My name is Jennifer Wen and I am a fifth year in the Beedie School of Business. I was the Social Media Intern in the Resources and Communications Department at the Aga Khan University (AKU). I was motivated to pursue this international work term because I thought it was a very unique opportunity where I had the chance to learn from a mentor and work for a school across the globe that had a different culture. I have never worked remotely prior to this internship. I expected there was going to be a lot of communication via zoom and email. To prepare for my work term, I looked up AKU’s website and their different social media channels.

I think the biggest struggle for me was the 8hr time difference between my mentor and I, so there was a slight delay in communication. The best way to deal with this was to always message my mentor as soon as possible if I had any questions, concerns, or updates I wanted to share. I also setup regular meetings to talk more about my work and progress. My mentor was incredibly supportive and was always open to any questions or concerns that I had. I had weekly meetings with her, but sometimes if there was more work to be done, we would connect more than once a week.

In terms of the other interns, I believe there were 30 other interns that were hired. I was able to interact with all the other interns through our slack channel. We had the chance to join in on weekly coffee chats and webinars. The virtual interactions felt very warm and welcoming since I could see the effort being put to make the internship more engaging and fun.

During my role as the Social Media Intern in the Resources and Communications Department, I was able to develop my designing, writing, and researching skills. I was also able to learn a lot about website development through this internship. The main highlight of most of my days would be my mentor giving me the opportunity to implement and suggest creative ideas to improve AKU’s social media channels. Another highlight would be my mentor always giving me insightful advice and ideas to consider for my work.

My setup for my remote work term consisted of my desk and laptop and my daily routine was different depending on the amount of work and timeline. I have learned a lot during my remote work term and three tips I give are:

1. Let your mentor know as soon as possible if you have a question or concern since there will most likely be a delay in communication.
2. At the beginning of your internship, tell your mentor about your goals and objectives that you want to achieve.
3. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet new people (such as the 30 other interns and your co-workers in your department).