

Research on the Current Situation and Trend of Chinese Overseas Study

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Abstract. Studying abroad has a very long history in China. According to historical records, the first team of Chinese students studying abroad appeared in about 1872. With the rapid development of international education, China attaches great importance to the development of international education and higher education and spreads the educational concept and style of Chinese higher education around the world. Therefore, more and more Chinese students choose to study abroad to improve their comprehensive ability. This article is mainly from the perspective of a Chinese student who is about to study abroad, from objective aspects such as economic development, school admission conditions... And subjective aspects, such as grades, grades, language proficiency... To study the current situation of overseas students and the future development trend. The purpose of the study is to provide a general reference for other students who want to study abroad and receive some information that they may overlook.

Keywords: Overseas study; Chinese; Trend.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

As global study abroad continues to grow, the choice of destination and source countries is becoming more and more diverse; China is still the country with the largest number of international students, and the number of overseas students in Asian countries, represented by India, continues to grow. The number of students with high academic level and strong practical ability has been greatly improved compared with the past. China launched the "Learn in China" logo, and now China has become the goal for Asian students. With the boom of returning to China after studying abroad, more and more returnees are participating in national governance. There are new opportunities in the fields of overseas study. From 2019 to 2023, the number of people aged 25 and above intending to pursue a master's degree in China is on the rise. Due to the increasing pressure of studying and employment in China, more and more students, even employed people, hope to further their education abroad to improve their academic qualifications, enhance their employment competitiveness, and broaden their future career development path. Therefore, the development speed and current situation of studying abroad in China are relatively optimistic.

1.2. Related Research

It Outlines research on Chinese students studying abroad, focusing on the increase in their numbers and the various problem areas they face in their host country of study, with research conducted in New Zealand investigating Chinese students' satisfaction with their study experience, quality of service, and assessment of their study abroad experience. Research on Chinese students studying abroad identifies key research areas for the internationalization of higher education, including the mobility of students and staff, the interplay of higher education systems, and institutional strategies. It also highlights the need to address the social and academic integration of international students and the lack of a coherent theoretical framework in international education research [1]. The study analyzes what some Chinese students in the UK value in choosing schools. The study used a special kind of data, which came from a number of local educational professional organizations and questionnaires from schools. The results show that the school's own strength and heritage are the

main factors affecting the choice of Chinese students, and tuition fees and other publicity means can not greatly affect the choice of Chinese students. The study also highlighted that Chinese students value studying at prestigious institutions as an end in itself, reflecting global trends in higher education [2]. The study aimed to determine the attitudes of college students towards accepting overseas study and preferences for study abroad programs. The data source of the research was to survey students in two universities in Taiwan to analyze their planning and current preparations for studying abroad. The study shows that a student's gender and the major they are about to choose will have an impact on their choice, with male students being slightly less likely to go abroad than female students. Nowadays, Taiwan's education is gradually going international, and more and more Taiwanese students will have the idea of accepting overseas study [3].

The research explores how studying abroad affects students' evaluations of China's growth and future, ground on data model from a Beijing University student sample inquiry. Studies have shown that studying abroad has a U-shaped impact on students' evaluations of China, In general, students may feel bad after arriving abroad at first, but this situation tends not to last long and will get better after a while. The longer people stay in the local time, the better they get along with the local people and learn about other cultures outside their own country. Therefore, Chinese students should be encouraged to study overseas or receive some information from foreign countries, which can improve their basic understanding of other countries and their economic development, and improve their ability to think from multiple angles [4]. The study examines the influence of the local learning atmosphere and surrounding facilities on the adaptation of Chinese students in the UK to other cultures. Their ability to adapt is largely influenced by factors such as their own achievements, social relations, environment and their own psychological conditions. The study interviewed 245 Chinese students in the UK and recorded their experiences to gather their insights on their experiences of cross-cultural adjustment. Working in groups abroad can be especially challenging for Chinese students because they are taught to be modest and polite. Chinese students need to adapt quickly to British teaching methods, including developing pioneering perspectives, improving teamwork ability [5]. Studies show that China's study abroad programs have become an integral part of China's higher education, serving the country's political and economic development needs. China's international student education policy has been closely following and supporting the national strategy, gradually shifting from closed to open. Over the past decade, we have made significant achievements, including the optimization of the student mix, the improvement of the quality of teaching and the standardization of routine management [6].

The research mainly discusses the development trend of Chinese students and foreign students. By collecting and analyzing data, it describes the changes in the number of Chinese students and foreign students and the relationship between them and China's economic development. The core conclusion of this paper is that the development trends of Chinese students and Chinese students are roughly similar in terms of absolute and relative growth. China's economic development has an important impact on the development of Chinese students and international students. China's political stability, cultural prosperity and social harmony provide a good environment for the development of Chinese and foreign students [7]. The study focuses on the relationship between studying abroad and cultivating students' brave and adventurous spirit. The study found that short-term culture-oriented study abroad programs can promote the development of college students' spirit of travel adventure. By examining the travel components of students' immersive experiences in a foreign setting, the article not only complements the learning outcomes of travel and tourism, but also explores how the study-abroad phenomenon fundamentally changes the nature of travel. In conclusion, this article provides important theoretical and practical guidance for the development of college students by studying the relationship between studying abroad and traveling adventure spirit [8].

The study examines whether the experience of Chinese students studying abroad promotes critical thinking. Through the investigation and experiment of Chinese overseas students, this paper probes into the influence of overseas study experience on the level of individual dialectical thinking. The results of the study showed that students with overseas study experience performed better in

dialectical thinking compared to students without overseas study experience. The study abroad experience can provide opportunities for cross-cultural communication and multiple perspectives, and promote the development of individual dialectical thinking ability. The core conclusion of this paper is that when Chinese students psychologically activate the culture of the host country they are currently studying, they are more likely to show tolerance for conflict. This suggests that the study abroad experience may promote the development of dialectical thinking.[9]. The research mainly discusses the impact of internationalization of Chinese higher education. The research pointed out that after China's accession to the World Trade Organization, China's higher education market opened to the outside world, which not only affected the education system of China, but also had an impact on the education system of other countries. The research also mentioned that the Chinese government wants to develop a number of internationally recognized key universities and disciplines, and encourages Chinese universities to strengthen cooperation with leading universities and research centers overseas. Cooperative projects play an integral part in the internationalization of China's higher education.[10].

1.3. Objective

The second chapter mainly studies the current situation of the development of Chinese overseas students from the perspectives of the number of overseas students, the changes in the number caused by the changes of the epidemic, the choice of overseas study destination, the distribution of majors, the purpose of studying abroad, and the admission factors of their own conditions and school requirements. The third chapter studies from the perspective of economic development and trade friction. This paper studies the development trend of Chinese overseas students from these aspects.

2. The Development Status of China's Overseas Study Market

The Chinese overseas study market has undergone some changes in the two years since the outbreak. Although 2020 is a relatively less hot year, the recovery will begin in 2021. In the early stage of the epidemic, there will be nearly one million Chinese overseas students until 2022, and the number of graduate students who have received overseas education is still on the rise. Due to the panic and chaos caused by the epidemic and other reasons, many overseas universities have temporarily closed their campuses. The entrance examination for overseas students is also basically in a state of suspension. However, with the large-scale vaccination in major destination countries and the relaxation of relevant epidemic prevention regulations, universities are gradually opening their campuses, and the popularity of overseas study has gradually begun to recover.

2.1. Number of People

At present, the number of overseas students is close to 840,000, which is an unprecedented number. In 2019, there were close to 700,000 students, but in 2020, in the shadow of COVID-19, the amount of Chinese students has reached a low point. In the two years after the epidemic has improved, the number of international students has gradually recovered to the previous number. According to the "2021 Chinese Students' Graduate Study White Paper" released by EIC Education, although affected by the epidemic, master's students are still the main group of Chinese students studying overseas, which also indicates that they are the backbone of Chinese society in the future, which is important because in recent years, the extension of the graduate school system, especially the extension of the professional master's school system has become a trend. According to the white paper's research data, the proportion of students who choose to study abroad for postgraduate studies due to "higher education (short academic duration)" has increased year by year, reaching 40.5% in 2023. According to the data of the Open Doors Report 2022, there are 290,086 students from the Chinese mainland receiving higher education in the academic year 2021/22, of which 123,182 are graduate students, accounting for 42.46%, and the amount of graduate students has increased by 3.64% compared with the past. According to the data of the UK Higher Education Statistics Agency HESA, in the academic

year 2021/22, the number of Chinese mainland students studying in the UK for higher education was 151,690, of which 88,755 were postgraduates, accounting for 58.51%, and the amount of postgraduates increased by 6.01% compared with the past. According to the Australian Department of Education, the number of mainland Chinese students enrolled in higher education courses in 2022 was 140,111, of which nearly half were taught master's degrees (67,302) and doctoral degrees (5,677) accounted for 4%.

2.2. Destination

In general, despite the impact of the epidemic, China's overseas study market has begun to recover, and the future development prospects are still very broad. In terms of destination: the UK, the US and Canada are still the largest countries of intention to study abroad, and the popularity of Asia continues to rise in the choice of study destination countries. Universities in Asian countries are becoming increasingly popular among prospective students due to their similar cultural environment, low cost of study abroad and high value of diplomas. Under the influence of the epidemic, Asian countries and regions are also favored by more people who intend to study abroad because of their better epidemic control.

2.3. The Subjects Distributing

Business and economics accounted for 42.42 percent of applicants, followed by science and engineering (26.44 percent) and humanities and social sciences (25.1 percent). The top ten majors applied for master's degree are computer science, Finance, education, Communication and Media Studies, marketing, general management, accounting, economics, law, and Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Science and engineering ranked first (53.97 percent), followed by humanities and social sciences (19.73 percent) and business (16.13 percent). The top 10 majors for doctoral applications are computer science, Biological science, Economics, education, Physics and astronomy, Chemistry, Mechanical and Energy Engineering, Communication and Media Studies, mathematics, and Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

2.4. Purpose of Studying Abroad

According to the survey data, the same as in previous years, the purpose of self-improvement such as "expanding international horizons" and "enriching life experience" is still the reason why most choose to study abroad. However, under the influence of the epidemic, the demand for studying abroad has decreased among some groups who were relatively blind in the past, and the goals of those who still have plans to study abroad have become more clear. More people who intend to study abroad pursue "learning foreign advanced knowledge" to study in foreign famous universities. The pursuit of foreign culture and purely for the sake of job prospects is wanting, as shown in Fig.1.

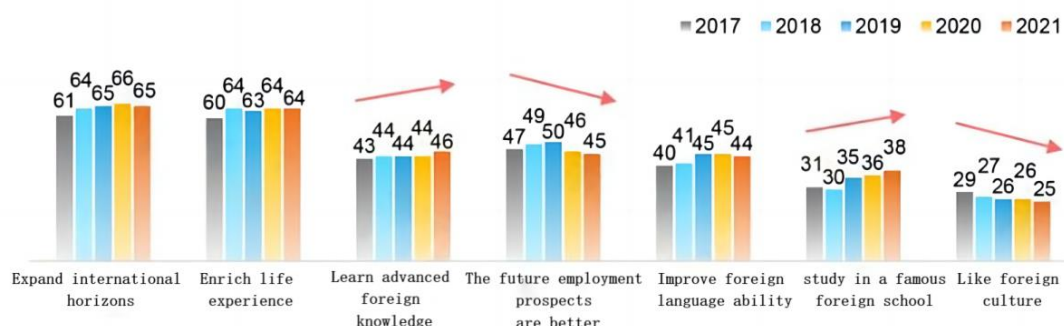


Fig.1 The purpose of studying abroad

2.5. Admission Factor

Survey data showed that "language ability did not meet the threshold" (62.6%), "the GPA did not meet the standard" (48.4%), and "the background of domestic universities is not prominent enough"

(39.8%) are the three problems that students are most worried about during the application period. "Comprehensive ranking", "teaching quality" and "domestic popularity" are the main reference factors for students to choose overseas universities.

3. Judgment of Future Trends

3.1. The Domestic Economy is Down

Affected by the epidemic, China's economy took a severe hit in early 2020. In the first quarter of this year, China's economy shrank by 6.8% from a year earlier, the first time since 1992 that the economy has recorded negative growth. The emergence of the novel coronavirus pneumonia has a lot of bad effects on Chinese students, but the idea of Chinese students wanting to receive international education has not changed substantially. As the epidemic has been brought under control in a relatively short period of time, the market for studying abroad is gradually picking up. China's economy began to recover in the second quarter; The third quarter and the fourth quarter also showed an upward trend.

3.2. Trade Friction

In terms of trade frictions, such as the recent trade war between China and the United States, the deterioration of Sino-US relations is entirely possible, but it is not a government restriction, but a spontaneous action. Because in recent years, those who have bravely taken to the streets in the world to oppose Tibet independence, Xinjiang independence, Taiwan independence, and safeguard China's image and interests are basically young Chinese students. They may still have a lot of grievances at home, but once they are out of the country, all kinds of factors, on the contrary, stimulate their patriotism. In the event of a serious conflict between China and the United States, especially one involving Chinese sovereignty, It is entirely possible that there will be widespread spontaneous resistance to studying in the United States, or that fear will drive them away. Political factors, geographical affiliation issues and the COVID-19 pandemic have changed the destination of Chinese students, most notably the United States. People tend to choose countries that are easier to get visas and safer, such as some Asian countries, where the surrounding culture is similar and the cost is lower

3.3. "Involution"

Despite the impact of the epidemic, countries restrict entry, suspend the start of school and other issues have seriously affected the process of studying abroad, but there are still a large number of people who intend to study abroad are still firm in their goals, and China, as the largest source country of international students, has continued to affect the development of global study abroad. On November 5, the "2021 National Study Abroad Report" indicate that the number of Chinese who want to receive an overseas education is still increasing, with a large number of students sticking to their plans to go abroad despite the impact of the novel coronavirus pneumonia. Despite the decline in domestic economic development caused by the epidemic, a large number of students still choose to study abroad. Therefore, the competition for overseas study will become more and more fierce in the future, and people's willingness to study abroad may be reduced due to this factor. In addition, due to the economic downturn caused by the epidemic, many wealthy families have become less wealthy, but the cost of studying abroad will not drop too much, and there is no longer enough money to support their children to study abroad. Secondly, most parents think that the cost of studying abroad is too high, which does not meet the return brought to their children after returning home. Therefore, they would not choose to receive education overseas.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, the number of overseas students in China is gradually increasing with the liberalization of the epidemic policy, and the postgraduate students account for a large part. In terms

of study destinations, it is found that the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada are still the countries where many people want to study, and the distribution of majors is mainly composed of business, science and engineering, and humanities and social sciences. In terms of the purpose of studying abroad, people are also more inclined to study abroad to improve themselves. In the study of admission factors, it is found that students are mainly worried about whether their language scores can meet the standards. In general, firstly, under the strong influence of the COVID-19, the number of Chinese students decreased at that time, but with the improvement of the epidemic, the number of Chinese students is gradually recovering and maintaining a growing trend, and the number of Chinese overseas students may increase in the future. Secondly, under the influence of Sino-US trade frictions, the number of international students going to the US will decline in the future, and places such as the UK may be more favored destinations for people to study in the future. Finally, due to the increase in the number of domestic students who want to study abroad, the pressure of competition is intensified and the cost of studying abroad is increasing due to the economic decline at that time. In the future, some families may choose not to study abroad because of the high cost and low return, which may lead to a decrease in the number of students studying abroad.

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