

Experience Report for Studies in Beijing Autumn 2019.

During autumn 2019 I completed a term of my CEMS Master's in International Management at Tsinghua University with the help of the Swedish School in Beijing's Stipend for Studies in China. During my time at Tsinghua I studied a range of topics relating to economics, business, organizations and finance while exploring and developing my understanding of the Chinese culture and society.

On the academic side of the experience, I gained a completely new understanding of the intricacies and complexities firms face when conducting business on the mainland. Especially from a western point of view the large differences in how to source funding, build networks and in general how to manage a business in China I found fascinating and I believe made me better prepared for a future career conducting business in China and with the Chinese people.

On a more personal level I have, besides a large number of new friends, gained a new much more nuanced picture of China. I have come to realize how wildly diverse China is in terms of cultures, attitudes, wealth and technology. At points, it felt like living in 1960 and 2060 at the same time. Furthermore, experiencing first-hand a people that has turned from extreme poverty to a technologic and economic leader within the past 30 years I found immensely interesting; and it nuanced my picture of the tradeoffs China has been forced to make during the past decades to achieve this.

As a result of my time at Tsinghua, and the new insights I have gained of the Chinese business environment as a result of this, I have chosen to write my master thesis on the topic of how Swedish firms should handle the cultural and informal aspects of their entry into the Chinese market. I further hope that I will be able to utilize my newly gained knowledge for a long time in my future career and personal dealings.

Finally, I would like to thank the Swedish Chamber of Commerce for their support in realizing this experience and the Chinese people for their hospitality.

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