

I attended Shanghai Normal University in Shanghai for one 2025 spring semester to study Chinese. The Swedish School in Beijing scholarship has helped this dream come true that has long been on my mind. And now these memories and experiences will always be with me. I am extremely grateful for the scholarship that made this possible financially, allowing me to focus on my studies and also make time to have fun, for example attempting some Chinese songs at KTV, and making trips to other cities.

My interest for China and the Chinese language started when I was seventeen and this year, my dream to study in China finally came true. After years of studying Chinese in Sweden I could put my Chinese to the test in more natural settings outside the classroom, while of course, still sharpening my Chinese with textbooks and grammar lessons from incredible teachers. The classes at the University were intensive and fast paced with heavy focus on advancing language proficiency. The teachers were thorough and detailed and my classmates were just as diligent and passionate about Chinese, shown in how we persisted in using Chinese outside the classroom despite struggling. Because, unsurprisingly, what we all had in common was that we wanted China to be in our futures and realize how important the language is, no matter our professional goals.

In the future, I will bring my knowledge of the Chinese language as well as my interest as I continue to study. I hope to use my experiences with the language and culture professionally, ideally bridging our countries together. I believe a lot of information and culture can be lost because of a language barrier, so the first step would be trying to understand and helping others understand each other. In addition, I sense that with a language as foundation, exploring the world of business and global politics can be understood more carefully.

This semester has really improved my Chinese , enriched my knowledge of China and sparked new interest and what it can mean for my future. After my time spent in China, the interest has only grown bigger, still longing for more places to see and people to talk with. My journey of learning Chinese is life long and neverending, and that is only my pleasure.