

I would like to start off by once again extending my gratitude towards the committee for granting me 2017 years scholarship.

In the autumn semester of 2017 I did a semester of Chinese studies at Fudan university in Shanghai. The courses were on an advanced level and revolved around expanding vocabulary, listening to news as well as enhancing speaking.

I had a great time in Shanghai and this is largely thanks to Svenska Skolan i Beijings Stipendium. Without the financial contribution I received I would not have been able to focus solely on my studies and might have had to look for a part time job.

Ever since the first time I sat my feet on Chinese soil, I have been convinced that in the future, I will work in China or at least have some sort of connection to China workwise. This, in combination with my interest for the Chinese language, has been the fuel for the engine that drives me towards my goal.

It is my conviction that a deep understanding of language is essential to comprehend the culture, and consequently the people of a nation, and that it is only by understanding the people that one can hope to really understand the country. Though I am still far away from reaching my goals, and still lack a deep understanding, I know my journey benefited from the course I took at Fudan and perhaps by completing the course, I have now taken a small step in the right direction.

Lastly, I would like to say that I am grateful that there are organizations such as the Swedish chamber of commerce that encourages students to broaden their views and gives them an opportunity to be a part of something bigger.

Best regards,
John Alfredsson