

YOUNG KIWI-CHINESE FILMMAKER AWARDED CHANCE TO WORK WITH ASIA'S BEST

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DOC EDGE, BEACH HOUSE PICTURES AND THE ASIA NEW ZEALAND FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE THE FIRST EVER RECIPIENT OF THE SINGAPORE INTERNSHIP 2019



Doc Edge, Beach House Pictures (Singapore) and the Asia New Zealand Foundation are pleased to announce the recipient of the inaugural Singapore Internship. The internship is for a documentary filmmaker with 2-5 years' work experience to fulfil a 2-month position with Beach House Pictures (Singapore), one of Asia's leading production houses.

Travel photographer turned documentary filmmaker, Jenny Gao, has been awarded the internship. Jenny is interested in anthropology and culture, she especially enjoys breaking down big ideas into accessible conversations for the digital age to inspire curiosity and deeper understanding of our world.

Doc Edge Director, Alex Lee, says "Jenny is an excellent choice. Her passion for storytelling and documentary will be enriched by this opportunity to work with Asia's best. We are excited to see how this will help shape her future as a documentary filmmaker in New Zealand".

Doc Edge took the initiative to identify a way to bring the New Zealand and (South East) Asian film industry closer together. This internship is expected to help facilitate increased cooperation and also provide a valuable learning experience for a Kiwi filmmaker like Jenny, in a supportive, international setting.

Alex Lee believes it is an important step to develop our documentary practitioners' connections with an increasingly important centre of screen production and audience market. "This internship fits Doc Edge's kaupapa (mission) of continuing to develop and find new opportunities for New Zealand documentary practitioners".

Jenny Gao in response to this award said:

"I've always aimed to create work that acts as a connector: between cultures, generations and schools of thought. As a Kiwi-Chinese filmmaker, it's an incredible privilege to be able to be that bridge for future Asian and New Zealand co-productions. I can't wait to get to know the documentary industry in Asia and bring learnings home, as well as introduce our unique kaupapa to them, to enable us all to thrive in a rapidly changing content landscape."

Paul Stevens, Head of People & Academy added: "We are delighted to be welcoming Jenny to the BHP team and are looking forward to immersing her in some of our key productions currently underway for regional and international broadcasters. This is a great opportunity for professional and cultural exchange that will benefit not only Jenny but also our team here in Singapore. We hope with the collaboration of DocEdge and the Asia New Zealand Foundation we can establish this as an ongoing annual internship programme that helps to bring New Zealand and Asia closer together in the world of content."

Asia New Zealand Foundation supports more than a dozen young New Zealanders each year to get first-hand experience of working in a variety of leading companies in Asia, and is excited to be adding a screen industry internship to its offerings.

Asia New Zealand Foundation Director of Business Felicity Roxburgh says: "Young people with work experience in Asia are young people confident and equipped to make the most of the opportunities that engaging with Asia offers. We're very excited to see what Jenny Gao does with this opportunity."

For more details go to docedge.nz.

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About Doc Edge <https://www.docedge.nz>

Doc Edge is run by Documentary New Zealand Trust, New Zealand's national documentary organisation. Established in 2004 as a not-for-profit body, it advocates for documentary filmmaking and runs the Doc Edge International Film Festival, Doc Edge Forum & Pitch, Doc Edge Clinics, Doc Edge Schools and Doc Edge On-Demand. It works to increase opportunities and international collaborations through new initiatives to increase funding and support for documentary makers. Doc Edge International Documentary Film Festival is an Academy Award-qualifying[®] film festival and the winners of the best international and local awards are eligible for consideration at the Oscars.

About Beach House Pictures <https://www.beachhousepictures.com/>

Beach House Pictures is Asia's largest indie production company and a multi award-winning producer. With 600+ hours of international HD, 3D and 4K content in its library, Beach House Pictures specializes in factual and entertainment programming, creating top rating series such as Ed Stafford: First Man Out (Discovery), MasterChef Singapore (Mediacorp, GroupM) and Wild City with David Attenborough (Sky UK, BBC America). The company has a growing children's content output with Kooki's Crafty Show premiering on ZooMoo and an upcoming scripted series My Buddy Bonebreaker (Mediacorp). BHP is in development on a range of other scripted projects after optioning the popular children's horror fiction book series Mr Midnight and the cult movie character Cleopatra Wong. It has two other prolific divisions Beach House Labs which focuses on digital and branded content and Beach House Academy, which creates skills training and educational partnerships throughout Asia. BHP has been voted by its peers, for four consecutive years (2016 to 2019) into Realscreen's Global 100 list of the world's most innovative and influential production companies.

About Asia New Zealand Foundation <https://www.asianz.org.nz/>

The Asia New Zealand Foundation Te Whītau Tūhono is New Zealand's leading non-government authority on Asia. It is a non-partisan, non-profit organisation, set up in 1994 to build New Zealanders' knowledge and understanding of Asia. It relies on a mix of public, philanthropic and corporate funding. With 20 staff in Auckland and Wellington, the Foundation is overseen by a board of trustees drawn from business, community, academic and leadership backgrounds. It is supported by a panel of honorary advisers from across Asia and is New Zealand's leading authority on Asia. It provides experiences and resources to help New Zealanders build their knowledge, skills and confidence to thrive in Asia.