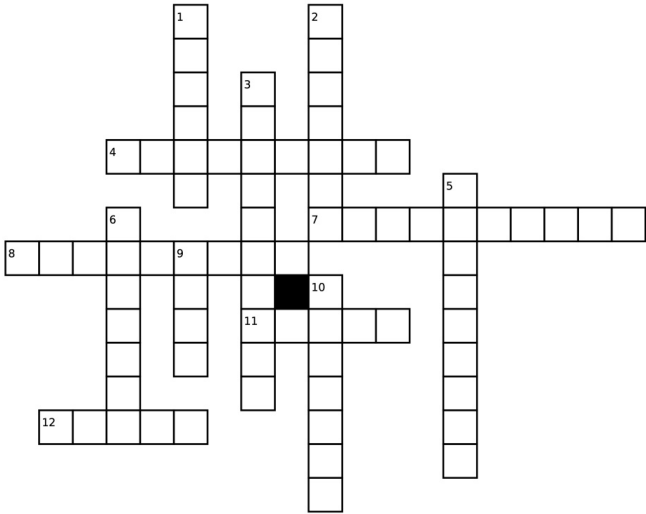
Su Jianxin

Su Jianxin is a third-year student from Peking University School of Transnational Law. She is from Binzhou city, Shandong province. She is always curious about every unknown area, and willing to explore it. During the pandemic, she developed several new interests, such as computer drawing, clay figuring and baking bread/cookies. Su Jianxin wants to be a lawyer who is good at arbitration, but she is not sure about it yet. Therefore, she tries to find an internship these days related to arbitration and wishes this will be her real love.

Advanced English Vocab Crossword Puzzle

By Ulvi Jafari

Send a picture of completed crossword to thenanyan@gmail.com for a chance to win a prize!



DOWN

- 1.Excessively long and wordy (of a person, piece of writing, etc.)
- 2.Flexible, supple, agile
- 3.Use unclear language to deceive or avoid committing to a position
- 5.Teach persistently, implant (an idea) in a person
- 6.The state of being first or most important
- 9.Beginner
- 10.Splendid, wide-ranging, impressive display or array

ACROSS

- 4.Slightly acid or sour; sharp or caustic
- 7.Composure, evenness of mind; mental or emotional stability, esp. under stress
- 8.Gradual increase; an added part or addition
- 11.Degrade or humble; to lower in rank, status, or esteem
- 12.A deep and vast space or cavity; anything profound or infinite

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General Director: Nathan Faber

Team President: Zhidan Xia

Tel: 0755-26032131

Autumn is a beautiful season. On August 31, right before the start of the autumn semester, on a day when the sun was still showing its full strength, new graduate students from all over China arrived on the campus of Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School (PKUSZ) to begin their graduate school journey.

The arrival marks the opening of their life together at PKU's southern campus, otherwise known as Nanyan.

This year, PKU Shenzhen admitted 1255 new students, including 1160 Master's students and 95 PhD students. Between July 31 and August 1, over 900 of the newly admitted students arrived on campus.

Like other years, arrivals waved farewell to the family members sending them off to campus, while school staff and student volunteers warmly welcomed them.

However, there were also big changes this year. Before the new students arrived, senior administrators and campus management made every effort to ensure student safety and implement proper pandemic prevention measures.

Following the pandemic prevention protocol, each new arrival had their luggage disinfected,

presented a recent negative test result, and underwent a temperature check. Thankfully, this was a short process—in no time, students were able to enter campus and formally begin their time as PKUers!

Let's take a look at how these freshmen feel about their first encounter with Nanyan.



Excitement, Confidence, and Future Challenges

Everyone's first encounter with Nanyan is a little different, but it was clear that the freshmen are more than ready for their new adventure.

A longing for Peking University, Shenzhen's geographical advantages, complete layout of economic industry, and strong scientific research strength were some of the factors that attracted the freshmen to Nanyan.

Many said they were very excited to come to their dream school. While others, like Yao and her friends from the School of Environment and Energy, said Nanyan is also close to home and they were impressed with the faculty.

The great help of dozens of senior students helped eliminate any discomfort of the new arrivals and make sure they can adjust well to the new environment.

Wang Lei from the School of Transnational Law (STL) affirmed that it was a good first impression, he especially liked the modernity of the STL Building. The architecture represents the innovative spirit of STL, which will expand his legal thinking and provide an advantage in the future job market.

Other students, like Duan from the School of Information and Engineering, felt inspired by the

ecological environment of the campus. The campus is in bloom with plenty of flowers, trees and a river walkway under renovation that is nearly complete.

Duan felt very excited to be at Nanyan and is satisfied with the level of scientific research here. He knows it can be a platform for him, but everyone will face many challenges along the way. For this reason, he will work harder over the next three years of study and life, striving to make a break through.

Already, many stories have been made at Nanyan. Zheng from STL forgot some of her

materials and the caring help of the seniors made her feel at home.

Freshman who were in the observation room because of the hot weather and an increased body temperature said they were comforted by the teachers.

The charm of young and innovative Shenzhen, the enthusiastic Nanyan, the shiny and smooth lakeside of the Mirror Lake, the exquisite and towering Wusi Tower, the modern library with a rich selection of books, the sky, wildflowers, gardens, and green trees are all welcoming the young PKUers!

Voices of the New Students of Nanyan

By: Zhang Wendou



Jia Jingbo,
HSBC Business School (PHBS)

The bell of September has rung softly. Autumn in Shenzhen is still hot. At this time, we warmly welcome new students into the PKU family. We have felt how the new young people coming to campus bring energy and life.

This year is special to everyone because of our joint efforts against COVID-19. Now, it feels like we are getting a fresh start.

We interviewed several new students. Take the time to talk to them and you can feel the excitement and enthusiasm they bring. They shared their different feelings as they start their new lives in Nanyan. Let's hear their voice now!

1. As a freshman of PHBS, which was the first school to begin the new school year in PKU, what were your feelings during the first few days?

Jia: We were really pressed for time! On first day, we went to the building of PHBS to finish the checking in and get the materials of national defense training. We spent several hours to clean the dormitory. On the second day, we began the national defense training. So we had little rest time.

2. Before arriving on campus, what was your expectation for the camp of national defense education? What were your feelings about the team building exercise in the campus?

Jia: I was little afraid of my physical power because I did little sports in my daily life. So, I found some video of fitness on Bilibili, to learn some skills by following the bloggers. After all, we are the only school in PKU which arranges military training for the graduate students. The team building exercise was held under sunshine. Although we were all tired after the whole day's training, we were happy to meet so many good friends. It was really nice to chart with each other and play games together!

New students from other schools, as well as international students and students from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, arrived the following week. Let's hear the voice of another new student of PHBS, Lin Weixiang from Taiwan, China about his first impression of Nanyan:



Lin Weixiang,
HSBC Business School (PHBS)

1.What were you feeling upon arrival?

Lin: I come from Taiwan, China. My school-beginning date was later than other students of PHBS and the program of checking in was also different from other students, so I met some troubles on the first day. Luckily, our teachers were so enthusiastic to help us, and answered my questions patiently, which let me feel at home. This was my first impression of our school.

2. How did you feel about the epidemic prevention management?

Lin: At present, epidemic prevention has become a part of our daily life, especially when people from all over the world gather together at the beginning of university term, it is necessary for us to focus on prevention and controlling. When I entered the school, my body temperature was at 36.9, and I was still required to take a retest after a rest. This showed the quite rigorous attitude of volunteers and doctors. Students who haven't checked online for 14 days were required to take nucleic acid test, and they could comply with the epidemic prevention regulations positively.

Another new student from SUPD, Yi Xing, shared his view from the convenience of daily life, and gave his own suggestions about the management epidemic prevention.

Yi Xing,
School of Urban Planning and Design (SUPD)

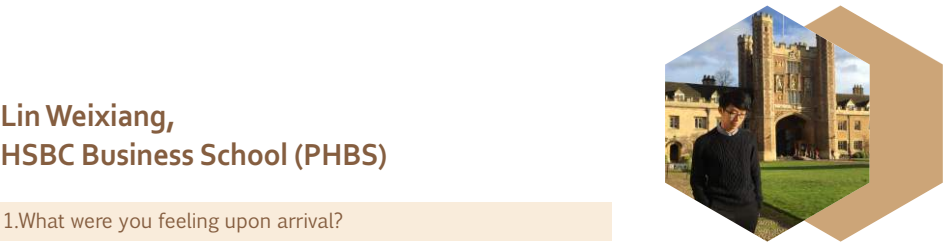
1. How did you feel about the epidemic prevention management?

Yi: The measures of the school are thorough. My classmate and I are willing to comply with relevant regulations. However, the domestic installations around our dormitory were not very complete. For example, there are only a limited range of goods in the supermarket, and the food in the canteen is the same every day. What's more, there is no pharmacy or hospital around the dormitory. Our daily life will be more inconvenient if we can't go out of school any time. Thus, we hope our school can gradually relax the restrictions on students entering and leaving the school.

Note: The situation has developed and restrictions on going off campus have been relaxed further.

2.What are your dreams for your time at Nanyan?

Yi: There are three major plans and expectations to achieve my dream in Nanyan over the next three years. First, I hope I can concentrate on my studies and publish more research articles. Second, I expect to find a sport I like and stick to it to build a strong body. Third is about daily life, I'm looking forward to making more friends, especially making several close friends.



For many new students, being a graduate student means the beginning of the life in the laboratory. Here, you can explore an unknown world, which means plenty more learning. Let's hear the voice of Wang Rongya (SCBB) and Zhang Tengran (SEE) about the first week in their research groups.

Wang Rongya,
School of Chemical Biology &
Biotechnology (SCBB)

1.How has your research group been so far?

Wang: Our laboratory is so big, which means it has a large space. After several days of study, I have found that our senior lab mates are so knowledgeable so I need to learn from them in many places. They are also very approachable. When I had questions, they were very patient to answer me.

There was an interesting experience. We needed to prepare the balloons used in the experiment, and a senior lab mate taught me how to tie them. We worked with several other students and finished many balloons while talking with each other. At that time, some other friends also hoped we can give them some balloons "free", which seems to show that the balloons were the hard currency in our lab. We ended the whole day's work in laughter. I think it will be nice to spend the next few years studying with such an interesting group of people.

Zhang Tengran,
School of Environment & Energy (SEE)

1.How has your research group been so far?

Zhang: When I first joined this research group, what impressed me most was the first formal meeting between teachers and senior members. The active and friendly atmosphere in the group made me look forward to my study life in the next three years. Here, I can not only master scientific knowledge and improve my scientific research ability, but also understand more life lessons. I'm very happy to join Nanyan, and make progress together with all the outstanding schoolmates. Looking at the hasty figures of all the people around the Mirror Lake and the light of the laboratory late at night, I felt more determined and yearning in my heart.

2.What are your dreams for your time at Nanyan?

Zhang: I hope I can find the goal and direction of my life in PKU, expand my knowledge and pay more attention to depth while exploring the breadth, so as to improve my vision and ability. In the next three years, I wish myself happiness in scientific research and making friends. What's more, protecting body and hairline is also important while striving to finish the research article as soon as possible.



4 Foods Chinese People Enjoy for Mid-autumn Festival

Written by Miko Jiang

The Mid-autumn Festival is almost here! It falls on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month when the most Chinese farmers finish reaping their harvests. To ensure you properly enjoy the wonderful and uniquely Chinese flavors of this holiday, we are here to share 5 traditional foods Chinese people enjoy around the Mid-autumn Festival.



Nobody will neglect mooncakes when we talk about the Mid-autumn festival. Mooncakes are named after the shape of mid-autumn moon, which is a full moon. Famous foodie and poet, Su Shi from Song dynasty wrote, "bite a moon-like cake and taste the buttered and sugared stuffing." The manufacturing techniques haven't changed although the ingredients are more attractive. Wuren (五仁, wǔ rén) flavor is one of the most common and traditional types. It literally means five kinds of nuts or kernels such as walnut kernels, almonds, sesame seeds,

melon seeds, smashed red beans and so on. My favorite is salted egg yolk mooncake, a typical Cantonese-style mooncake made of fresh lotus seed paste and gold-like salted egg yolk. Nowadays, advanced businesses such as Yuanzu have developed new flavors and textures. For example, snow skin mooncakes with ice cream inside. Give it a try and you will be surprised!

(source: freeimages.com)



The fall is the best season to enjoy crabs! Full of meat and roe, it is a highlight of the Mid-autumn Festival reunion dinner. The best hairy crabs are those from Yang Cheng Lake. Selected, weighed and labeled, each genuine crab is worth rushing to buy. Snap off its legs, break off its shell with your thumbs and fingers, eat the meat along with a sauce made of soy sauce, vinegar, sugar, ginger and sesame oil and enjoy it with a sip of liquor. Don't forget the roe! Mix it with steamed rice and savor the enchanting tastes!

(source: freeimages.com)



Now let's have a look at desserts and drinks! Osmanthus has small yellow blooms that send out strong fragrance around the Mid-autumn Festival. In order to collect and conserve the sweetness, Chinese people put osmanthus into embroidered sachets to enjoy its fragrance, and also use it to make tea, make-up powder, and most importantly, liquor and desserts. When the autumn breeze brings coolness, drinking warm osmanthus liquor with goji and hawberry helps promote your appetite for the big family meal. As to osmanthus cakes, some are pasty while others are jelly-like.

(source: freeimages.com)



Fruits also play an important role. Since the Chinese explorer Zhang Qian returned from central Asia with pomegranate, Chinese people have taken a strong liking to it. The ancient Chinese were obsessed with picking "lucky words" from phonograms. The large number of seeds (籽, zǐ) of pomegranate fruit was understood to indicate a large number of children (子, zǐ) to be born in this family, which was expected by every family when the death and sickness of minors was unavoidable. Besides, the round-shape and attractive color also signifies unification and happiness. Therefore, Chinese people have put the image of pomegranate into various items for daily use to wish countless offspring in a harmonious family. Because pomegranates grow ripe around mid-autumn, sweet and refreshing pomegranates are often to be served on trays after a big family meal. Similarly, pomelo (柚子, yóu zi) sounds identically to distant children (游子, yóu zǐ) or blessings for children (佑子, yòu zǐ) and thus are harvested and enjoyed around Mid-autumn festival.

Look at the silver moon! Let us wish our families and friends live long and fortunate lives! Though miles apart, we'll share the beauty she displays.



Tips for Taking a Golden Shot on the Nanyan Campus

By Mei Siyu

Due to the COVID-19, as we all know, the Nanyan campus was closed down for a long time. For over 6 months, it was difficult for those inside to get out and for those outside to come in freely.

While this situation was distressing, for people who love photography, to some degree, it offered an opportunity for them to get great shots on the Nanyan campus. Yes, you read that right, Nanyan campus can be transformed into an amazing backdrop for your photos.

First, consider these three factors for great close-up portraits:

1: It's essential to keep the colors in the background clean and uniform. When we want to make the subject, the person, stand out enough, the person must be distinguished from the background. This applies whether you are using a large aperture (blurred background) or a small aperture (clear background). This is because people are always wearing clothing in different colors, and the colors from these clothes and skin can interfere with the color of the subject in some ways. For example, if the color of the subject's skin is roughly the same as that of the crowds' in the background, it will distract the viewer's attention slightly, and the power to amplify the subject will be weakened, in other words, the subject will not stand out as much.

2: Under lock-down, we have had less people here. Thus, there are fewer pedestrians to suddenly crash into your viewfinder and ruin the perfect background you have composed. The school had a lot of greenery, and what a precious thing this is. There are also few skyscrapers, so the sky above us is barely cut by the cold concrete. Therefore, we are able to get the grass and sky intact, perfect for portraits.

3: The sky, grass and small trees are mostly represented by cool tones of green and blue. Human skin color is mostly warm tones. We can make the photo fresher and cleaner by strengthening the contrast of the warm and cool tones in later post-processing of photos. This not only highlights the theme, but also conveys a delightful and relaxing mood. This color mixing idea is easy to play with and friendly to beginners.

So, what are the golden shooting spots for photos? Head out with your camera or cell phone and follow every point I mentioned. I highly recommend the following five spots.

1: The grass next to building 5. The meadow is not only a meadow, but also includes a small forest in the view parallel to the people. Wusi tower of PKU even shows itself in the elevated view.

2: The large-leaved plants by the side of the road of Dasha River, next to the stage of the International Conference Center (the white building next to STL). The green of the big-leaved plants has a higher saturation than other small-leaved plants on campus, which can add a melancholy atmosphere to the fresh tones and create a romantic feeling with proper toning.

3: The PKU sports field. When the sun rises from the east, our sports field can be covered slowly with the early morning sunlight, like a translucent and sparkling curtain smoothly covering your photo. It creates a very warm atmosphere. The early morning of a sunny day would be your best time to shoot here.

4: The corner of STL facing the Dasha River. The sharp, straight lines of the façade of the building, the flat tiles and the triangular flowerbeds create a strong sense of depth. When the subject is standing in this intersection of multiple perspectives, the image becomes three-dimensional.

5: The brick façade of the STL facing the Building A. The brick façade here is similar to the flower bed and façade in the fourth location. Because of the raised bricks, the bricks in the line of sight will be close to each other, in effect, creating a function that highlights the perspective relationship.

Regarding the timing of shooting, as I mentioned in the recommended spot 3, clear morning of a sunny day is definitely a golden time to shoot. The light at this time of a day is perfectly soft and with an oblique angle, which is able to cover the face of the model gently without a strong contrast.

Another decent shooting time is the early evening, about 5-6 o'clock. Evening light is more romantic with more purple and magenta tones than the early morning light, which has a little more cyan and yellow in it. These are all very good natural light conditions whether you are a master or a beginner. It is not cost-effective to spend money to buy lights, cleverly borrow the beautiful light provided by nature!

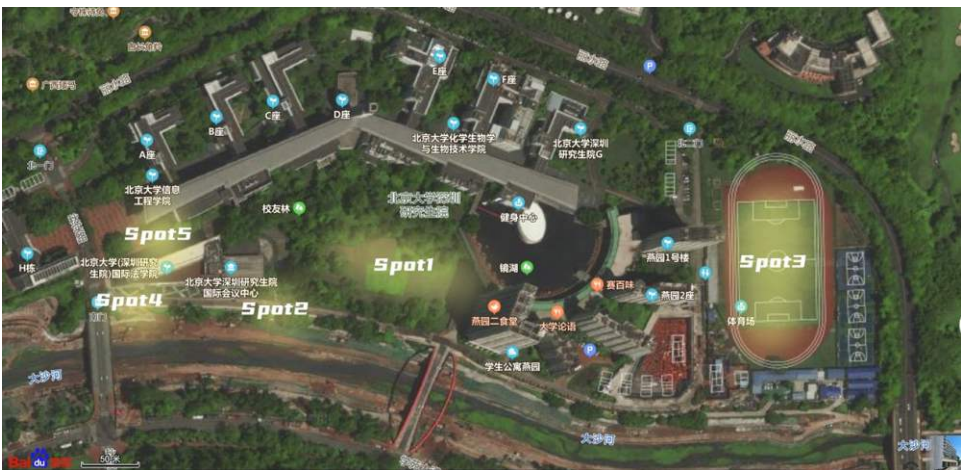
In contrast, the midday sun shines straight down on us, the top of our heads is bright and our face will be covered by shadows, making us look bald and sickly, this is a horrible time for taking portraits.

Now you've learned my photography secrets. Try them out. I'm sure you can get great photos of your own on campus. The new Dasha River sidewalk has just opened! I believe we all should keep exploring more interesting shooting spots!

Fig 1: Cool & warm color wheel



Fig 2: Marked map of the recommended spots!



(1: Grass next to building 5; 2: Large-leaved plants; 3: PKU sports field; 4: Corner of STL facing the Dasha River; 5: Brick façade of STL facing Building A)

Fig 3: Example show of my works

