

Ever since my arrival in Changsha, BSK International just as well as the whole team of professors and coordinators from Mass Media Vocational College has been incredibly hospitable and took the best care of my needs. Starting at the pick up at the airport by really friendly coordinator of our program that guided me to our dorms which are newly and nicely furnished I felt really welcome in the city. Everyone makes sure that everything is ok and that I feel comfortable in my place of living but also with the schedule that we are given.

The classes in university vary in topics as well as different difficulty levels. It is understandable that some of the essential subjects such as reading, listening, writing and curriculum are more challenging, since Chinese is a very complex and difficult language to learn. But I can personally see, that after every class there is some progress from my side and that even in this short time span of four months I will be to achieve certain level of understanding and have a proper conversation with some locals. Additionally, we have culturally oriented subjects that can bring us closer to Chinese people and understand their history, traditions and mentality. I really enjoy the Chinese panorama, tea art, paper cutting and wushu class, since all of them are exponentially different in their essence but all lead to the cultural heart of China. I personally feel, that this mix of theoretical, practical and cultural approach of teaching is the best way to awaken interest in students, and even I would personally love to continue learning Chinese, even after my semester is over in Changsha.

I also must mention the dinning culture, which is something I fell in love at first sight. Not only the food is incredibly cheap, it is also amazingly tasty. Every day I am trying to have some different dish and try different taste and so far, I must say that I have liked everything that I ate. We have a food stands in front of our university every afternoon, and since we are quite white European looking, many of the street selling people recognize us and are happy to sell some food to us.

Generally, I find it really funny, that even at this time and with such a huge city, being European is something that people are completely not used to see. Very often we have locals turning heads after us, taking pictures or trying to strike a conversation followed by lot of laughs since none of us can yet understand each other. All in all, I am enjoying my stay very much, I think that the city is energetic and has a lot of interesting areas that can be explored and cannot wait for the next months in here and all the new adventures waiting for me.

I hereby agree that this Letter of Experience, incl. my picture, can be published

Barbara Kráľovičová

