

Chen Yinger

Student

Ural Federal University

Research advisor: Korotich Elena Sergeevna

Senior teacher

Ural Federal University

Russia, Yekaterinburg

**CHINESE STUDENTS' ADAPTATION WHILE STUDYING IN RUSSIA
(URAL FEDERAL UNIVERSITY)**

***Abstract:** The article reveals some problems which Chinese students face to while studying in Russia. It also highlights the influence of the Russian culture to Chinese students according to such options as climate, food, education and social life. In the article some recommendations to university staff can be found as well.*

***Keywords:** Chinese students, cultural influence, education abroad, foreign students' adaptation.*

Чэнь Инер

Студент

Научный руководитель: Коротич Елена Сергеевна

Старший преподаватель

Уральский федеральный университет

Россия, г. Екатеринбург

**АДАПТАЦИЯ КИТАЙСКИХ СТУДЕНТОВ В РОССИИ
(УРАЛЬСКИЙ ФЕДЕРАЛЬНЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ)**

***Аннотация:** В статье раскрывается ряд проблем, с которыми сталкиваются китайские студенты в период учебы в России. В ней также*

описывается влияние русской культуры на китайских студентов по таким направлениям, как климат, еда, образование, социальная сфера. Также в ней можно найти рекомендации для персонала университета для лучшего взаимодействия с китайскими студентами.

Ключевые слова: *китайские студенты, культурное влияние, образование за границей, адаптация иностранных студентов.*

Ural Federal University (UrFU) has strong global ties. Internationalization is one of the University's top priorities. UrFU has established partnerships with more than 500 foreign universities from all over the globe. The University actively participates in international network projects such as Erasmus+, BRICS Network University, CIS Network University, Shanghai Cooperation Organization University, University of the Arctic, Association of Sino-Russian Technical Universities.

Around 4,400 international students from 101 countries are currently enrolled at Ural Federal University. The majority of international students come from Central Asia, China, South Korea, Latin America, Mongolia, Vietnam, and countries of Europe [1]. In this article Chinese students' adaptation is given more attention as Chinese students are in a majority among foreigners and China as a country is completely different from Russia.

To study what problems Chinese students have an issue with, a questionnaire was created [2]. The questionnaire consists of 27 questions of different types devoted to such options as «climate», «eating habits», «education», «social life», etc. And respondents were asked to give some recommendations to the University for a better communication with Chinese students.

The questionnaire has been joined by students of different grades, from first-year students to fourth-year students. From their answers we can see that most of them decide to study in Russia because they like the Russian culture, they want to learn the Russian language and they also admire the world ranking of university. There are 4.8% of students impressive for Russia as they have visited it before.

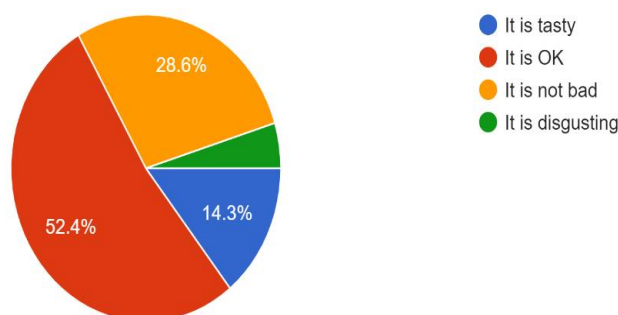
It is clear that for a long stay in another place, a person should have favorable conditions. So, the climate is one of the most important here. Chinese climate varies

from region to region as the country is so huge in the northeast, where being sites, the summer is hot and dry, the winter is freezingly cold. The north and central regions have frequent bouts rain coupled with hot summers and cold winters in the southeast. There is plenty of rainfall semi-tropical summers and cold winters.

The climate of Yekaterinburg is cold and temperate. It is a city with a significant rainfall. Even in the driest month there is a lot of rain. Chinese students here come from different regions of China, so the climate of Yekaterinburg influence Chinese students differently. From the questionnaire result we can see the feeling of Chinese students for climate here. 33.3% of students think that it is much colder than in their native region. 28.6% of students think that there is not much difference and 38.1% of students think that it is changeable, but they feel OK about it.

The next significant part of life is food. As a Chinese saying says «Food is the paramount necessity of the people». So, eating is one of the most important things in their lives in Russia. Russian food has big difference with Chinese food. But most students can accept it and decide to eat it sometimes at university canteen or in a restaurant (Picture 1).

5. How do you find the Russian food ?
(21 条回复)

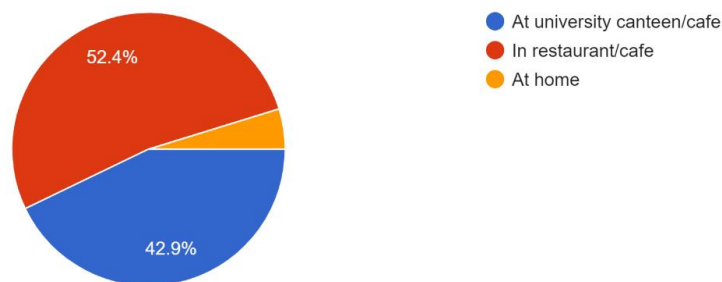


Picture 1. Question 5. How do you find the Russian food?

But Chinese students prefer Chinese food more. And most of them know how to cook it. Luckily, it is not so difficult to find the original materials for cooking Chinese food in Russia. There is a Chinese market in Yekaterinburg. And they can order what they want by Wechat (the most popular chatting app in China). They also buy

something online using such websites like OZON (an online website people use in Russia). Actually, there are some Chinese restaurants in Yekaterinburg as well. But it is a little pricy and far from the dormitory where students live. Thus, most of restaurants provide the serve of delivering, so there is no problem that Chinese students eat Chinese food. And Chinese food also greatly eases the homesickness of Chinese students (Picture 2).

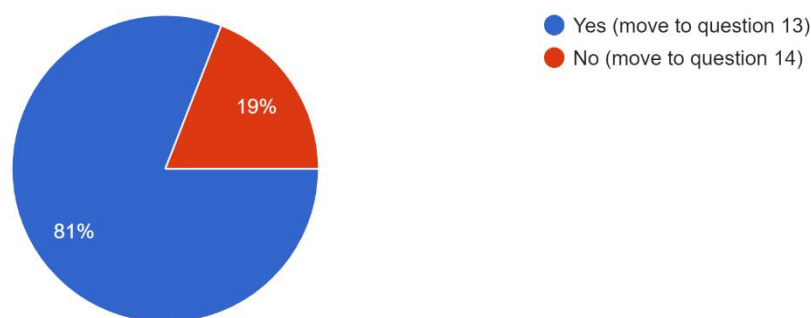
7. Where do you eat the Russian food?
(21 条回复)



Picture 2. Question 7. Where do you eat the Russian food?

The most essential thing for students is education. So, some questions were devoted to find out more about Chinese students' satisfaction of studying in Ural Federal University. The majority agreed the way of studying in Russia (Picture 3).

12. Do you like the way of studying in Russia?
(21 条回复)



Picture 3. Question 12. Do you like the way of studying in Russia?

They give several reasons to prove their opinions:

1. Russia has its own unique charm; it is difficult to explain why. Perhaps, thanks to Russian poets.

2. Education in Russia is open, and they like the way Russian teachers teach. «I could communicate with my teacher in English or Russian for a long time at university, which makes my oral English and Russian improve quickly» - says one of the respondents.

3. The schedule at University allows to have more free time.

But, unfortunately, not all students share the way of studies in Russia. Among disadvantages they give following opinions:

1. Some of students feel like they going to university in China as they only can see Chinese people every day, and there are very few classes a week with Russian people.

2. There are very few activities for foreign students.

3. It is difficult to understand courses (especially, in Russian).

Since Chinese students decided to study in Russia, the Russian language has been very important to their lives. 95.2% of respondents try their best to speak Russian. They study it in different ways: some studied it in China before coming here; others are having a Russian language course, and they also study online, etc.

When they meet a problem with speaking Russian, there are also a lot of ways to solve it. They use a translation app like «Yandex» or «Google». They speak English if other people know it, etc.

As for Chinese students' social life, they describe it as wonderful and diverse.

Some of them have Russian friends and some of them have only Chinese friends. They have some activities when they are free. Most of them are satisfied with their social life.

The next point which is considered to be essential is medical care. According to the questionnaire answers, 66.7 % of students have been ill while in Russia. And they decided to buy medicine themselves or go to hospital. 95.2% of them do not have problems with medical care in Russia.

Finally, Chinese students joined into the research also give some recommendations to University to improve the cooperation with them. Firstly, it would be better to upgrade work of the department which is responsible for working

with students who are just going to come to University (especially, allocating dormitory in advance). Secondly, it would be better to provide e-books for Chinese students who are taught in Russian mostly. And, thirdly, to organize a free and extra Russian class for Chinese students to improve their speaking skills.

Overall, life in Russia has a lot of fun. It makes foreign students feel a completely different cultural atmosphere. Being foreign student, the Chinese should learn to be independent and quickly integrate into a completely different life, which also gives them a deeper understanding of a country.

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