



# Chinese Students' Transition at the University of Dayton

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## 中国留学生在UD

## 中国，教育，文化

### Purpose of The Research

The purpose of the research is to understand the inherent characteristics combined with newly created identities of Chinese students, exam the existing bridge program, and find the best ways to help Chinese students transition to American higher education system by hearing their internal voice and story.

### What is the BEST Program?

BEST Program is a summer exchange program for the future international students of UD. It not just enrolls Chinese students, but the majority population in the program are Chinese students. During the month, the students would live at residence hall with their peers and take summer classes, The classes are very comprehensive. The university would also arrange some field trips for the students. The goal of the Best Program is attracting more international students to study in UD, and also help them prepare for studying in UD.

### What is IEP?

Through the Intensive English Program, students benefit from a concentrated and intense language program combined with a true American university experience. The aims of IEP is to introduce language learners to the American culture though continuous interaction with American and foreign students on campus. Through field trips, our conversation partner program, intercultural living communities, and involvement in student clubs on campus, our students develop strong English skills preparing them for university classroom or the work place.



“我喜欢美国高等教育”  
(I like American higher education.)  
---- Shuhao, second year graduate Chinese student.

“我不知道自己想做什么，就来美国念书，寻找自己想做的事情，现在我找到了。” (I did not know what I wanted to do, that's why I came and studied in the U.S. However, right now I find what I want to do.)  
----- Xiaoqiao, second year graduate Chinese student.

“白人对自身的优越感，我个人不是很喜欢。”  
(I dislike the superiority of the whites.)  
----- Xiaohong, freshman

“学校的支持不是特别够。”  
(The academic supports from university are not enough.)  
----- Laohei, second year graduate Chinese student.

### Findings

- Self-conscious awareness is very important for Chinese students. (Whether they know why they study abroad)
- Financial issues might influence Chinese students' transition.
- Social and relationship building is always a challenge for Chinese students.
- Independence – interdependence
- Two majority cultural shocks for Chinese students are American family values and American students' sexuality chaos.
- Compared with Chinese higher education, Chinese students prefer American higher education.
- Chinese students are sensitive for discrimination.
- Chinese students are all deeply grateful of their professors' help, but also express that they lack other academic supports.