

## Shanghai Jiao Tong University: My Exchange Semester in China

I had the privilege of writing my master's thesis at Shanghai Jiao Tong University during the spring semester of 2025, with the support of this generous scholarship. This experience marked a meaningful end to my degree, not only by exploring an engaging thesis topic but also by doing so in the vibrant city of Shanghai at a world class university. My thesis focused on the heterogeneous stock market reactions following China's carbon neutrality commitment, under the supervision of Dr. Wenxin Huang at Antai College of Economics and Management at SJTU. Through my time at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, I was able to benefit from the guidance of my supervisor as well as the university's extensive academic resources and data availability which provided the foundation for my thesis.

Beyond my academic work, my time in China gave me the chance to immerse myself in the life and culture of Shanghai, as well as to travel and discover many new places. I visited cities such as Suzhou, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Wuhan, and Nanchang, along with many smaller cities where I created lasting memories. One particularly memorable experience occurred in Moganshan, where my friends and I unexpectedly stumbled upon a wedding celebration. To our surprise, the soon to be married couple invited us to join their celebration. I believe this moment reflects Chinese hospitality really well, showing how welcoming and open people can be even when language barriers exist. Because it is still possible to share food, drinks, and laughter although speaking a little Mandarin of course goes a long way in connecting with new people and sharing perspectives. Because of this, and my ambition to have broader conversations in Mandarin, I thus continue to actively study the language to deepen my future conversations and cultural experiences.

All in all, my exchange helped me grow academically, socially, and personally, and for this unique opportunity, I am deeply grateful. The Swedish School in Beijing Scholarship alleviated financial pressures and made it possible for me to fully embrace this exchange and complete my studies successfully. Looking ahead, I am excited to continue working internationally and to draw upon all that I have learned as I embark on my next endeavors in Shanghai and beyond.

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