

Sketch in TUC

Thanks to the exchange program, I am able to study in a foreign country and deepen my understanding of foreign culture as well as my major International Affairs. In the following parts, I will illustrate my life experience in Germany with focus on study experience. Some points of view related to my major International Affairs and my life are also included. The study comparison describing many factors between Germany and China will be fully shown.

1. Study

1) Entering Universities

I will start with admission of students. In China, every student study so hard to be admitted into a key university. The only factor is your scores of Exams of College Entrances (gaokao). The higher point you get, the more likely you can enter a good university. Competition in Exams of College Entrances is extremely fierce. Different provinces use different types of exam papers. So some might be very difficult and some might be easier. Universities admit distinct numbers of students all over China. Take the two most famous University Peking University and Tsinghua University as an example, the two universities are located in Beijing. They accept more students from Beijing than that from other provinces. Actually a lot of universities have the same problem. That is students in local provinces are given preferences. There is no doubt that this phenomenon is unfair. As a result, one of the netizens teased that

whether Peking University is a Chinese university or a university that belongs to Beijing residents.

In recent years, a new system called Independent Recruitment System is introduced and promoted all over China. High school students who win either national Olympic Games or international Olympics Games in science, the first or second class of national professional athletes, students recommended by the headmaster of key high schools, those who have special talents take a pre-test in March or April. Students who pass the pre-test get extra points depended on their performances in the Exams of College Entrances if they choose specific schools. Those students sign contracts with schools and promise to choose that school later. My classmate won three national scientific Olympic games and passed the pre-test of Tsinghua University. His final total scores was 640 . His scores did not enable him to enter Tsinghua. With extra 30 points from Tsinghua, he entered Chemistry Department of Tsinghua University. If he chose Peking University, he could not get 30 extra points because he signed a contract with Tsinghua.

Germany acts in another way. Students submit their scores as well as their personal statement. Universities evaluate students with more means. They don't evaluate students only with scores. When it comes to factors influencing people's choices, German students usually consider expenses, the distances from home to university, whether they can study in the same university with their friends etc. They might not care too much about the prestige of a university. On the contrary, in China we care about more about the reputation and ranking of a university than reputation of

a major. More preferences are given to famous universities instead of famous majors in a less famous university. The prestige of majors outweighs that of a university.

2) ranking of universities

Germany and China support key universities with a large sum of money to improve teaching level and scientific level. Germany selects G11 every year to give them great amount of money and supports them. China's 211 and 985 Projects are similar while 211 and 985 Projects has closed doors for universities. If a university is not selected as a 211 or 985 university before a certain period of time, then it can never be a 211 or 985 university. A university can be either a 211 or a 985, or wins both of the two names.

I am very surprised at the high dropout rates in Germany. Every year nearly 30%-40% German students drop out of school. If they fail one subject for three times, they can no longer continue his study. They will be kicked off by the university. Some German students just hope they can graduate finally. As long as one student can pass all the exams and graduate successfully, then everything is fine. After all, passing all the exams is not easy.

The strict system sees to it that the university students are well qualified. Entering a German university is easier than graduating from it while graduating from a Chinese university is much easier than entering it.

3) Change of majors

Students cannot change their major and switch to another major in universities. If they are still eager for change of majors, the only alternative is to start with their

new major as freshmen in bachelor schools. This system has both advantages and disadvantages at the same time. They make sure that students are professional and receive enough education. But it limits students' choices. Sometimes teenagers have no clear ideas of what they really like and what is suitable for them. On a lot of occasions, they choose majors or universities for they hope to stay with friends and pursue lower expense or higher salary in the future. Every student in our university has a chance to change their subject only for once before senior year, if they pass the specific exams. Most Chinese master schools accept students of different academic backgrounds.

4) Grading system

The German grading system is new to me. Two grading systems are introduced to SYSU. One is 5.0 grading system as well as 100 points. If my score is 100, then my transcript will show 100 and 5. Four is 90; three is 80; two is 70; one is 60; 2.9 is 79; 3.6 is 86. Students must get at least 60 points to pass the exams. Normally in all the exams, one hundred points is full mark. Another one is universal 4.0 grading system well used all over the world. German grading system is 5.0 grading system. Even though both two grading systems are 5.0 grading systems, they have few in common. In Germany, 5 is the worse, 1 is the best. Universities only grade students with 1.0, 1.3, 1.7, 2.0 and etc. The dead line is 50 points. Good to know.

5) Exam types

In China, the most common exam types are open-book exams and close-book exams. Open-book exams actually are quite rare and are only applied in trivial courses,

like P.E. classes. Oral exams is solely used in oral classes. Here I know besides closed-book exams, here are oral exams and PVL and PL. Open-book exams are rare. Different exam requirements are determined by their teachers. Some teachers might demand students to take a presentation PVL. PVL is not graded, just fail and pass. Not until students pass PVL are they allowed to take PL which is graded. Oral test sounds scary. Some oral tests might last for half of an hour. During that time, a teacher asks students questions about the subject. Requirements for regular students and Erasmus students vary. Applied Linguistic exam is a PVL for regular students, but a PL for Erasmus students. We not only need to pass it, but also pass it with a good result.

6) Credit System

The credit system is also very different. Every 45-minute class session for the whole semester worth one credit. Two class sessions get two credits. More than 99% of our classes are either two class sessions or four class sessions. Therefore we deal with two credits or four credits for each subject every semester. Usually we pass a final exam or write a paper, then we are done with it. Two class sessions is divided into two parts by a 10-minute break. Here teachers take two class session at a stretch. After two class session, students and teachers get a 15-minute break. The number of credits here is not decided by time length of courses. I do not know how they decide that. What I see often is 5 or 2 in total. Earning five credits is always not going to be easy. Passing a presentation and oral exam PVL, and close-book exam PL. What is more, teachers always require their students to write a paper, sometimes a research proposal ahead of time. Students who want partial credits devote less. In my

Accessing Obama Presidency, as long as I attend courses regularly and actively discuss with my teacher and pass my research proposal PVL, I get three credits from this one. The credits transferred to my home university is only determined by time length. Even I get extra credits, those are useless with the reason that I am only able to transfer two credits.

7) How to organize students?

The way of organizing is very different. Students is not organized in a fixed class like that in China. Students attend those course that they need. They are likely to attend most of the courses together. Chinese university students study in the same group for four years. In addition to common classes, a class take part in group activities. From the organizing of students, I find out that Chinese tradition is group tradition. German tradition is individual tradition. Chinese prefer to uniting as a group while German students like manage their personal affairs more.

German students arrange their study and make their study plan for themselves, which requires independence and self-management. Everything is done by themselves. Nobody can decide what fits them most. If students choose more courses than average and pass all of them, then they can graduate in a shorter time. However, it is not usual in a Chinese university. The teachers in the faculty set up a fixed learning plan for students, which means that students must attend all the courses as they are told, which results in graduation on time instead of in advance. German students have more freedom of selecting the courses that they would like to attend. In China, it is difficult even impossible to choose the courses offered by other faculties. But here students are

able to choose all the courses.

8) Registering for classes

The registration process varies a lot. The only way to register for classes is to do it all online on our official website. Going to teachers and signing up in the teachers' are not allowed. When I first know that German universities accept both methods and the registration of classes is decided by different teachers, I felt shocked. Students register not only for classes but also exams. Without registration, even though students do pass exams, they still cannot get the credits. We Chinese students have no need to register for exams

9) ethnic diversity.

The obvious phenomenon in German universities is the large proportion of international students. Here a lot of Indian students, Chinese students, Pakistan students, European students and students from other country can be seen, including regular students and exchange students and Erasmus students. SYSU is one of the universities that cooperate with foreign universities and accept plenty of exchange students. But the percentage of foreign regular students is quite low, compared to that of local Chinese students.

10) Class types

What differs in types of classes is that German universities provide seminars and tutorials. Usually a tutorial benefits students a lot. When students have problems with their study, they turn to tutorial teachers for help and practice in tutorials. Students get tutored and improve their understanding with exercises. Tutorial really helps me a lot

while preparing for my two linguistic exams. More than 80% tutorial question are on exam paper. Only when students take tutorial seriously can they have a good grade. Thanks to notes and exercises written in tutorials, I am lucky to pass. Normally tutorials is separated from ordinary classes. Chinese teachers combine tutorial with normal classes rather than offer both respectively.

11) Costs of going to colleges

Nowadays education tends to be more and more expensive. Chinese tuition fee and living cost are low. In spite of higher living cost, monthly financial support of government and lots of students work part-time to lessen financial burden. Nearly every German student I know in TUC works part-time. One German student bought a car with money earned in his holiday on his own feet. On the contrary, Chinese students rely on parents to support them financially. We should be more independent. One of my German classmate told me that she works as a cashier in a supermarket. Although her parents are rich enough to support her tuition fee. She refuses their financial support. In her mind, she is already an adult and moves out of home. She is supposed to afford her tuition fee and living cost. Personally speaking, Chinese students should learn that from German students. I notice one interesting phenomenon that old people drive luxury cars like Porsche, while the young drive much cheaper cars or do not have cars. I feel curious about that. Later my friend explained to me that in Germany parents will not buy their kids such luxury cars. However, the young are capable of buying one by themselves.

European students are lucky that students have varieties of choices of exchange

schools and can get Erasmus scholarship if studying abroad. Chinese students competes sometimes fiercely with their classmates to win the chance of studying in a good foreign university. What values more is that students pay for all the expenses by themselves. Some poor students give up exchange program for lack of money. One of my classmates does an excellent job in study and was chosen to be an exchange student in Köln University but her parents are too poor to afford it. As a result, she was forced to stay in home university. German students hardly encounter similar problems with Erasmus scholarship. Transportation in Europe is so convenient and cheap that they save a large amount of money compared to our expense

11) Chinese shared dormitory VS German WG

Most Chinese students live in common dormitories, which disappoints and surprises German students. A common dormitory is equipped with a private bathroom, a toilet, an air-conditioner, a balcony and etc. Most students buy washing machine to clean clothes. Most German students live in a private room of a WG. They are not used to living with roommates in one room together. I must admit that German dormitory is better than Chinese shared dormitories. On the other hand, the price that we pay for our Chinese dormitory is nearly equal to one twelfth of German dormitory. One month's rent for a German dormitory covers a whole year's rent for a Chinese dormitory.

I compare courses offered by two universities. I find out that both of two universities have a lot in common; they all care about basic training, like listening, reading, speaking, writing, English literature and culture, American literature and

culture; differences are not inevitable. TUC focuses more on theory. For example, Introduction to Linguistic, Applied Linguistic, Phonology etc while SYSU emphasizes on application. Our department have four different focuses, International Affairs, Translation, Business English, Teaching Chinese to Speakers of other languages. Another apparent problem of English Department in TUC is that most courses are Europe-oriented or America-oriented. Only few courses involve information of other cultures. Courses are not international. Courses of TUC are more detailed. Our courses are more general. In TUC this semester, one of my courses is Accessing Obama Presidency. I think I will never have a similar one in my home university. The topic might be alike, American Politics. We tend to teach overall knowledge rather than very detailed knowledge.

12) Problems of Transferring Credits

The biggest problem that I encounter is transferring credits. First of all, there are no enough English-speaking courses. Most of politics-related classes are taught in German, which is too difficult for me to understand. English-speaking courses are all about languages and literature rather than application like translation and business English. Another thing I must speak out is that German language center only teaches foreign students general German. In other words, teachers explain grammar to students. Whereas SYSU teaches German as a second foreign with oral, listening, reading, grammar training all together, which add up to 10 credits. TUC only has general German which worth credits. On condition that I continue to learn German before returning back to SYSU, later I am required to make up for 6 credits each

semester. Some courses like listening only counts 2 credits. That means I need to contribute more time and energy to making up credits, especially when I wan to get two degrees, German degree and English degree. My friends in Bamberg University, Ausburg University and Köln University don't have the same concern. I suggest that TUC consider opening more German courses for foreign students. There are also students who major in Germanistik and teaching German as a foreign language. Probably it would be beneficial for both of the parties that German students teach foreign students German and create a better environment to expose them to a German learning environment.

12) Club life

Here clubs are rarely seen. There are no tennis club, dancing club, photography club, career development club and etc. In SYSU, before the beginning of teaching weeks, all students clubs organize recruitment in open areas in our school together on the same day, ask students who show interest in their clubs to take several interviews, and fill in a very brief CV form. New members later receive a series of training, go out to negotiate with companies about sponsors, organize evening shows, cooperate with companies to hold a competition, invite professionals to give students lectures. Take me as an example, when I was a freshman, I joined Students' Career Development Association. In that year, we worked with Coca Cola to organize the biggest business competition in our campus and I invited a famous journalist from Hong Kong to have a lecture. Students clubs play a vital role in college life. I feel pity that we do not have them here. More than 50 students clubs provide a rich variety of

activities for students. Sometimes we go to evening shows, IELTS, TOFEL, GMAT, GRE preparation lecture, sometimes we attend lectures by experts, like interpreter working in UN, Israeli ambassador in China and etc. As here we don't have much to do and the party in CDK tend to be same all the time, so a lot of students, especially students from our university might find life here boring.

13) Smaller class size

Another thing shocks me is that percentage of teachers to students. The size of classes is varied. Only four students are in one of my classes. Teachers teach fewer students. Students are taken more care of. Some class might have students no more than 20, some might be more than 50. Often regular classes are taught in a small group no more than 30. Many good schools now promote the idea of teaching in a smaller class. Students study in a class no more than 30. Each subject is taught by one teacher. Teachers have more energy for every students.

Life

As my major is International Affairs in China, therefore, I would like to write what I see and feel in Europe connected to my major.

Before I came to Germany, I underevaluate China. I think China is problematic and weak. Faced with provocation and misunderstanding of other countries, we are always the one to be blame and are not tough enough. I feel angry and disappointed with this. In the past few months, I gradually learn that situations China faced with are so complicated and we are growing. We should be confident and patient. We cannot

be too demanding. One Turkish told me that Chinese people do not realize that our influences are great. I just take that as a simply compliment. Here in Germany I have more chances to know more about politics.

A lot of information is blocked by Chinese government. Here I finally can read those information. The more I learn, the more I feel that politics is a game for elites, not for common people. Sometimes I could not understand why some politicians solve problems in that way. With analysis I finally find out their intentions. What I thought in the past unwise was good for his country. I lack enough knowledge to really understand international politics. As a result, I need to learn more and think about problems on the whole. I also realized that I misunderstand China in many cases. I become more patriotic and hold the belief the world center will switch from west to east.

How people think of China in Europa?

1) China, work factory, cheap price, bad quality?

A lot of people notice fast economic development in China and are interested in it. Their impression on China does not move forward and still stay at the same place. They regard China as a backward state. Some think that China only steals technology and ideas from other countries. The sole advantage of Chinese products is low price. Chinese products are always with bad quality. Well, I cannot deny the fact that some dishonest companies apply some indecent means. But actually China is always seeking to change from Made in China into Designed in China and many Chinese

products have good qualities. Huawei, a Chinese company applies for the biggest number of patents in the world every year and manages more than 80% of global communication system.

German people always are proud of their train system. I have tried ICE trains in Bayern. It goes at the speed between 200 to 300 km/h. Personally speaking, ICE is not fast enough for me. The average Chinese high speed train is more than 300 km/h with a lower price and longer distances. In 2015 Chinese train company won the bid of Deutsche Bahn and beaten Siemens, which shocked German People including me. Some people even organized a protest to fight against this deal. What values most in the business world is always interests. Chinese company sells a better product which costs less money. A wise businessman will know what to do next. This two examples prove our determination of designing good products.

2) Chinese, an increasingly significant language in career

At the end of November I flew to Portugal to visit my friend and celebrate her birthday for her. When my friend waited for me in the Porto Airport, a Portuguese young student came to her first and spoke with her in fluent Chinese because he wanted to practice his Chinese with my friend. Later when I was in a small shop to buy postcards, an old man with his baby grandson in a baby-car asked us to speak Chinese with his grandson. His 3-year-old grandson are capable of speaking a little bit of Chinese. Soon my friend explained to me that a lot of Chinese companies bought Portuguese companies and merged them. The growing need of bilingual employers pushes young generation to learn Chinese.

3) Effective tool of development, economy

Then I begin to realize that nowadays the most effective tool is economy tool. If foreign capital takes control of one country's key industry, then the foreign capital takes charge of this country. This might be too overstated. Now I deeply understand why Chinese and Russian government hold the key industry firmly with the help of national enterprises though the corruption and low efficiency problem are serious.

Economy power will continue to influence the world. 2015 the most frequently used word in Chinese press might be Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. This organization is established to help Asian developing countries build more infrastructure. In order to boost economy, the first thing that people should do is to refine basic infrastructure in those areas. Among them transportation plays an important role in development. No sooner than China come up with this program, America blames us as usual. Surprisingly, Great Britain, which is seen as the spokesman and ally of America in Europe discussed with China secretly and became the first European country to join Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank followed by Australia, Germany, South Korea etc. The action of Great Britain betrayed America. Why? Because Cameron wants to earn money and share the economy interests with China. South Korea signed up FTA Agreement with China as soon as possible when Taiwan and Mainland China signed ECFA and promoted the third industry commerce. To achieve the goal, South Korea even sacrificed some of her interests. Taiwan and South Korea have 70%-80% industry overlap. If South Korea does not speed up and cooperates with China, it will lose the biggest market. Its industry will be heavily

damaged.

4) Don't judge if we don't know the truth. Mind our own business first.

A lot of people blame Chinese government for being a dictator government and should rule with democracy. More than 50 million Chinese people are illiterate. Chinese people are easily manipulated. If we let every qualified citizen vote, I can tell that riots will never end. Our national situation does not allow us to do that. Before we have tried democracy, but ended with failure. History has proofed that democracy does not work in China, Communism helps us to recover. No one can deny the fact that China has achieved great economy success. That gives the credit to our political system. Democracy is not always perfect. Many western countries have their own problems.

Most people think that Communist power is cruel and they crush Falun Gong. The truth is that Falun Gong is a poisonous religion. Falun Gong teaches believers to do some typical exercises and fire themselves to achieve eternal life. Every people should know that their words are lies. Falun Gong spread these lies and ask Chinese people to follow them. How can our government ignore it? My father used to work in a national company. His colleague believed Falun Gong and tried to kill herself because of Falun Gong. In the end, she became so unbearable that she got fired and her husband broke up with her. It is a real example. I strongly support our government to crush Falun Gong.

So does Dalai Lama. Dalai Lama used to be a dictator in Tibet. Most people in Tibet in the past were slaves. After foundation of PRC, people are liberated. They are

no longer treated as livestock and goods. They have their basic human rights. Dalai Lama leaves a impression of victim in the world. But it cannot cover the fact that he is a dictator and cruel ruler.

If you do not know much about China, if all the information that you get is from media, then stop judging. Media is not reliable. They hold prejudices and are biased. Many videos and articles are wrong. Here in Germany I can always see negative news about China. But positive news of China is not common. Right now, what we should do is to mind our own business and stop interfering other countries' domestic issues. The former German Prime Minister Gerhard Schroeder said in the Forum Nachbar China held in TU Dresden in 2008 that German people should concentrate on their own domestic affairs and leave the judgment work to America. Judgment work is what Americans do. We are always neutral to other countries' domestic affairs.

5) We should not be the one always to blame.

Recently, America and South Korea ask China to sanction North Korea. Before North Korea has demanded for a peace talk with South Korea, Japan, America, China, Russia, which is so-called Six-Party Talk. North Korea claims that it did not want to and was not able to invent nuclear powers. But America would not stop placing nuclear inspectors in North Korea, which stimulated North Korea. At that time, China played the role of middleman. At that time, both of America and South Korea did not do their own duty and dreamed that weak coalition between China and North Korea would stop North Korea. Unfortunately we are not powerful enough to make North Korea give in. Now they accuse China of indulging North Korea to invent

nuclear powers. They did not do their duty and refuse to be responsible for that. Now how can they ask China to take responsibility for that, ask us to claim war on North Korea for the? That is ridiculous. Peace is so valuable that every country cannot afford the price of losing it.

6) I give you my heart, why do you give me a gun?

I notice that international image and impression of China is not good. Sometimes we treated other countries so well. They were not grateful for that and betrayed us. Even in our own territory, we are misunderstood. On the second day of Chinese traditional new year, a gang of thugs took advantage of vendors who made business without licenses and attacked policemen fiercely. This affair is believed to have relationship with overseas anti-China power. Well, we feel so confused. We always consider for Hongkong and prepare the best part for Hong Kong. On some occasions, we even sacrifice interests of mainland China to maintain the interests of Hong Kong. We give them our hearts, but in return, what we get is a gun. It reminds me of the story Farmer and Snake. Taiwan is also the same. Many Taiwanese want independence. We have not expected that it happened. Taiwan issue is a history issue. We find out probably it is time for us to stop being so naive and stop being so generous. Give up keeping illusions and be more realistic. We also ought to think about our policy. Why aren't we understood? Why are our policies not effective? We must change our image and set up a peaceful and reliable image in the world and try to think in western pattern.

7) Where should Europe go?

A few days ago, Russian Prime Minister warned that cloud of cold world has surrounded Europe again because distrust and doubt. NATO followed American and sanctioned Russia together, which ruined Russian-European relationship. Refugees Crisis, economy crisis have already brought about loopholes of trust in EU. Many countries have started to worry about their own country will be kidnapped by EU. Like four countries in the eastern Europe and France refused to accept quote plan, and English people will vote for whether English should get rid of EU and stop being a member in EU in June.

Life is still on. Many interesting stories will happen in the future. Just wait. All the above is basically my personal perspective, if something is wrong, please forgive me.