CBME organized a successful two-week summer internship program for 20 UGs at a Coal Liquefaction plant in Inner Mongolia, owned by the Hong Kong Towngas group. The program took place from June 19 to July 2, 2016. Coal liquefaction is a process that converts coal to liquid chemicals (methanol) or hydrocarbons (gasoline). This is a relatively clean and green process in terms of coal utilization, and has drawn great attention, especially in China.

Our students were divided into four groups, and each day they visited one specific production unit, such as air separation, water purification/wastewater treatment, coal gasification, methanol synthesis and hydrocarbon production. Through this internship, students gained an in-depth understanding of the whole production process and all major facilities involved. They were successful in applying theoretical knowledge learned in class to practical situations. The final presentation and Q&A received very positive feedback from the senior management of the plant. Both the plant management and students strongly support this program for the coming years.
During the weekend, students also had a chance to travel to nearby countryside, desert and gorge part of the Yellow River, which helped them better understand the local culture and history. In all, the program turned out to be an enjoyable, meaningful and educational adventure to be remembered forever.