

APPENDIX 1: PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

STUDY 1: INTERVIEWS WITH INDIVIDUAL CHINESE STUDENTS

Sixteen Chinese students participated in Study 1, and among them, fifteen were current students and one was a graduate student (Table A.1).

Among the participants, 43.8 per cent ($n=7$) were males and 56.2 per cent ($n=9$) were females. Subjects ranged in age from 24 to 32 with a mean of 25.6 years. Length of residence in Germany varied from 1 month to 87 months ($M=28.9$). Two were exchange students, and the remaining participants (all Chinese students who participated in the interviews were *Bildungsausländer*) were registered with as full-time students (bachelor's, master's, or doctoral) at German universities. Their majors covered natural science, engineering, and social science. The participants' gender, age, and disciplines were considered in order to provide maximum diversity. In addition, two students (one doctoral student and one master's student) received scholarships. Study 1 also included one graduate who had once studied in Germany and was now working in China.

Table A.1 Demographic profiles of the participants of Study 1

Code	Sex (male/ female)	Age	Language of instruction	Discipline	Length of stay in Germany (months)	No. of semesters	Academic degree pursued
Interviewee 1	M	25	English	Natural Science	1	1	Ph.D
Interviewee 2	M	25	English	Natural Science	26	5	Ph.D
Interviewee 3 ^a	M	32	German	Social Science	87	6	Ph.D
Interviewee 4 ^b	M	24	German	Social Science	1	1	MA
Interviewee 5	F	27	German	Social Science	30	3	MA
Interviewee 6	F	25	German	Social Science	26	3	MA
Interviewee 7	F	26	English	Humanities	19	3	MA
Interviewee 8 ^c	F	26	German	Social Science	27	7	MA
Interviewee 9	F	26	English	Natural Science	40	7	MA
Interviewee 10	F	24	German	Social Science	15	3	MA
Interviewee 11	F	25	German	Engineering	26	4	MA
Interviewee 12	F	24	German	Engineering	63	6	MA
Interviewee 13 ^b	M	26	German	Engineering	24	4	MA
Interviewee 14	M	26	German	Engineering	28	7	MA
Interviewee 15	F	25	German	Engineering	33	6	MA
Interviewee 16	M	30	German	Engineering	66	/	Diplom ^d

^aThe participant had finished a master's degree previously in Germany and was currently a doctoral student in Germany

^bExchange student

^cThe participant started a new major at the bachelor's level, although she had achieved a bachelor's degree in China already

^d*Diplom* is a traditional academic degree in German-speaking countries. Since the implementation of the Bologna Process, the *Diplom* and *Magister* degrees have been substituted with the bachelor's and master's degrees

Table A.2 Demographic profiles of the participants of Study 2

<i>Code</i>	<i>Sex (male/ female)</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Language of instruction</i>	<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Length of stay in Germany (months)</i>	<i>No. of semesters</i>	<i>Academic degree pursued</i>
Interviewee 17	F	26	German	Humanities	10	2	MA
Interviewee 18	F	25	German	Humanities	22	2	MA
Interviewee 19	F	22	German	Humanities	7	1	MA
Interviewee 20	F	25	German	Humanities	10	2	MA
Interviewee 21 ^a	F	21	German	Humanities	10	2	BA

^aExchange student

STUDY 2: INTERVIEWS WITH CHINESE STUDENTS AND GERMAN LECTURERS AT THE FACULTY OF GERMAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY X

Interviews were conducted at the Faculty of German Language and Literature Studies of University X located in the south of Germany and founded in the 1970s. The faculty has a lot of academic exchange with Asian countries, such as Japan, Korea, and China. During the time of conducting the interviews (in July, 2010), over half of the master's students in this faculty are international students (from Ukraine, Morocco, China, etc.), with Chinese students constituting over 50 per cent of that demographic. In contrast, the percentage of domestic German students was small and actually constituted a minority in this faculty.

In terms of intercultural readiness, some professors and lecturers in the faculty had overseas experience in Asia (e.g. China and Korea), North America, and other European countries.

Study 2 is composed of three interviews with students and two interviews with lecturers. Five female Chinese students (four master's and one bachelor's student) in the faculty took part in the interviews (Table A.2). Except for one interview where two interviewees (Interviewee 20 and Interviewee 21) volunteered to participate together, interviews were conducted individually. Among them, one Chinese student had spent one semester as an exchange student before. Chinese students in Study 2 were all self-funded. Unfortunately, no German students volunteered to participate in this research.

Two of the German lecturers in the faculty who participated in the interviews had studied or worked abroad previously. One lecturer had pursued study in the USA and France. The other lecturer had worked in Korea for 5 years and was familiar with its higher education system.

STUDY 3: QUESTIONNAIRES: LONGITUDINAL STUDY

Study 3 is a longitudinal study composed of two rounds of questionnaires. At the beginning of the first semester, fifty-five Chinese students participated in Round 1 of the questionnaire, thirty-one of whom later joined Round 2 (a return rate of 56.4 per cent) at the end of the second semester. Of the original sample, 36.4 per cent ($n=20$) were male and 63.6 per cent ($n=35$) were female. Participants ranged in age from 21 to 26 with a mean of 22.5 years ($SD=2.0$).

The participants were composed of two groups: (1) Group 1: 63.6 per cent of the participants ($n=35$) were studying in Germany benefiting from cross-university cooperation, of whom 60 per cent were majoring in German language and literature studies ($n=21$); and (2) Group 2: 36.4 per cent of the participants were free-movers.

Figure A.1 indicates that 56 per cent of the participants were studying for master's programs in Germany. In addition, 69.1 per cent of the

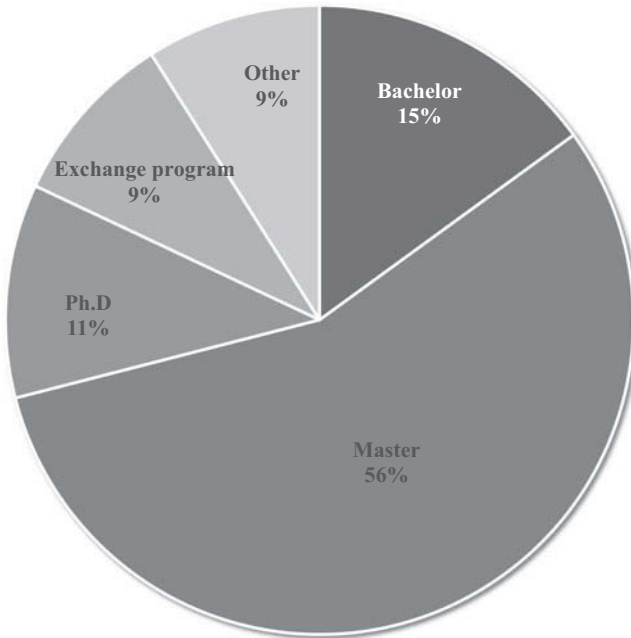


Fig. A.1 Academic degrees pursued at German universities in Study 3 in 2010 (Round 1)

participants were self-funded, while 18.2 per cent had full scholarships and 12.7 per cent were funded by both partial scholarships and their parents.

When answering Round 1 of the questionnaire, all participants ($n=55$) were about to or had just registered at a German university: three respondents were just leaving for Germany (ranging from 1 to 5 days before departure) and the rest were newly arrived (their average length of residence in Germany was 36.5 days). In answering Round 2 of the questionnaire, four out of thirty-one Chinese students had already returned to China (ranging from 2 to 3 months), and the remaining twenty-seven students were still studying in Germany.

APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW FRAMEWORK/ OUTLINE

BEFORE ARRIVAL

- 1.1 **Background** (Academic background, language background, and work experience)
- 1.2 **Motivation for studying in Germany** (Motivation for choosing a major, study abroad in general, and studying in Germany)
- 1.3 **Applying** (Channels, choosing universities, and difficulty and duration of application)
- 1.4 **Preparation**
- 1.5 **Goal/Plan**

LEARNING EXPERIENCE AT GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

- 2.1 **Types of courses** (Lectures, seminars, exercises, and research)
- 2.2 **Tasks of academic learning** (Presentation, reading, academic writing, academic tasks for doctoral students, and internship)
- 2.3 **Assessment of academic performance**
 - 2.3.1 Exams
 - 2.3.2 Thesis
- 2.4 **Special experience**
- 2.5 **Academic support** (support provider, content, and effect)

- 2.6 **Social support** (Reasons and current situation)
 - 2.7 **Effort**
 - 2.8 **Comment/Satisfaction with the learning experience**
-
- 3.1 **Intercultural communication**
 - 3.1.1 Circle of friends
 - 3.1.2 Frequency of intercultural communication
 - 3.2 **Daily life** (TV and radio, hobby/entertainment, and social life)

APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE IN STUDY 3

(The following questionnaire was translated from Chinese to English)

QUESTIONNAIRE (ROUND 1)

October 5, 2010

Dear student,

My name is Jiani Zhu. I am a doctoral student at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (http://www2.hu-berlin.de/aks/home_JZ.html), and the topic of my thesis is “Chinese Students’ Academic Adjustment at German universities.” I would like to ask if you would kindly participate in the questionnaire (for my research study), which is composed of three parts: your academic background, motivation, and personal information. Your answers will be kept confidential. It would take about 10–15 min to finish the questionnaire. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. zhujiani.berlin@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Jiani Zhu

Academic Background

1. Majors: _____;
2. The consistency between your previous major in China and current major in Germany:
(1) inconsistent (2) almost consistent (3) consistent
3. What university degree have you obtained in China?
(1) junior college degree (2) bachelor's (3) master's (4) doctoral (5) junior college degree student (6) bachelor's student (7) master's student (8) doctoral student (9) other
4. What degree are you pursuing in Germany?
(1) bachelor's (2) master's (3) doctoral (4) visiting scholar (5) exchange student (6) others
5. The language of your program at your German university:
(1) German (2) English (3) German and English

Language

1. According to your current foreign language level, how do you rate your ability to use German at the university?

(Please rate from 1 [Poor] to 5 [Excellent])

		1	2	3	4	5
German	Listening: understanding the lecturers					
	Speaking: participating in the discussion					
	Reading: reading academic books					
	Writing: homework or semester paper					
	Communicating with lecturers/classmates					
English	Listening: understanding the lecturers					
	Speaking: participating in the discussion					
	Reading: reading academic books					
	Writing: homework or semester paper					
	Communicating with lecturers/classmates					

2. According to your current foreign language level, how do you rate your ability to deal with daily situations?

(Please rate from 1 [Poor] to 5 [Excellent])

	1	2	3	4	5
Expressing yourself in daily communication					
Understanding daily communication					
Reading posts and letters in German					
Reading newspapers/magazines					

3. Have you taken any German language tests?

- (1) Yes, TestDaF: TDN 5 (2) Yes, TestDaF: TDN 4
 (3) Yes, TestDaF: TDN 3 (4) Yes, DSH: DSH-3
 (5) Yes, DSH: DSH-2 (6) Yes, DSH: DSH-1
 (7) Yes, but I haven't passed (8) No, not yet

Knowledge About Germany and German Universities

1. How much do you know about German universities and German society?

(Please rate from 1 [Poor] to 5 [Excellent])

	1	2	3	4	5
German universities	Academic resources				
	Academic tasks				
	Examinations				
	Types of courses				
German society	Daily life				
	Society, culture, and customs				
	Political, economic, and historical information				

2. How do you know the above information?

- (1) Messages or posts on Internet forums (2) Consulting Chinese students who have studied/are studying in Germany (3) Homepage of the German university (4) German courses (5) German friends (6) Other (7) Haven't searched yet

Motivation for Studying in Germany

What is your motivation for studying in Germany?

(please select all that apply)

1. To pursue academic knowledge
2. To improve foreign (German) language skills
3. To obtain an overseas degree
4. Exchange program is available
5. To experience the teaching-learning environment abroad
6. To obtain a better learning environment
7. To gain research experience
8. More courses are available at foreign universities
9. More academic freedom is available
10. Other

Personal Profile

- (1) Sex ____; (2) Age ____; (3) University _____;
(4) Source of funding (scholarship student or self-funded student) _____;
(5) Is there anyone in your family or circle of friends who has ever studied or worked in Germany?
(6) Have you been to Germany before?
(7) Is the current program you are attending a cooperation program between China and Germany?
(8) How long have you been in Germany?

Thank you for your participation!

QUESTIONNAIRE (ROUND 2)

October 25, 2011

Dear students,

Thank you very much for participating in the first round of the questionnaire last year. I would like to kindly request you to participate in the second round (last round), which is composed of several parts: German language skills, knowledge about Germany and German universities, daily communication, and achievements. Your answers will be kept confidential. It would take about 10–15 min to finish the questionnaire. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at zhujiani.berlin@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Jiani Zhu

Language

According to your current foreign language level, how do you rate your ability to use German at your university?

(Please rate from 1 [Poor] to 5 [Excellent])

		1	2	3	4	5
German	Listening: understanding the lecturers					
	Speaking: participating in the discussion					
	Reading: reading academic books					
	Writing: homework or semester paper					
	Comprehension: communicating with lecturers/classmates					
English	Listening: understanding the lecturers					
	Speaking: participating in the discussion					
	Reading: reading academic books					
	Writing: homework or semester paper					
	Comprehension: Communicating with lecturers/classmates					

4. According to your current foreign language level, how do you evaluate your ability to use German in daily situations?

(Please rate from 1 [Poor] to 5 [Excellent])

	1	2	3	4	5
Expressing yourself in daily communication					
Understanding daily communication					
Reading posts and letters in German					
Reading newspapers/magazines					

5. How often do you attend German courses?

(1) Often (2) Sometimes (3) Never

Knowledge About Germany and German Universities

How much do you know about German universities and German society?

(Please rate from 1 [Poor] to 5 [Excellent])

	1	2	3	4	5
German universities					
Academic resources					
Academic tasks					
Examinations					
Types of courses					
German society					
Daily life					
Society, culture, and customs					
Political, economic, and historical information					

Daily Communication

1. Your circle of friends in Germany is composed of:

(1) Mostly Chinese friends (2) Mostly German friends (3) Mostly international friends from other countries (excluding China and Germany) (4) There is no dominant national group (5) I don't have any friends

2. How often do you communicate with German friends?
(1) Often (2) Sometimes (3) Never
3. How often do you communicate with Chinese friends?
(1) Often (2) Sometimes (3) Never
4. How often do you communicate with friends from other countries
(excluding China and Germany)?
(1) Often (2) Sometimes (3) Never
5. How often do you attend local activities
(1) Often (2) Sometimes (3) Never

Achievement

1. How would you evaluate your achievement in the last two semesters?

(Please rate from 1 [Little Progress] to 5 [Much Progress])

	1	2	3	4	5
Discipline-based knowledge					
German language					
Communication					
Solving problems					
Overall progress					

2. How satisfied are you with your learning experience at your German university?

(Please rate from 1 [Very Unsatisfied] to 5 [Very Satisfied])

	1	2	3	4	5
In general					
International office					
Institution					
Lecturer					
Resources					
Teaching/research					

Thank you for your participation!

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