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FASHION CHINA



Studying in China



CHINA
INTERCONTINENTAL
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Fashion China

Studying in China

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CHINA
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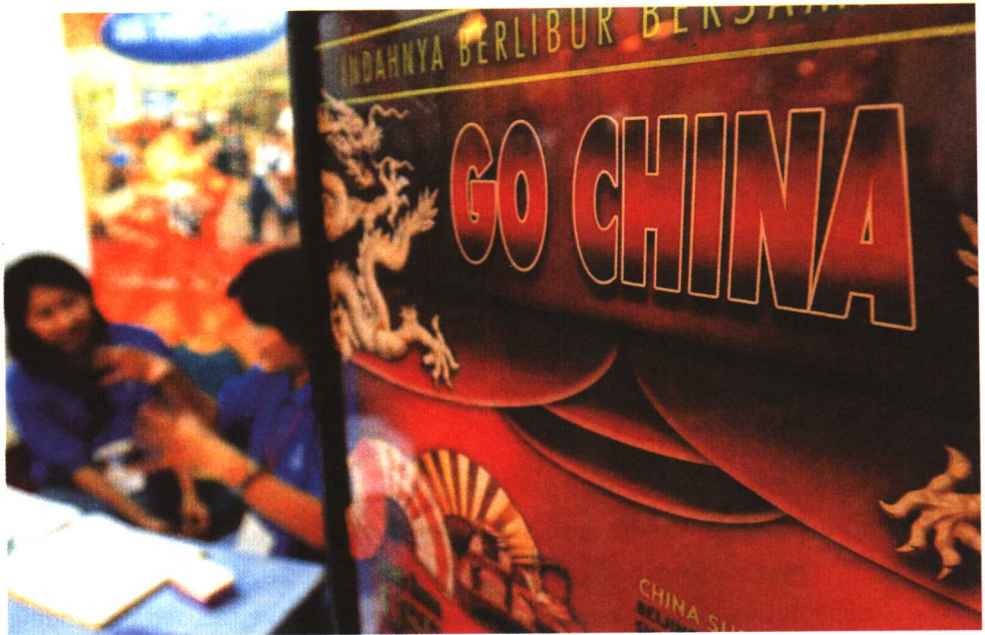
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Preface

China has opened itself to an unprecedented degree in recent years, and the rest of the world has taken note. In tandem with China's rapid economic development and the growing frequency of international exchanges, the Chinese language has become an important means of communication. As more people have come to realize the importance of learning Chinese, more foreign students have come to China to study. China is becoming one of the most attractive destination countries for foreign students.

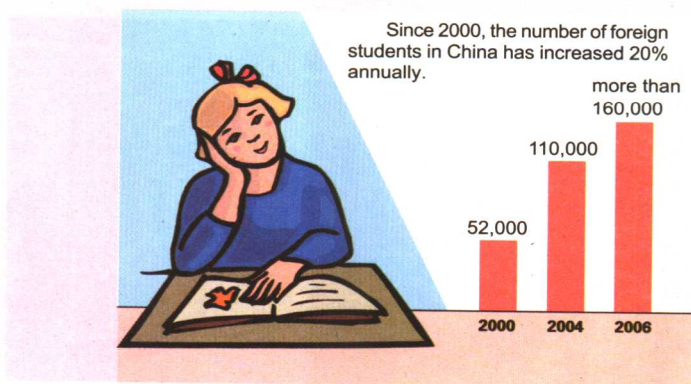
China opened a new chapter in its educational history in 1950, when the country played host to its first contingent of foreign students, a group of 33 people from East European nations. Since the country implemented its opening policy in 1978, the influx of foreign students has grown at a rapid rate. According to statistics released by the Ministry of Education, more foreign students visited China in 2006 than during any other year since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. That year also saw record numbers of source countries of foreign students and the universities welcoming them. Altogether, 162,695 foreign students from 184 countries and regions came to study in China that year, which increased 15.3% that of 2005. Of the total, the numbers of students pursuing master's and doctor's degrees grew considerably. They studied at 519 universities, colleges and institutes of scientific research in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government, majoring in the Chinese language, economics, history, philosophy, management, law, education, the sciences, engineering, medicine and agriculture. Most of the foreign students studied both the Chinese language and their major subject, establishing the formula "Chinese language + major". By learning the language, these students learn more about Chinese culture and play an



"Go China" is becoming the common dream of more foreign students.

active role in promoting exchanges and co-operation between their native countries and China, effectively creating a variety of future opportunities.

Official bodies in China have been actively encouraging foreign students to study in the country and have taken a series of measures to improve the environment for them to do so. For example, China allows foreign students to stay at the homes of local families, giving them more exposure to ordinary Chinese people and thereby deepening their understanding of the country. Classes are taught in both English and Chinese to attract more students who do not have strong Chinese-language skills. The authorities have been strengthening administration of educational services for foreign students and expanding the corps of teachers. China has also set up a comprehensive medical insurance system for foreign students. The country has created an information management system for foreign stu-



In recent years, the number of foreign students in China is increasing at a high speed.

dents and generally improved services and management by investing more in management and teachers. At the same time, China will continue to expand the number of educational opportunities

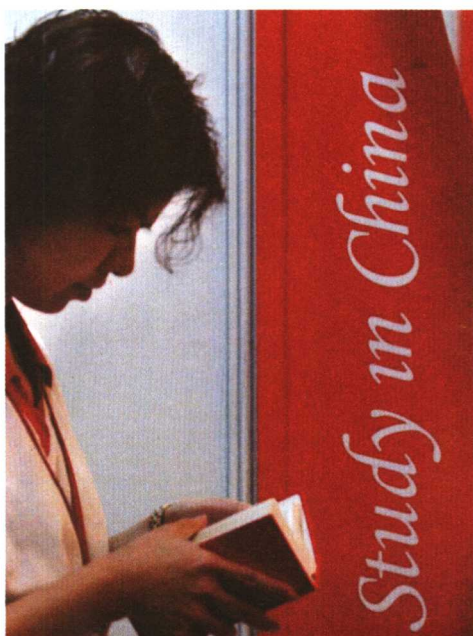
for foreign students, improve their quality and regulate management to further accelerate the development of services for foreign students.

China's universities and colleges have improved their scientific research capabilities in recent years. Many universities have focused on sending students abroad while welcoming foreign students, visiting scholars and other forms of international academic exchange. Many universities have strengthened their foreign language departments and included more international knowledge and foreign culture in their curricula. They have also focused on developing advantageous subjects to enhance their popularity in the world. All major universities in China are open to foreign students, offering education both with and without academic credentials. There are four categories of academic credentials available: undergraduate, MA or MS candidate and doctoral candidate. Non-credentialed programs are available for continuing studies and for scholars. Chinese universities have adopted different methods of educating and training foreign students in different categories, reflecting a fundamental flexibility. Programs range from short-term courses running from several weeks or several months all the way up to a complete four-year undergraduate education. Many universities will, depending on students' language skills, conduct classes in

one foreign language, bilingually or entirely in Chinese. Foreign students are currently studying in more than 500 universities and research institutions in China. Foreign students who are interested in studying in China may directly contact the universities.

On January 20, 2006, the Paris-based *European Times*, the largest Chinese-language newspaper in Europe, published a comment entitled "Taking the opportunity of China's economic development". The piece analyzed the worldwide "Chinese language craze" and "the craze for studying in China", particularly in economics and culture. The article noted that the "Chinese language craze" had grown beyond studying in China and had become a "global phenomenon" integrating economics and culture. The country's stable political situation, rapidly developing economy, growing prominence on the international stage and advanced educational offerings have become key attractions for foreign students. The relatively low cost of studying in China has only enhanced the country's attractiveness. From a global perspective, China's increasingly central place in the international order has bolstered interest in the Chinese language. Since the start of the new millennium, people around the world have come to realize that the ability to speak Chinese represents a real advantage in the global market. China has thus become a hot destination for forward-looking people.

On October 18, 2003, 32 Chinese universities attended the Chinese Education Exhibition in Jakarta, Indonesia. This is the first time for Chinese universities to conduct an exhibition in Indonesia.







Boundless Sea of Learning



A group of young people representing a variety of nationalities and ethnicities were dressed in black caps and gowns, hugging and cheering amid the applause, laughter and flashbulb bursts. The scene may sound reminiscent of any graduation ceremony in the United Kingdom or the United States, only it took place at a Chinese university. “Go study in China!” has become a common goal among young people from across the world. China, a simultaneously ancient and young nation, is vigorously courting such students.

Foreign Students Sitting for China's “University Entrance Examination”

In recent years, more and more foreign students have come to study in China. To measure the quality of these students and to make sure that they can keep up with the coursework at Chinese schools, famous universities like Peking University, Tsinghua University and Fudan University have established entrance examinations for undergraduates in some of their colleges and departments. The standard examination helps the university screen foreign applicants and is quite similar to the entrance examination required of Chinese students.

On June 4, 2005, more than 430 foreign students from over 20 countries entered the No 4 Classroom Building at Fudan University in Shanghai to sit for the entrance examination. At the same time, more than 70 students were sitting in branch examination rooms in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, and Beijing.

This special entrance examination for foreign students was unprecedented for a university on the Chinese mainland. Before entering the examination room, 20-year-old high-school graduate from Korea named Park So Yeon said: “The charm of Shanghai attracts me very much. I have wanted to come to Shanghai ever since I was a child.” Another 21-year-old Korean girl named Song Chi Hye said: “I have been preparing for studying at Fudan University’s Journalism Department for three years.” She added that she had studied two years of Chinese in Qingdao after graduating from high school. She came to Shanghai one year in advance for the



On June 4, 2005, a foreign student takes entrance examination in No.4 Classroom Building in Fudan University.

examination.

In addition to the standard examinations for Chinese, comprehensive arts or sciences, English and mathematics, all foreign students are required to score Elementary Grade Three or above in the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK), or test for Chinese language proficiency. The examination for Chinese is divided into three categories of language, as well as reading and writing, which is similar to the examination for Chinese students. Important content such as rhetoric; modern Chinese eminent writers including Lu Xun, Mao Dun and Zhu Ziqing; the doctrines of Confucius and Mencius, Tao Yuanming; poetry from the Tang and Song dynasties; and the four classic works in Chinese literature are all included in the outline for the examination. For foreign students, the first problem to be tackled is the Chinese language. The comprehensive papers and mathematics papers are given in Chinese. Applicants are recruited according to their scores on the examinations.