



FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

Factors influencing Chinese students' study abroad and their psychosocial and academic experiences during study abroad

Public defense to obtain the degree of
DOCTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES
of

Mr. Chun Cao

which will take place on

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Brussels Humanities, Sciences & Engineering Campus (Etterbeek)

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EXTERNAL:

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Summary

International students have emerged as a cohort in huge numbers featured by rapid increase, a wide spectrum of benefits for the host country and host university and personal development. After arriving in a particular destination country, international students have to experience acculturative stressors resulting from “culture shock” due to immersion in a linguistically and culturally different environment. It deserves attention that Chinese international students sojourning in western countries seem to be a more vulnerable acculturating group during their acculturation process in comparison to many other international student groups.

This dissertation mainly focuses on what factors influenced Chinese students' interests in study abroad, how they are acculturated academically and socially during study abroad, and what factors may contribute to positive acculturation outcomes.

Curriculum Vitae

Chun Cao graduated from Jilin University in China with a master degree. He started his Ph.D. at the Department of Educational Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in October, 2012.

His research mainly focused on the fields of academic mobility, acculturation, adaptation, social relationships and academic performance. During his five years of PhD research, he actively participated in international conferences to present his studies. He also published six articles in international journals during the period of his PhD research.