

Final Report: Senior Research Stay at Freie Universität Berlin

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Research on Sustainability

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In the framework of the University Alliance for Sustainability, I made a short research stay at the Freie Universität Berlin from 11. 16. to 12. 02. 2019. As I emphasized in my study report, my research stay had two main points whose main area is the education for sustainable development (*Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung*): Integrating the theme of sustainable development into teaching activities and cultural communication.

During my first week at the Freie Universität Berlin, I was able to audit two courses on sustainability, both of which were offered within the framework of sustainable communication (Nachhaltigkeit kommunizieren), in order to develop students' methods and social skills for future careers (ABV-Kompetenzbereich "Nachhaltige Entwicklung"). The one was "Nachhaltigkeit kommunizieren -- Schwerpunkt Internationale Zusammenarbeit" and the other was "Nachhaltigkeit kommunizieren -- Schwerpunkt Digitale spielerische Anwendungen". In the second week, on the one hand, as agreed in advance, I discussed with professor Horst Simon how to integrate the concept of sustainable development and specific standards and rules of behavior into the teaching content. On the other hand, on the recommendation of the Freie Universität Berlin, I attended a large training event organized by Berlin Steglitz -- UmweltBildungZukunft - Neue Perspektiven der Natur- und Umweltbildung im Bezirk Steglitz-Zehlendorf durch Vernetzung.

During this stay, the cultural exchange activities took place mainly at the Confucius institute at the Freie Universität Berlin. On Nov. 27, the Confucius institute held an exhibition of Chinese calligraphy, featuring works by six calligraphers from China, Germany and Slovakia. The day before, on Nov. 26, a lively workshop on the art of Chinese calligraphy was held at the Confucius institute -- Chinesische Schriftzeichen: Kommunikationsmittel und Kunstform. Several calligraphers, three of them professors from Peking University and Beijing university of language and culture, joined the audience to delve into the problems of Chinese characters and the art of calligraphy.

So, looking back on my two-week stay, I think I can make the following points.

First, thanks to the organization of the Freie Universität Berlin, the two weeks of research and learning activities have been very substantial and diversified. For example, there are courses and activities on sustainable communication, ranging from more traditional types of university seminars to courses that incorporate digital technologies and methods. There are not only training contents for the future career development of college students, but also training forums for the public, especially educators. The form is very new, unique and refreshing.

Secondly, from these activities, especially those related to sustainable development, I have learned a lot about the problems and challenges Germany faces in sustainable development, as well as the reality. On the one hand, I deeply feel that because of this, now in the scope of the university to carry out these teaching activities are particularly meaningful; On the other hand, Germany is now facing the same problems that China must face in the current social development and are hotly discussed among the general public.

Thirdly, as I stressed in the study report, in today's China, there is a general consensus that the sustainable development of culture and extensive cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries will play an important and positive role in the sustainable development of society. The cultural exchange activity that took place in Berlin once again amply demonstrated the validity of this consensus. No matter in cultural exchanges or other areas of social development, such as science, technology and environmental protection, China and Germany have huge space for cooperation and can solve common problems through enhanced cooperation. I became more convinced of this through my research stay. Although my field of study is German literature, I believe I can play a role in this process.

Finally, thanks again to the Freie Universität Berlin and the Peking-University for this opportunity to study and visit!

