At XBOSoft, I initially worked on several small projects before joining the main project that I worked on for the majority of my time there. Each project had its own team that would focus solely on testing that project. My main project was an automated pharmacy application called AutoPharm. AutoPharm is a software used in hospitals to make drug dispensing more efficient and minimize the amount of drugs wasted. It is a very intricate software with several different areas that needed to be tested. Training for software testing was provided at the beginning of the term by my supervisor. I was taught the different concepts used in software testing, and the process by which testers would create and run test cases and detect defects. My supervisor was the leader of the project team, and was very helpful with any questions that I had.

The aspect of my work activity that is most related to my career interests is the wide range of settings in which my work was done. I am interested in going into consulting, and being able to work on several different projects with software in all kinds of areas helped me to develop the ability to apply my skills in whatever context I was presented with. My experience also improved my initiative and sense of responsibility, as I would have several tasks that needed to be completed independently and efficiently.

As for life outside of work, living in Beijing was definitely a challenge. If you’re like me and don’t know any Mandarin, always carry around a Chinese-English dictionary, or download an app on your phone. Chinese people are pretty helpful if they know you’re a foreigner, and although most of them can’t speak English, it shouldn’t be too hard to find someone who can if you’re desperate for help. Always have someone you can call to help you translate when you need to take a taxi or buy some food. You’ll eventually learn some basic phrases to help you get around. For transportation, I took the subway to work, which is really easy to use. The maps are easy to understand, and the trains arrive almost every minute. For social activities, the company will occasionally have social events like karaoke outings or lunch/dinner events. I was able to make friends by attending church and befriending the college students who attended. I also played basketball and badminton with coworkers almost every week.

The best feature of the job was definitely the people. Everyone is very friendly and willing to help, and the work environment is not stressful. Everyone is also eager to practice their English, so you shouldn’t be surprised by people always wanting to converse with you. As for the worst feature, I would say it was the work itself. It can get pretty dull sometimes, but you just have to plow through the test cases. Overall, it was a beneficial experience, and I enjoyed my time in Beijing.