



威雅·常州
WAS Changzhou

梦想成真

LIVING THE DREAM

常州威雅国际奖学金学生中国留学精彩故事文集

A Collection of Compelling Essays by
Wycombe Abbey International
China Scholars at WASCZ



每一个孩子都卓越
EVERY CHILD CAN EXCEL





2024年夏天, 国际奖学金生在常州威雅学校。
In summer of 2024, international scholars gathered at Wycombe Abbey School Changzhou



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联合主编:曹定、大卫·福苏(英国)

中文翻译:李晓雪、王洪翠



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编者序

当我和大卫·福苏一起启动编纂这本留学生故事文集时，我们两人都没有预料能读到这么多打动人心的优秀作品。每篇文章都充盈着感激、反思和自豪，组成了一幅正如他们的留学中国经历一样丰富而难忘的人生画卷。

这16个故事的作者是来自英国的常州威雅学校优秀奖学金生。在2023年和2024年，他们分批在这里开启了留学中国的生活。他们用真实的情感、平实的文字、生动的事例讲述了各自独特而非凡的留学经历，这些经历在他们人生旅途中留下了不可磨灭的印记。

这些文章尽管篇幅长短不同，写作风格各异，但有三个主题词频繁出现：感激、改变和延续。每一位作者对奖学金项目以及相关的中外方师生都表达了由衷的感激之情，这种情感自然地流露在每一篇故事的字里行间。改变也是一个重点的主题词。每一位作者在故事中都讲述了留学中国的经历如何重塑了自己，对人生产生了哪些深刻的影响，无论是学业，还是社交，包括对中国的认知和印象。延续是这些年轻作者共同的心声。每一位奖学金生不仅感恩自己的受益，还希望奖学金项目能延续不断，在未来让更多世界青年受益。

从这些故事中，我们读到了奖学金项目的深刻内涵——它是一座跨文化交流的桥梁，它是一份个人和学术成长的催化剂，它是一种积极而持久地影响青年人生的源泉。

威雅奖学金项目于2023年正式启动，其宗旨是向全球优秀青年提供高质量的国际教育，促进世界青年与中国青年的交流学习，增进不同文化之间的相互尊重与理解。这些故事彰显了奖学金项目取得的成就，传递着包容互鉴的学者精神，鉴证了中英青年的友好交流，更激励着我们威雅大家庭的全体成员与这些学生一样，不断追求卓越，努力实现梦想。

曹定、大卫·福苏
2024年12月31日

曹定：常州威雅学校中方校长

大卫·福苏：常州威雅学校社区建设副校长

Preface

When David Fosu and I embarked on the journey of compiling this collection of scholars' essays, we could never have anticipated the profound and touching stories that lay ahead. Each narrative is brimming with gratitude, reflection, and pride, creating a tapestry of lasting memories as rich as the experiences of studying in China.

The authors of these 16 essays are exceptional international students from the UK who joined WAS Changzhou as scholars in 2023 and 2024. Through genuine emotions, plain language, and vivid examples, they recount their unique and extraordinary scholarship experiences that have left a transformative and lasting imprint on their lives.

While each essay varies in length and writing style, three key themes consistently emerge: gratitude, change, and continuation. Gratitude is a common thread, with every author expressing sincere appreciation for the scholarship program and the support from Chinese and foreign teachers and students. This heartfelt thankfulness shines through in every story.

Change is another prominent theme. Each author shares how studying in China has reshaped them, profoundly impacting their academic and social lives, and transforming their perceptions of China. Their stories illustrate the personal growth and broader understanding gained through this cultural exchange.

Continuation represents the scholars' hope that the program will continue to benefit more young people worldwide. Their essays express not only thankfulness for their own experiences but also a desire for others to have similar opportunities, highlighting the enduring value of the scholarship program.

Through these essays, we see the true essence of the scholarship program: a bridge between cultures, a catalyst for personal and academic growth, and a source of lasting, positive change in the lives of young people.

The Wycombe Abbey Scholarship Program was initiated in 2023, aiming to provide high-quality international education to outstanding young people, promote exchanges and learning among scholars from China and other countries, and enhance mutual respect and understanding across cultures. These essays showcase the program's achievements, embody the spirit of mutual learning and inclusiveness, and bear witness to the friendly exchanges between Chinese and British youth. They inspire us as members of the eminent Wycombe Abbey International Community to strive for excellence and pursue our dreams with the same passion and determination as these scholars.

Ding Cao & David Fosu
Dec.31 2024

Ding Cao, Chinese Principal of WASCZ and David Fosu, Deputy Head of WASCZ (Community) are co-editors for this publication.



在真实的中国实现我的梦想

凯瑟琳·派克

在来常州之前，我一直在生活在伦敦郊外一个只有4000人的小乡村。我不会说一句中文，而且坦白讲，我对世界和生活的总体认识相当有限。我现在在中国已学习生活了一年多。我从未料想到，自己从这段经历中成长为如今的我。这个奖学金项目极大丰富了我的学习经历，不仅在语言方面，更是在文化领域、交友之道以及如何实现自己的梦想。

我很感谢威雅奖学金项目，感谢我的朋友和非常耐心的中文老师，我现在可以听懂汉语对话，这为我打开了一扇大门，让我认识了曾经因为语言障碍而可能无法认识的人。

2023年，我在上海的一个市场里遇到了一位名叫玛丽的中国女士。那是我第一次用普通话和中国人交流。玛丽开了一家茶馆，店内的墙上陈列着数百种不同的茶叶，我完全不知道那些是什么东西，因为当时我唯一熟悉的茶只有*英式早餐茶和奶茶。但玛丽很友好地向我介绍茶叶的历史和她自己的情况。我不止学到了茶叶的知识，这段经历告诉我，无论我们有多大的差异，无论我们在哪里长大，无论我们对彼此有什么先入之见，我们都只是普通人。玛丽来自一个2500万人口的城市，而我来自一个4000人的小镇，但我们都热爱音乐和一杯好茶，我们都是普通人。

玛丽并不是我唯一亲近接触的中国人。在这里，留学经历给了我以前没有的机会，其中之一就是加入篮球队。我们的团队规模起步很小，但在我们坚持不

懈的努力下，现在已经成为一个蓬勃发展的社区。这个团队由女生构成，团队的每个人都不遗余力。在这些女孩的“帮助下”，我的中文词汇中有很大一部分是体育俚语，但我不希望在其他场合用到。虽然说起来略显尴尬，但我们球队已经成为了一个家庭。每当我们赢得比赛，我们都会一起跳起来尖叫。每次我们输掉比赛（不太经常啦，不要担心），那些人都是我拥抱的人。如果不是这项奖学金，我永远不会遇到这些了不起的女孩，她们中的许多人已成为我的挚友。

在与许多中国学生建立了宝贵友谊的同时，我也很幸运地找到了与其他奖学金生交流的社区。虽然在机场排队办理登机手续不是典型的见面场所，但我在那里遇到了一些我最喜欢的人。远离家乡意味着我们彼此依赖，因此变得更加亲密。我学会了独立，也学会了珍惜身边的人，向他们学习。在我们第一次一起度假的时候，我们坐在某人的房间促膝长谈至深夜。有人问到：“如果你可以穿越到过去，你还会接受奖学金吗？”所有人都异口同声地说会。“为什么呢？”我当时没有附和，因为我不好意思向一群刚认识一个月的人承认这一点。但我内心的答案是肯定的，因为如果没有这个项目，我就不可能和他们一起坐在那个房间里。这就是奖学金项目的意义，它把我们聚集在一起。

对我个人来说，我最感恩的一点是，这个奖学金项目让我能够追求一个我一度以为只是一个梦而已的梦想。我一直想成为一名音乐制作人。但直到

*英式早餐茶：英国最具代表性的红茶之一，一般由阿萨姆、斯里兰卡和肯尼亚产的茶叶混合而成。



来到这里之后，我才获得了学习音乐技术的机会。如果没有奖学金项目，我就没有机会学我理想的专业，积累我所需的经验，更不会收到美国纽约大学音乐制作专业的录取通知书。我永远感恩这所学校、感谢音乐部的老师们，助力我达到这样的水平，并为我提供了这么多我以前从未有过的、难以置信的机会。

在学校的经历非常棒，但最好的时光还是在假期。这给了我一个独特的机会来更多地了解整个中国。我还记得第一次看到外滩，我们所有人都敬畏地站在那里，然后迈克尔开始大喊我们在上海。我还记得伊莫金和我去苏州过端午节的一日游，在那里我们看到所有的船都排好队准备参加一年一度的比赛。走在南京的街道上，第一次品尝柚子，然后我每周都把它列入我的购物清单。我仍然记得，带着我的父母周游中国，向他们介绍这个在过去一年里我称之为“家”的地方。我记得他们在上飞机前的怀疑态度，以及他们在抵达后试图适应这个国家时的困惑表情。老实说，我很担心。

我越来越喜欢这个地方了，我真的很想让我父母明白其中的缘由。你可以想象，当他们和我一样，逐渐接纳中国文化时露出了笑脸，我是多么高兴。当他们试着用我每天教他们的几个中文小短语时流露出了兴奋；当我用普通话和别人交谈，他们看到我的这种成长时流露出的惊讶；还有当他们品尝到正宗的中国菜时，他们流下了喜悦的眼泪（尽管眼泪可能只是因为麻婆豆腐的味道），没有什么东西比我父母这种兴奋、惊讶和喜悦更加纯粹了。当我把他们送到机场准备回国时，我妈妈告诉我她很惊讶。考虑到她之前对中国的看法，她惊讶于中国人的友好，惊讶于中国人做事的高效性，惊讶于



这个国家比她想象的更美丽。我就是想让他们感到惊讶。我们来自一个对中国不甚了解的地方，很容易做出假想。只有来到这里，我们才能用现实取代那些假想。这个奖学金项目给了我一次在中国文化中“被惊喜”的机会，也是一次因这段经历中的成长而让自己惊喜的机会。我的目标是向更多人介绍这个非凡的国家来延续这一连串的喜悦。

我真心希望，即使在我今年毕业后，奖学金项目也能保持下去。这段经历重塑了我的思维方式，永远地改变了我的生活。如果我没有登上那趟航班，就不会有今天的我。我希望将来别人也能得到同样的机会，更多人值得拥有这样的惊喜。



Living My Dream in Real China

Katharine Pike

I have spent just over a year in China now, and the person I am now coming out of this experience is someone I could have never imagined. This scholarship has granted me so many learning experiences not just in terms of languages, but in culture, friendship and the skills needed to live my dreams.

Prior to moving to Changzhou, I grew up in village of 4000 people, outside London. I did not speak a single word of Chinese and to be honest, my knowledge of the world and life in general was rather limited. Thanks to the scholarship, my friends and my very patient Chinese teachers, I can now understand conversations in Mandarin, opening the gates for me to get to know those who I maybe wouldn't have due to language barriers.

In 2023, in a market in Shanghai I got to use my Mandarin for the first time when I met a Chinese lady called Mary. Mary owned a tea shop. The walls inside were lined with hundreds of different tea leaves. I was not sure what any of them were since the only tea I was familiar with at the time was English Breakfast and nai cha, but Mary was kind enough to teach me about its history and herself. That was not all I learnt though, the experience taught me that no matter how different we are, no matter where we grew up, no matter whatever preconceptions we have about each other, we are all just people. Mary comes from a city of 25 million and me, one of 4000, but we both love music and a good cup of tea. We are both just people.

Mary was not the only person I grew close to. Studying here gave me opportunities I did not previously have; one being joining a basketball team. Our team started small, but we persevered and have become a thriving community full of incredible girls each putting in the

max effort to become the best. Thanks to those girls, a large part of my Chinese vocabulary consists of sports slang, but I would not want it any other way. Although it feels awkward to say, that team became a family. Every time we won, those were the people I would be jumping and screaming with. Every time we lost (not too often do not worry), those were the people I hugged. If it were not for this scholarship, I would never have met any of those amazing girls, many of which I consider friends for life.

While I made many valuable friendships with the Chinese students here, I was fortunate enough to find a community with the other scholars. Although an airport check-in queue is not your typical meet cue, that was where I met some of my favourite people. Being away from home meant that we relied on each other and grew close as a result. I learnt to be independent, but I also learnt to value those around me, and learn from them. On one of our first holidays together, we were all sat in someone's room chatting until late into the night. At some point someone posed the question "If you could go back in time, would you still accept the scholarship?", all of us said yes. "Why?", although I did not say it at the time, because I was embarrassed to admit it to a group of people I had only met a month ago, one of my main reasons was because without the scholarship, I would not be sitting in that room spending time with them. That is the thing about this opportunity, it brings people together.

For me, the thing I am most grateful for, is how this scholarship enabled me to pursue a dream that I once thought would just be a dream. I always wanted to be a music producer, but I only had the chance to learn music technology when I moved here. If it were not for this generosity, I would not have learnt what I



needed to, gained the experience I needed, and may not have received an offer to study music production at NYU. I am forever grateful for the incredible music department at this school for helping me reach that point and for providing me with so many incredible opportunities I never previously had.

While the experiences I have had within school have been great, the best times have been during the holidays. This gave me the unique chance to learn more about China as a whole. I still remember the first time seeing the Bund and all of us just standing in awe before Michael started shouting something about being in Shanghai. I still remember Imogen and I's little day trip to Suzhou for the dragon boat festival, where we got to see all the boats lined up ready for the annual race. Walking through the streets of Nanjing, trying pomelo for the first time and instantly adding it to my shopping list every following week. I still remember, taking my parents around China, being able to introduce them to the place I called home for the past year. I remember their scepticism before the flight and their confused faces as they tried to adjust to the country upon arrival. Honestly, I was worried.

I have grown to love this place so much and I really wanted them to understand why. You can imagine how happy I was when I saw their grinning faces as they enveloped themselves in the culture, the same way I had. There was nothing purer than their excitement as they tried to use a few small Mandarin phrases I had taught them each day, or their bewilderment when I started talking to people in Mandarin and they saw how I had grown, or their tears of joy when they tried authentic Chinese cuisine (though the tears may have just been from the spice of the Mapo tofu). As I left them at the airport, my mum told me she was surprised. Given what she had thought about China previously, she was surprised how friendly people were, she was surprised how efficient everything was, she was surprised that the country was somehow more beautiful than she imagined. I want people to be



surprised. Coming from a place where we do not learn much about China, it is easy to assume things. Only by coming here are we able to replace those assumptions with the reality. This scholarship gave me the chance to be surprised by the Chinese culture and to surprise myself with my growth throughout the experience. I aim to continue this chain of surprise by introducing more people to this extraordinary country.

I truly hope that, even after I graduate this year, the scholarship program continues. Everything about this experienced reshaped my way of thinking and changed my life forever, I would not be the person I am today had I not boarded that flight. I hope that someone in the future gets that same chance. More people deserve to be surprised.



留学中国： 我人生的一段关键时期

查理·博尔顿

在16岁这样的年龄来到中国，无疑是一件令人生畏的事。但我深知，这也是一次绝无仅有的机遇，我必须牢牢把握。来到这所享有国际盛誉的学校——常州威雅求学，是我人生的一段关键时期。在这里，我不仅能深入了解和学习中国语言和文化，还能在学术严谨的环境中，在优秀的师生陪伴下，追求我对生物化学的梦想。

常州与我所熟悉的家乡英国乡村的环境有着天壤之别。在这里，我亲眼观察到了生活中的方方面面，感受到了那些推动中国快速发展，领先全球的科技进步的力量。学习过程中，我对药理学有了更深的理解，同时也让我拓宽了对人工智能巨大潜力的视野，尤其是在中国的人工智能研发仅次于美国的背景下。这段经历让我明确了自己的学术方向，也把我培养成了一位英国名校的优秀申请者，我在这里获得了剑桥大学自然科学专业的面试资格——这是剑桥大学最受欢迎且竞争最激烈的专业之一。

除了学术方面，学校丰富的课外活动和运动课程为个人成长和团队合作提供了绝佳的环境。我有幸参加了中国多个地区的游泳比赛，结识了来自中国和全球各地才华横溢、志同道合的学生。我还得到了一个难以置信的机会，作为学校赛艇队队员，也是中国第一支高中生八人赛艇队，参加了久负盛名的全英亨利



皇家赛艇比赛。此外，通过参与各种体育活动，如极限飞盘、羽毛球、英式橄榄球、网球等，让我确信自己接受了全面发展的教育。

在假期中，我们离开校园，进一步融入中国文化。我参加了常州、南京、苏州当地的名胜之旅，并前往北京、上海这样的大城市游览。在这些旅途中，我尽情地体验中国传统文化和当地美食，包括参观夜市、博物馆以及举世闻名的长城。这些旅行为我提供了绝佳的探索中国文化和风土人情的机会。

总之，这次千载难逢的求学之旅远远超出了我的预期。在中国的这段经历，让我结交了许多优秀的朋友，经历了很多全新的事物。**我认为自己在推动中英两国关系的道路上做出了重要贡献，并期待看到两国关系进一步加强。**我渴望见证这个留学项目蓬勃发展，并涌现出越来越多的杰出人才。



Studying in China: A Pivotal Moment in My Life

Charlie Poulton

Moving to China at the age of 16 was undoubtedly daunting, but I knew it was an opportunity that would only come once, and I had to take it up. Attending the prestigious international school that is Wycombe Abbey Changzhou was a pivotal moment in my life; it gave, and still gives me the incredible opportunity to immerse myself in a culture and language I had spent so much time learning about. On top of this, it gave me a chance to pursue my passion for biochemistry through my studies in a rigorous academic environment surrounded by brilliant peers and teachers who constantly push me to what I know I am capable of.

Changzhou city is a wildly different environment than the rural England I was used to back home. It gave firsthand insights into many different aspects of life that enabled China's rapid growth and ability to excel in the world of technology and science. Studying deepened my understanding of pharmacology and opened my eyes to the rising potential artificial intelligence has, especially since China is only second to the US in terms of AI research and development. This experience really helped me determine my academic trajectory and mould me into an excellent candidate for the best universities in the UK, so much so that it aided me in securing an interview for Natural Sciences at Cambridge, one of the university's most popular and competitive courses.

In addition to academia, the vast range of extracurriculars and sporting activities offered at the school allows for incredible personal growth and teamwork. I was fortunate enough to participate in swimming competitions in many parts of China, which gave rise to me making incredible connections with talented and likeminded individuals from all over China and even the world. I was also given

the amazing opportunity to attend the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta rowing event as a member of the first Chinese high school eight-man boat to ever enter the regatta. Alongside various other sporting activities, such as ultimate frisbee, badminton, rugby, and netball, these events allowed me to ensure my education was as well-rounded as possible.

During the holidays, to escape school and further engage with Chinese culture, I took part in trips to local landmarks in Changzhou, Nanjing, and Suzhou, as well as larger cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. On these trips, I immersed myself in as much tradition, language, and food as possible, which involved visiting night markets, museums, and the infamous Great Wall and made for extraordinary opportunities for exploration.

Overall, this golden ticket opportunity has become everything I wanted and more. I have made great connections and experienced things I never thought I would have experienced. **I feel I have contributed significantly to paving the way towards stronger connections between the UK and China, and I wish to see this relationship strengthen.** I cannot wait to see how this program evolves and to see the amazing individuals emerging from it.





我将永远珍视的 一段自我变革经历

伊莫金·特纳尔

第一次踏上前往中国的飞机，背井离乡，暂别家人与朋友，来到一座数百万人口的城市，进入一种完全不同的文化——无论是学术上还是社交上，对我来说是一件最害怕的事。然而，如果再给我一次机会，我仍然会义无反顾地做同样的选择。

来中国之前，我是一个安静、勤奋的学生，一心只想考上大学，满心期待高中毕业后去旅行，去看看外面的世界。如今，我变得更加外向，更加自信，更善于团队合作，能用中文结交朋友，对学习有了更高的追求目标。而这一切都是威雅中国奖学金项目带来的改变。

我在中国和常州威雅学校的初体验就是寄宿生活。对于我这样一个没有兄弟姐妹，也没有上过寄宿学校的人来说，我预料自己会不知所措。当我和我的室友，以及学院的同学初次见面后，我对他们的勤奋和善良感到惊讶。我认为这种环境是专注学术的关键催化剂。在一个寝室里看到其他人为设定目标而努力，这让我非常有动力。我真的相信，即使我离开这所学校，我仍然会和我的室友保持联系，因为他们真的是这段经历中至关重要的人，我永远心怀感激，我们能变得如此亲密。

我喜欢学习中文，因为这是一种文化、社交、语言的奇妙融合。我真心觉得，学习一门语言是一件最

有成就感的事情。因为它就像打开了生活走廊里一扇新的大门，让我拥有友谊、学会团队合作和终身学习。这个奖学金留学项目让我走出自己的舒适区，积极尝试与人交流，即使我不完全理解，但让我变得更加外向，它使得我相信我现在拥有了“第二个家庭”。

作为学校女篮校队一员，我通过团队合作和交流结交了更亲密的朋友——这些技能对篮球来说是必不可少的。每周三和周日的训练，是我的校园生活的固定日程。这不仅让我保持积极主动的状态，还让我与老师以及同伴们更亲密。通过去新西兰的篮球之旅，我觉得我已成为这个跨年级的紧密团结的团队一员。像这样代表校队的机会是我在英国从未有过的。现在，这是我选择大学的一个主要因素，因为我沉浸在一个真正的团队环境中，我永远不想丢下这一部分。在英国进入高中以后，我就不再打篮球了，也没有参加任何体育俱乐部。但在常州威雅，体育经历让篮球再次成为我身份的一部分。

当然，在常州威雅，学习是我的一个主要任务。从可能一天上一两节课，有大量自由时间自学（就像英国大学的时间表一样）到一天上十节课——从早上8:15到下午6点——很艰难。一开始，我学习上感觉很有压力，因为我以前不习惯周围都是专心致志的同学。我想知道我是否能赶上他们，并取得像他们那样



的成绩。然而，我现在已经成为这种学习方式的倡导者。我必须自学，尤其是像数学和地理这样的案例研究科目，否则将无法帮助我取得现在的高分。我的老师们如此平易近人，积极主动，这让我的世界变得不同。之前，我在寻求帮助时会感到无所适从，但在这里，我确实感受到老师们对我的学习很关系，我非常感激他们。他们放弃了休息时间，努力提高我的理解能力和学习能力。我坚信，我们的努力是有回报的，并将反映在我的成绩上。

除了日常教学结构，我觉得班级规模也让我受益匪浅。从英国学校的 32 人到现在的 9 人，能让我更多地吸收老师讲授的内容。而且，这些课程是为我们这



些学生量身定制的，老师不会忽视那些真正需要额外关注的学生，而会忽略那些表现“不错”的学生。在这里，我觉得表现“不错”现在是一种常态。在这里，我觉得我正积极反思过去对自己强项和弱项的看法。我认识到，不能只求“及格”便好。我希望这种心态能伴随我一生。我现在对学术更渴望成功，这反映在我的大学目标中。以前，我的想法是去一所入学要求中等的体面大学，因为我从来没有真正想过要追求更高的目标。然而现在，周围都是目标更高、申请 G5 大学的人，这种心态对我产生了影响。我现在的选择包括一些竞争激烈的著名大学，两年前我根本就没有想过去这些大学学习。

接受更全面的教育，参加必修的课外活动和体育活动也进一步促进了我成为一个全面发展的人。我有时间从事一些过去的爱好，比如和一些技能丰富的老师一起上艺术课，这让我吸收了很多非学术方面的知识。从一个不知油画为何物的我到自己的油画作品代表学校艺术系在常州的赛艇节上参展，如果我没有来这里，我怀疑我不能坚持绘画，也肯定不会把我的作品拿去展出。这也帮助我培养了耐心、尝试新事物的生活技能，以及当画作与图片不太一样时的适应力。来到艺术系，即使是在假期也让我感觉很平静，和其他在艺术室里有同样感受的人在一起，这培养了共同的兴趣，也是我发展友谊的另一种方式。

我觉得这个奖学金留学项目彻底改变了我——让我变得更加自信和独立，对自己的身份和学业更加有信心，甚至家人也看到了我的心态和信心的转变。我觉得这为我提供了学习大量的课内外知识的机会，让我在毕业时能够自信地迈进一步。我真的很感恩这段经历。因为它塑造了今天的我，这是一段我将永远珍视的成长经历。

A Transformative Experience I Will Always Treasure

Imogen Turner

Stepping on the plane to China for the first time was one of the scariest things to do, leaving my town and all friends and family for a city of millions, a different culture – academically and socially, yet, knowing what this experience is like now, I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Before I came to China, I was a quiet, hard-working student, who just wanted to get to university so I could travel and explore the real world outside of high school. And now I've become more extroverted, willing to teamwork, capable of using Chinese language to makes friends, and confident to aim higher in my academic life.

One of my first experiences of China and the Wycombe Abbey Changzhou is the boarding. Having no siblings and having never been to boarding school before, I didn't know what to expect. When we first met, I was amazed at how hardworking and kind my roommates and house were; I truly think this environment was a key catalyst for my academia as being in a room, seeing others working towards their goals is highly motivating. I truly believe I will still be friends and keep in contact with my roommates even when I leave this school as they are really the people who can make or break this experience, and I feel forever grateful that we have become so close.

I loved learning Chinese as it was a blend of culture lessons, talking with people on the other side of the world and learning a language so different to my own. I truly feel like learning a language is one of the most fulfilling things to do as it just unlocks a new door in the corridor of life, filled with friendships, teams and lifelong learning. **This scholarship really forced me to come out of my comfort zone to actively try to participate in conversations, even if I don't fully**

understand, and become more extroverted, and it has resulted in a second family, which I believe I have now.

Being part of a sports team, like the netball team also helped me make closer friends through teamwork and conversation: skills that are essential for netball. Having training every Wednesday and Sunday not only gave me some structure and discipline to my week by keeping me active, but it also allowed me to get closer to the staff training me and alongside me. Through the netball tour to New Zealand, I felt I was part of a close-knit team, ranging from grades 8 to 12. Opportunities like this, training with coaches that used to play for their national teams is something I never would've had at home, where I didn't even know if I was going to carry on with sport when I got to my A-levels. Now, this is a primary factor in my university choices as I am immersed in a true team environment, I never want to be without this part of me. After stopping playing netball, and not being a part of any sports clubs in high school, I feel my experiences of sport at Wycombe Abbey have made netball part of my identity again.

Of course, being at Wycombe Abbey, there was a large focus on my academic study. Going from the likelihood of having a class or two a day, and just free time to self study (as the timetable would be in an English college) to having ten lessons a day – 8:15 until 6pm – it was tough. At first, the days felt long and the breaks felt like a much needed mental rest. I struggled in my subjects as I wasn't used to being surrounded by this level of dedicated students. I wondered if I would catch up and be able to achieve results like them. However, I have now become an advocate for this type of learning. Having to learn all the content by myself, especially in maths and case study subjects like



geography would not have helped me achieve the high grades I am currently attaining. Having my teachers being so approachable and proactive has made a world of a difference. I always struggled asking for help, yet here, I do feel the teachers that are invested in my learning and to them I am also highly appreciative. They, alongside me, gave up their breaks – even when it was 6 breaks a week – to put effort and further my understanding and learning. Due to this learning and day routine I firmly believe our hard work has paid off and will be reflected in my results.

Alongside the daily structure, I feel the class sizes have benefited me largely. Going from a class of 32 to now 9 being my largest, I absorb more of what my teachers are explaining. The lessons are tailored to us, the students, as it's not brushing aside those doing 'fine' for those who truly need extra attention. Here, I feel like doing 'fine' is now a norm, and it's pushed my expectations of myself higher in the best way. Here, I feel like I am actively challenging my past perspectives



of my strengths and weaknesses to achieve more. I hope this mindset will stay with me for life, as it's made me realise I don't just want to be doing 'fine' so long as I'm passing. I now feel more academic hunger to succeed, and this is reflected in my university aspirations. Before, going to a decent university, with semi-high entry requirements was my thoughts as I never really thought about pushing myself to aim higher. Yet now, surrounded by people who aim higher, who apply for G5 universities, this has rubbed off on me. My choices now include some highly competitive, prestigious universities, where studying there never would've even crossed my mind two years ago.

Having a more holistic education, with mandatory extra-curriculars and sports time has also furthered my development becoming a well-rounded person. Having time for old hobbies such as art lessons with some incredibly skilled teachers, has led to me absorbing so much non-academic knowledge. I went from never even touching oil paints to having my paintings and project on exhibition at Changzhou's rowing gala, representing the school's art department. If I hadn't come here, I doubt I would've kept up with my painting and definitely wouldn't have been putting my artwork forward for displays. This also helped my life skills of patience, trying new things, and resilience for when the paintings don't turn out quite like the picture. Coming up to the art department, even during the holidays just felt so calming and being with others who get the same feeling I do in the art room, it fosters a shared interest and was another way my friendships have developed.

I do feel this scholarship changed me: I've become so much more confident, independent and more sure of my identity and in my studies. Even family members have remarked at my mindset and confidence shift, and I feel this has prepared me with an overwhelming amount of educational and also out-of-classroom knowledge that will allow me to put a confident step forward when I graduate. So all that is left to say is that I am truly grateful for this experience as it has shaped who I am today, and was such a formative experience that I will always treasure.

我把常州威雅看做我的家园

鲁克桑德拉·厄苏

在中国的生活是一段难忘的经历。每当别人问起我，我总会说将再次选择中国。在中国的时光，我在社交、学术和体育方面得到了成长和发展。

我和很多人建立了联系，包括奖学金生（他们在学术上和我有相同的观点），我的老师以及我的朋友。我的朋友们把他们神奇的寄宿生活介绍给了我，也包括他们在中国的其他朋友。在文化上，我一直沉浸在一个让我汉语水平显著提高的环境中（至少我自己这么认为），因为我和我的中国室友愿意用汉语和英语混合交流，这让我们彼此都受益。此外，在常州威雅的假期一直是一个文化亮点，老师们为我们提供了地道的“中国”体验。例如，我们在北京品尝了“北京烤鸭”这样的文化美食，在苏州我体验了“中国火锅”。这些经历不仅让我们走出校门（我相信每个学生都能体会到这一点），而且还意味着我们都可以在课堂之外运用我们的汉语技能。看到外滩和长城等著名的地标，也让我们的中国之旅变得非常有意义，因为在西方人看来，中国曾是一个相对封闭的国家，对我们这些外国人来说，中国现在变得完全触手可及。我们的经历故事现在就像火炬一样，等待着传递给下一批学者，传递给我们回到英国后的家人和朋友。

在常州威雅学习期间，我也有幸参加了许多旅行和比赛，包括阿斯丹商业竞赛，以及阿斯顿马丁在上海举办的物理大会上的讲座。作为我艺术A-Level课程的一部分，我还参观了上海的几个艺术展览。这些经历相结合，使我不仅在学习中形成了一个整体的观点，而且对中国也形成了一个整体的看法。我还参加了全球知名的约翰·洛克征文比赛（在老师的鼓励下），获得了优异奖和表彰奖。同时，我在新加坡赢得了由约翰·洛克研究所支持的为期1周的奖学金。

从运动员的角度来看，我可以肯定地说，我在英国从来没有像在常州威雅那样沉浸地专注体育活动。作为女子篮球队的队长，我能够成为一个非常支持我们的社区的一员，这个社区以多种方式鼓励和激励我们：既要保持我们的成绩，继续成为团队的一员，也要在每次练习和比赛中努力做到最好。常州威雅女子队（我应该补充一下，还有男子队）赢得了威雅冠军杯。我也曾有幸以课后拓展课程的方式参加击剑比赛，在各种比赛中获得第二名和第三名，同时还能结识击剑界受人尊敬的人士，包括一位前奥运会选手。我还尝试了网球、羽毛球和排球等其他运动，这意味着我必须有效地管理我的学习和运动生活。



尽管我这段经历无法用语言来概括，但我认为仍然可以通过我遇到的人和交到的朋友来加深认识。当我看到常州威雅时，我看到的不再只是一所学校，而是一个社区，更重要的是属于我的社区。**现在我再看中国的时候，我不再把它看作一个被孤立的国家，甚至在媒体上也经常被排斥，我现在把它看作一个充满舒适、笑声和美好经历的地方。**这两年，在我周围的老师和同学的帮助下，我得到了极大的发展和成长，

这是我一生中难忘的一段时光。当我离开的那一刻，我无疑会想念中国。我珍惜这些回忆，更珍惜我的老师们积极而持续地给予我的支持和鼓励。如果没有他们，我可以百分之百地肯定，我不可能达到现在的高度。

感谢奖学金项目，感谢常州威雅，感谢我的家人对我的支持和信任，让我敢于选择这个机会。

I'm Seeing WASCZ as My Community

Ruxanda Ursu

Being in China has been an unforgettable experience which, if asked, I would always choose again. My time in China has allowed me to thrive in multiple environments, both socially, academically and through an athletic lens.

I have been able to make connections with an incredible array of individuals, ranging from the other scholars (who share my views academically) to my teachers and friends who have introduced me to their surreal world in boarding, and in China no less. Culturally, I have been immersed in an environment where my Chinese proficiency has increased significantly (or so I like to believe) with me and my Chinese roommate agreeing to speak in a mutual mix of both Chinese and English in order to benefit us both. Additionally, the holidays have always been a cultural highlight whilst at WASCZ, with teachers providing us with a genuine and sincere 'China' experience, eating cultural dishes such as "北京烤鸭" (Beijing roast duck) whilst in "北京" (Beijing), and a distinctive favourite memory of mine when we had eaten "火锅" (hotpot) in "苏州" (Suzhou). Not only did these experiences allow us to get away from school (which I'm sure any and every student can relate to) but also meant that we could all actively use our Chinese skills out and about. Seeing famous landmarks such as the Bund and The Great Wall of China also made our China experience extremely worth it, as it was as though China, a relatively closed-off country to the Western eye, became truly tangible for us as foreigners, as the stories we had lived through were now like torches waiting to be passed on to the next set of scholars, and to our families and friends upon our return to the UK.

I have also been privileged enough to attend many trips and competitions whilst at WASCZ, participating in the ASDAN Business Competition, attending an Aston Martin talk alongside a Physics Convention in "上海" (Shanghai), and was also able to visit several art exhibitions in "上海" (Shanghai) as part of my Art A-Level. These experiences combined allowed me to form a holistic view not only within my studies, but also about China. I had also participated in the Globally-renowned John Locke essay competition (as encouraged to by my teachers) winning both a Merit and Commendation, but had also led to me winning a prestigious 1-week scholarship in Singapore supported by the John Locke institute.

Through an athletic lens, I can safely say I was never able to be immersed in the way that I had been at WASCZ in the UK. Being Captain of the Girl's Basketball Team, I was able to be part of an amazingly supportive community which encouraged us and motivated us in multiple ways: both to keep our grades up to continue to be a part of the team, but also to strive to do our best in every practice and competition, with the WASCZ Girls (and Boys' team, I should add) winning the WAS Championship Cup. I had also had the privilege of partaking in Fencing as an EcA, winning 2nd and 3rd place in various competitions, alongside being able to meet esteemed individuals in the Fencing world, including a previous Olympian. Other sports I was also able to try out concluded of tennis, badminton, and volleyball, which meant I had to efficiently manage both my studies and my life in sports.



Altogether, this experience could not be possibly summed up through means of words. Rather, I think the experience can be clearly seen through the people I have met and the friends I have made. When I look at WASCZ, I no longer see just a school, I see a community, and better yet, my community. **When I look at China now, I no longer see an isolated country often ostracised even in media, I now see it as a place filled with comfort, laughter and positive experiences.** These two years of my life in which I have been able to develop and grow drastically, driven by my surrounding teachers and peers, have been an

unforgettable time in my life, and I will undoubtedly miss China the moment I leave. I have cherished these memories, but moreover cherish the efforts actively and continuously placed by my teachers to support me and push me in the way that they did. Without them, I am 100% sure I would not have been able to reach as high as I have done.

Thank you to EwC, thank you to WASCZ, thank you for my family for supporting me and entrusting me in taking the leap of faith to choose this opportunity.

汉语——连接我与十亿人的桥梁

卡莉斯塔·阿吉波拉

在我孩童的时候，我常常听到某一个地方的很多故事，那里的老年人晚上聚在一起练太极，那里的文化高度繁荣，那里的食物品种丰富，那里的语言不是由字母组成的，而是由图画构成的。如果你那时候告诉我，将来我会在那个地方住两年，我绝对不会相信你。

11岁时，我有机会在学校学习中文，我认为这是我做过最酷的事情。记得我熬夜一遍又一遍地抄写汉字，试图（但失败了）正确发音，每周五放学后都留下来学习这门语言，这一学就坚持了3年。

在16岁的这一年，我成功申请到了在中国学习两年的奖学金。直到今天，我仍难以相信它是真实的。

现在我来了。这是我梦寐以求的，甚至比梦里还要多。我有机会与中国文化建立联系并体验中国文化，我有机会与从未见过的人建立关系，深入了解他们的生活，了解我们的差异。最重要的是，在了解过程中我发现我们有很多相似之处。**我相信，在这个世界上我们可以拥有的最强大的东西就是全球人民的团结，这需要走出我们的舒适区，保持谦卑并坚持不懈。**

这个项目给了我这样实践的机会。例如，我在南京的一个乐队里唱了一首中文歌曲，几个月以来，我一直在给低年级学生上英语阅读课。文化之间缺乏理解是一个日益严重的问题，需要有人来弥合这一缝隙。

在这里，我品尝到了从没见过的水果，比如中国木瓜和杨桃。我去过6个不同的城市，包括北京和无锡（我最喜欢的），每次都通过不同的视角了解中国，并更深地爱上了它。



我也变得非常独立和有自我意识。在这所学校期间，我遇到了最聪明、最有才华的人。直到我来到这里，我才意识到以考试满分为目标是值得的。我总是被如此多的卓越的人所包围，以至于我情不自禁地希望自己能做到最好。在这里学习期间，我认识到自己的能力，并继续努力做到最好。我曾与最优秀的人打过羽毛球，在亨利赛艇杯与最厉害的赛艇选手一起竞技，与最有才华、最聪明的音乐家一起唱歌，一起学习。

最后，我来谈谈我的中文。当我刚来的时候，我觉得我的中文很好，因为我在 GCSE 中取得了 9 分。然而，我记得，刚开始我用中文和几个人交流，他们以为我听不懂而让我说英语，这让我有点沮丧。如今，我可以很自豪地说，情况已不再如此。语言环境提高了我的中文熟练程度，现在我可以自信地与朋友交谈，也可以与陌生人交谈！有时甚至不小心和我妈妈说中文，我很自豪地考过了中国汉语水平考试四级！

这个奖学金项目以及学习中文的经历，把我和十亿人连接在了一起。这是我来中国之前无法想象的事情，这就是我想说的一切。



Chinese Language: A bridge Connecting Me with A Billion

Calista Ajibola

When I was younger, I had heard stories about a place where the elderly gather together at night to practise Taichi, where the culture was so rich, the food so diverse and where the language was made not of letters but pictures. If you'd told me then, that in the future, I'd end up living there for two years, I'd never have believed you.

At the age of 11, I was given the opportunity to learn Chinese at school and I thought it was the coolest thing ever. I remember late nights of copying characters over and over, trying (and failing) to pronounce tones correctly and staying after school every Friday for 3 years to study the language.

Then at the age of 16, one random day, I found out that I'd been successful in my application to study in China for two years and I'd be leaving in a month. I still have trouble believing it is true to this day.

Now I'm here. And it's everything I dreamed of and more. The opportunity I've been given to connect with, and experience Chinese culture is one I'll forever be grateful for. I've been given the chance to build relationships with people I would never have met otherwise. I've been given insight into their lives, coming to understand our differences but, above all, the things that make us similar.

I believe the most powerful thing we can have in this world is global unity and that requires coming out of our comfort zones, humbling ourselves and persevering. This program gave me the opportunity to do that. For example, I sang a Chinese song at Battle of the Bands Nanjing, and I have been giving English reading lessons to younger years for a few months now. Lack of understanding between cultures is an ever-growing problem and someone needs to bridge that gap.

Whilst being here I've tried fruits I didn't even know existed like Chinese quince and starberries. I've been to 6 different cities including Beijing and Wuxi (my favourites), seeing China through a different lens each time, and falling deeper in love with it.

I've also become very independent and self-aware. Whilst at this school, I have met the smartest, most talented people. It wasn't until I arrived here that I realised aiming for full marks in an exam was worth a shot. I'm constantly surrounded by so much excellence that I can't help but desire the absolute most for myself. While studying here, I have realised what I'm capable of and I continue to strive for the best. I've played badminton against the finest, rowed against the fittest at Henley, sang with the most talented musicians and studied alongside the brightest.

Finally, I'll speak about my Chinese. When I first arrived, I thought my Chinese was pretty good seeing as I had attained a 9 at GCSE. However, I remember, in my early days, speaking in Chinese to a few people and them asking me to speak English instead because they didn't understand, which was quite disappointing. However, I'm so proud to say that this is no longer the case. The Chinese environment has improved my proficiency to the point where I can now speak confidently to my friends and strike up conversations with strangers too! I even accidentally speak Chinese to my mum sometimes and am proud to have successfully completed my HSK 4!

This scholarship program has given me the means to connect with and understand roughly 1 billion more people than I could before I came here and that means everything to me.



我想成为宣传学校和中国的全球大使

雷蒙德·卡柳塔

我在中国以及常州威雅学校的这段留学经历可谓精彩纷呈。我对学校以及所有信任我的人的感激之情与日俱增。在这所学校学习、体验中国的生活是一段非凡的经历，这段经历让我走出了舒适区，并以一种独特的方式助力我成长和成熟。

与我的同学相比，我与中国有着独特的渊源。我在2023年10月时，曾有幸通过一次学校的旅行，首次踏上了中国的土地。那次的旅行深深地激发了我对中国的热爱。因此，当这样的机会再次来临时，对我来说是一种恩赐。中国的留学生活让我掌握了许多技能，并让我成为了更好的人，这是两年前的自己所无法想象的。

文化体验是我中国留学生活中最喜欢部分之一。我亲自感受中国人的行为方式、观念与态度，这些都给我留下了深刻的印象，并深深影响着我。我认为自己在学校的融入非常顺利。作为一个热爱运动和学习的人，我很快地融入了常州威雅的生活。我可以自豪地说，每天清晨醒来，我都充满期待地前往学校与同学们见面。这次机会令我大开眼界，并教会了我许多宝贵的技能，这些技能让我终身受益并倍感珍惜。我变得更加独立、更有勇气，并且对现实世界有了更深入的理解。



在我看来，这个项目展现了这样显著的特点：你可以给自己的生活 and 周围人的生活都带来积极的改变和影响。当我和英国朋友分享自己在中国的精彩故事的同时，我也成功地改变了那些来自西方世界的偏见，这将是我在结束威雅学习之后继续要做的事情。**我觉得自己可以成为宣传学校和中国的全球大使。我希望身边的每个人都能了解中国的伟大——不仅是从普通游客的角度，更是从一个愿意走出舒适区，全身心融入中国文化，感受过真实而纯正留学生活的角度去看待和认识中国。**

总而言之，我为自己能成为常州威雅学校的奖学金生而倍感荣幸。如果奖学金项目能够延续并得到进一步支持，我会无比欣喜。因为这不仅让我们获得了独一无二的机会，还让我们作为奖学金生追求学术卓越，并成为一群少数能够自豪地说自己曾在中国学习过的人之一。我衷心希望该项目能够延续，让更多的人像我一样分享这段美好的经历。



I Can Be a Global Ambassador of the School and for China

Raymond Kaliuta

My experience in China and Changzhou Wycombe Abbey school has been nothing short of excellent. As each day goes on, my gratitude to the school and all those who have believed in me increases. Being at this school and studying China has been an amazing experience, an experience that has pushed me out of my comfort zone and an experience that has helped me develop and nurture like nothing else could.

I have quite a different relationship to China than my other peers, this is simply because I had the privilege to visit China on a school trip before this program. My first time of visiting China was spectacular. I was able to see some of the greatest places on Earth, for example, the Great Wall of China and the Purple mountain in Nanjing. That trip heavily influenced my love for China. So getting the chance to join Wycombe Abbey Changzhou was nothing short of a blessing. I feel like studying in China has taught me so many different skills and has shaped me to be a better person than I was two years ago.

One of my favourite things about studying in China, is the culture. I have first hand experience of how Chinese people conduct themselves, their views and attitudes and it has been remarkably interesting and impactful. For me, I feel like the integration in my school has been amazing, as someone who is quite sporty and academic I have fit right into life here at Wycombe Abbey. I can proudly say, I wake up everyday delighted to go to school, delighted to see my peers and classmates. This opportunity has been so eye-opening and has taught me incredible skills that I will hold dear to my heart for the rest of my life. I have become more

independent, more courageous and I have a better understanding of the world we live in.

I feel like this opportunity really highlights how you can make a difference to lives around you or the lives of others. I have been able to share my amazing experiences with people from the UK, and I have been successful in changing any unfortunate perceptions of China that people from the western world may have. This is something I will continue to do past my time here at Wycombe Abbey, **I feel like I can be a global ambassador of the school and for China, I want everyone around me to be well aware of how incredible China is – not from a tourist perspective but from a person who has lived in China and from someone who integrated themselves into Chinese culture to the best of their ability, as someone who was willing to step outside their comfort zone to have the real authentic experience of studying in China.**

My overall point is that this opportunity has been second to none and I feel honoured to be a scholar at Wycombe Abbey Changzhou and would be jovial beyond belief if the scholarship program will be continued and supported further, because it allows people to get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and it allows us as scholars to strive for academic excellence as well as be part of a rare group of people who can proudly say they have studied in China, an opportunity that sadly not everyone can say. Which is why I so deeply hope the program can be extended, so more people are able to share this wonderful experience with people just like myself.



打破成见，传递美好

德西蕾·杰克逊



自从加入这个项目以来，我的行程可以说是马不停蹄。这段经历对我、我的家人以及朋友的生活都产生了巨大的影响，而我绝不愿意改变这一切。五年前，我决定加入普通话卓越计划。这不仅源于我对学习中文的浓厚兴趣，更是因为在此过程中，对价值观、文化以及美景产生了一份好奇与热爱。

正因为这样的背景，让我在面对留学中国奖学金项目时，毫不犹豫地抓住了这个机会。我深知，这将是一段无法忽视的、改变人生的探险。

从我踏下飞机的那一刻起，刚进入这个全新的、未知领域的领域，就让我确信自己做出了正确的决定。这里的一切都让我感到截然不同。我告别了英国的寒冷，来到温暖的这里。甚至是在乘坐大巴车前往常州威雅——我的新家的旅途，也带来了许多我从未想过的体验，更让我开拓了视野。其中一个难忘的记忆是前往威雅途中，我们需要在服务区短暂停留。当

时，我用上了我能说的所有中文，并与友善、热情的当地人进行交流，这完全开拓了我的视野，让我意识到在过去16年中不多的旅行里，错过了多少精彩的经历。

来到中国最初的几周充满了挑战。我思念家人和家乡，但同学和老师给予了我极大的支持，帮助我逐渐适应新的环境。我注意到的第一个显著特点是身边人的学习态度，无论是在宿舍还是课堂上，这种专注和对知识的渴望令人叹服。相比之下，在英国，显然很少有人真正关注未来，而这里的每一位学生都有明确的目标，并为实现这些目标制定了详细的计划。

尽管我的基础薄弱，但我努力以勤奋的人为榜样，将大量的时间投入到学习中，并重新审视自己对整个教育体系的想法。我的老师们不仅在学习上帮助我，还在社交方面让我成为最好的自己。我与同学保持了紧密的关系，甚至有机会访问一些他们的家乡，如南京和宁波，还探索了上海这样的大都市。

我的钦佩之情不仅于此，还延伸到对高年级奖学金生的看法。他们自加入项目以来的成长与成就令人瞩目，其中四人分别获得了剑桥和牛津等顶尖大学的面试机会。我坚信，有了这段个人成长和文化熏陶的经历，我将来一定能在英国向人们传递中国的美好，用全新的开始、友谊和共同理解的画面，去取代和破除现代媒体对中国经常抱有的偏见和误解。

每天醒来，我都知道这又是探索这个国家的一天。如果没有与这个奖学金项目的幸运邂逅，我不可能拥有这一切。我毫不怀疑，这个项目将继续带来更多伟大的成果。从我有幸加入的这一届到第一届奖学金生，都充分展示了两国文化沉浸融合对个人的深远影响，以及对整个世界的意义。



Pass the Joys, Break Down the Barriers

Desiree Naomi G Jackson

My journey since entering this program has been something of a whirlwind to say the least. Its impact on both mine and my family and friends' lives has been monumental and I wouldn't change it for the world. 5 years ago, I made the decision to join the Mandarin Excellence Program. This was fueled by adoration and inquisitiveness to learn and embrace not only the Chinese language but also the values, culture and beauty that comes with it.

That choice had given me the courage, when faced with the decision to move to China under the scholarship program, to jump at the opportunity. I knew from the multifaceted adventures that were being offered, that this would be life-changing for me in a way that could not be ignored.

From the moment I stepped off the plane at the airport, with just the experience of stepping into a new, uncharted area, I knew that I had made the right decision. Immediately seeing the differences between the cold I'd left behind in the UK and the warmth surrounding me here. Even the journey on the coach bringing us to our new home allowed for sights and experiences to be had that I had never considered before. One fond memory I have was stopping at a service station en-route to Wycombe Abbey Changzhou. Being able to implement my knowledge of Chinese with locals who were extremely friendly and welcoming, opened my eyes to what I had been missing from my limited travels throughout the first 16 years of my life.

The first few weeks were challenging, missing home and family, however the help of my peers and teachers who have supported me dearly helped me find my feet. An initial observation I had noted was the work ethic of those around me; both in my boarding house and in classes. The difference in concentration and dedication to education and knowledge was outstanding. Whereas back home it

was clear that very few people had true focus towards their future, each and every student I saw and interacted with showed incredible goals and had set plans to reach them.

Despite having a sparse foundation, I have since been able to attempt to mirror this diligence, dedicating numerous hours to my studies and re-evaluating my stance on the school system as a whole. My educators push me to be the best version of myself both academically and socially, keeping strong relationships with my peers and even having chances to visit some of their home towns such as Nanjing and Ningbo. And even exploring the likes of Shanghai.

My admiration doesn't stop there bleeding out into my perception of the older scholars. Their growth and achievements since entering the program have been pivotal with four getting interviews for prestigious universities including: Cambridge and Oxford. I know that one day, with both the personal amelioration that I will gain from this but also the intense cultural development, **I will be able to teach those back in England about the joys of China, breaking down those barriers and inaccurate representations often presented in modern media and replacing them with portraits of new beginnings, friendships and shared understandings.**

Every day I wake up, I know it is another day to explore the likeness of this country and I know I couldn't have done it without the fortuitous encounter I happened to have with this scholarship program. I have no doubt in believing that nothing but greatness will come from this program as can be observed from the two existing cohorts. The one that I have had the privilege of joining and the first, showcasing what cultural immersion between two different places can do for individuals and furthermore what it can do for the world as a whole.

一段弥足珍贵的 自我发现与成长经历

迈克尔·斯洛特曼



威雅奖学金项目的确改变了我的生活。我相信，这个海外项目教会我的东西远远超出了课堂。它给我提供了一段千载难逢的经历，一种更全球化的视角，以及对中國一次更深入的认识。

在远离家乡的生活中，我学到的最宝贵的经验之一就是自力更生。在刚开始的时候，要适应没有家人和朋友的生活艰难到难以置信，但我与项目中的其他奖学金生，还有热情和热心的人文关怀老师共同努力，在学校里创造了一种牢不可破的家园意识。这些建立在相互支持、共同迎接挑战基础上的友谊，将是终身的、独特的，在给我们带来难忘经历的同时，也为我们提供了最高水准的中学教育。

虽然语言最初是一个障碍，但它很快成为我深入了解文化的通道。与中国学生建立亲密的友谊，让我对他们的语言、价值观和传统有了更深入的了解。这些个人联系和对话使我能够更大程度地了解周围的环境，自由交流思想和观点，在来自地球两端的成员之间架起了一座文化桥梁。

除了与人接触，城市之旅让中国充满活力的文化在我印象中变得生动起来。从探索北京的历史街道，到观摩上海的现代天际线和南京的文化深度，每一刻都是亲身体验中国丰富多彩的机会。这些经历使我能够将我对中国的理解运用到实践中，使我能够与当地人互动，更好地了解这些宏伟城市的故事和传统。这些对话使我能够更好地探索我在传统习俗和城市规划等领域的兴趣。

该项目让学生走出自己的舒适区，尝试学校提供的许多独特机会。学习赛艇是我经历的闪光点。没有这段经历，我永远无法发现我对这项运动的热情。虽然之前没有任何经验，但我周围有很多志同道合、努力勤奋的运动员，这让我每天都充满动力。我甚至有机会参加英国亨利皇家帆船赛，这可以说是世界上最负盛名的赛艇赛事。在赛艇工作人员的帮助下，我们每周进行7次训练，利用学校宽敞的船坞和周边的湖泊进行足够多的训练。整个过程教会了每个人关于承诺、纪律和团队合作这些受益终身的东西。通过分享经历和共同克服困难，让我更加紧密地联系在一起。

这段经历并非没有挑战。在A-level考试与生活半个地球之外去掌握一门外语之间取得平衡一直是一场斗争。但在老师和学生的帮助下，我发现自己在学业上取得了成功，甚至收到了牛津大学的面试邀请。这些困难塑造了每个学生的韧性和决心，让学生在所有学术和课外活动中更强大、更自信。

过去的一年对我来说不仅仅是课程的学习，它改变并塑造了今天的我，给予我无与伦比的自我发现和成长。我愿意向所有有兴趣并有志于深入了解中国，在中国环境中发展和锻炼自己的人强烈推荐这个项目。



A Cherished Experience of Self-discovery and Growth

Michael Slotema

The scholarship opportunity provided by Engage with China has truly changed my life. I believe that the lessons this overseas program has taught me go far beyond what is possible in the classroom, offering a once-in-a-lifetime experience that has shaped a more global perspective and greater appreciation for everything China has to offer.

Living far from home, one of the most valuable lessons I learnt was self-reliance. Adjusting to life without family and friends was initially incredibly daunting, but the shared struggle with my fellow scholars inside the program, as well as the incredibly welcoming pastoral staff, creates an unbreakable sense of community inside the school. These friendships, built on mutual support and shared challenges, will be lifelong and unique, giving us unforgettable experiences whilst still providing the highest calibre of secondary school education.

While the language initially acted as a barrier, it quickly became my gateway to a deeper cultural understanding. Forming close friendships with the Chinese students allowed me to gain a deeper appreciation of the language, values, and traditions that surround them. These personal connections and conversations allowed me to understand my surroundings to a much greater extent, with the free exchange of ideas and perspectives creating a cultural bridge between members from the opposite sides of the globe.

Beyond the people you meet, the city breaks have allowed China's vibrant culture to come to life. From exploring the historic streets of Beijing to the modern skyline of Shanghai and the cultural depth of Nanjing, every moment has been an opportunity to experience the richness of China firsthand. These experiences have allowed me to apply my understanding of China into practice, allowing me to interact with locals to better understand the stories and traditions that build these magnificent cities. These conversations have allowed me to better explore my

passions in areas of further interest, such as traditional customs and urban planning.

The program also allows for students to leave their comfort zones, trying many of the unique opportunities offered by the school. My highlight was learning rowing, a sport that I would have never otherwise been able to discover my passion for. Whilst having had no prior experience, I was surrounded by so many like-minded, hard-working athletes, keeping me motivated day after day. I was even granted the opportunity to participate in the Henley Royal Regatta UK, arguably the most prestigious rowing event in the world. With the help of the incredible rowing staff, we were thrown into training 7x a week, using the school's extensive boathouse and lake to allow for adequate preparation. The whole process taught everyone involved lifelong lessons in commitment, discipline, and teamwork, giving me even more bonds through shared experiences and struggles.

The experience hasn't come without its challenges. Balancing international A-levels with the demands of living halfway across the world and mastering a foreign language has been a struggle, yet with help from the teaching staff and other students, I have found myself thriving academically, even receiving an interview from Oxford University. These hurdles foster resilience and determination in every student, leaving students stronger and more confident in all academic and extracurricular pursuits.

The last year has been more than a program for me—it's transformed and moulded me into the person I am today, granting unmatched self-discovery and growth. I would highly recommend this opportunity to anyone interested in further understanding and thriving in a Chinese environment and the willingness to engage in all pursuits the opportunity has to offer.

赓续中华文化血脉之旅

索菲亚·吴

于我而言，在中国通过奖学金项目学习A-Level课程是一段充满变革和趣味的经历。这个独一无二的机会不仅让我在学业上接受了挑战，还帮助我实现了个人成长。我想如果我留在英国，我永远也无法实现这样的快速成长。

作为一个有中华文化背景的人，在威雅学习了仅仅三个月的时间，对我来说意义非凡。我在英国长大，虽然认识到了自己的中国文化身份，但并没有太多机会去探索。在这里，我能够沉浸其中，与自己的背景建立深层次关联。通过这个项目，我能探索中国的各个地方，接触当地传统，并与当地人进行交流。

一开始，我确实觉得从英国到中国的过渡会相当具有挑战性，尤其是在学业上，要我适应新的环境和新的A-Level课程非常困难。但在老师和朋友的帮助下，我看到了自己在过去三个月内的显著进步。这段经历无疑促使我在学习上变得更加积极主动。我意识到，要想获得进步，我必须开始向他人寻求帮助，而不是一直自己独立尝试。

除了学业方面，奖学金计划还让我有更多机会探索自己对音乐的兴趣。我开始正式学习以前自学的电吉他，同时也开始学习架子鼓。虽然要兼顾很多课外活动，对我的要求很高，但我真的觉得音乐已经成为了我的一种创新的解压方式，在繁重的学业中我用热爱的音乐找到了平衡点。



不过，这段经历最大的闪光点毋庸置疑是我与英国奖学金同伴和中国当地同学的友谊。尽管我们只互相认识了三个月，但我感觉我和他们中的很多人仿佛已经是多年挚友了。从学业上的相互支持，到共同的兴趣爱好以及各自不同的经历，这些关系让我在威雅的时光更加弥足珍贵。

总之，这个奖学金项目对我来说是一个极具影响力的机会，她促进了我学业上成长，赓续了我与中华文化血脉的联系，给予了我坚信会持续一生的友谊。过去的三个月对我的人格塑造产生了巨大影响，我也更期待着我的下一段旅程。



A Journey of Reconnecting with My Chinese Cultural Roots

Sophia Wu

Studying my A-levels in China through this scholarship program has been such an transformative and interesting experience for me so far. This unique opportunity which I was granted has not only challenged me academically, but also helped me grow personally in ways that I think I would've never been able to if I had stayed back in England.

As someone with a Chinese cultural background, having stayed here for just 3 months has been deeply meaningfully. Growing up in England, though I was aware of my cultural identity, I didn't have much of an opportunity to explore it; being here has allowed me to immerse myself and connect with my background on a much deeper level. Through this program, I have been able to explore various places in China, engage with local traditions and interact with Chinese locals.

Initially I did find the transition from England to China quite challenging, especially academically. Adjusting to a new environment and the new A-level curriculum was tough, but with the help of my teachers as well as friends I can see just how much I've improved over the past 3 months. This experience has definitely shaped me to be a much more proactive person when it comes to academics, helping me realise that in order to improve I had to start reaching out to others instead of trying to be independent all of the time.

Beyond academics, the scholarship program has provided me with the chance to explore my interest for music. I've started taking formal lessons for the electric guitar which I had previously been self-teaching myself and have also picked up the drums alongside this. Though maintaining many extracurriculars has been demanding, I really feel like music has become sort of creative outlet for me, allowing me to balance out my studies with something that I really enjoy.

The biggest highlight of this experience however has definitely been the friendships that I've forged with both the scholars from England and the Chinese locals. Despite only knowing each other for 3 months, it feels like many of us have been friends for years. From supporting each other academically, to bonding over shared interests and different experiences, I think these relationships have made my time here even more worthwhile.

Overall, this scholarship program has been a really impactful opportunity for me; helping me grow academically, reconnect with my cultural roots and build friendships which I'm sure will last a lifetime. The past 3 months have shaped me a lot as a person and I'm excited to see how the rest of my journey here will unfold.



一次助力成长的丰富经历

艾拉·霍奇斯

在中国留学是一次变革性的经历，它拓宽了我的视野，为我提供了许多机会。从我到达的那一刻起，我就如漫步在一幅灿烂的历史画卷中，极大地丰富了我的知识和生活阅历。

在中国的生活让我亲身体验到了中国文化的独特性，通过参加中国新年和中秋节等传统节日的活动，我对中国的习俗和传统有了更深的了解。参观上海东方明珠电视塔、南京紫金山和南京城墙等历史地标让我惊叹的同时，也为我了解中国古代历史提供了接地气的素材。

威雅常州的学术环境既充满挑战又受益匪浅，课程催人奋进，教师充满活力，而且拥有丰富的知识和经验，我得以与本地和国际学生一起学习。学习生活让我了解到了不同的观点，并营造了一个互帮互助的学习环境。此外，在这所了不起的学校就读期间，让我有机会提高我的汉语水平，这在学术和社交方面都被证明是及其宝贵的。这项奖学金不仅给了我一次了不起的学术经历，还增强了我对中国美丽文化和历史的了解。

在异国他乡的生活充满了挑战，但也快速地促进了我的个人成长。我学会了适应新环境，有效的时间管理，也培养了我坚韧不拔的毅力。克服语言障碍和了解文化差异的经历使我变得更加独立、自信。

在中国的生活和学习开拓了我的全球视野，这在当今密切关联的世界中至关重要。我对中国在国际事务、经济和文化中的作用有了深入的了解，这也加深了我对全球动态的理解。这段经历也让我对文化更具有洞察力和包容性。

总而言之，这段丰富的中国留学经历，让我掌握了宝贵的学术知识、专业化的技能，并促进了我的个人成长。沉浸式文化体验、严谨的学术氛围和专业性的平台对我的个人和学术之旅产生了很大影响，也培养了我在全球化世界中茁壮成长的能力。





An Enriching Experience of Fostering Growth

Ella Hodges

Studying abroad in China was a transformative experience that broadened my horizons and provided me with numerous opportunities. From the moment I arrived, I was immersed in a rich tapestry of history and culture, which greatly enriched my academic and personal life.

Living in China allowed me to experience its unique culture firsthand. I participated in traditional festivals like the Chinese New Year and the Mid-Autumn Festival, which gave me a deeper appreciation of Chinese customs and traditions. Visiting historical landmarks such as the Shanghai tower, Nanjing purple mountain (Zijin Shan), and the Nanjing city wall was awe-inspiring and provided a tangible connection to China's ancient history.



Through this amazing scholarship opportunity in “威雅常州” where the academic environment was both challenging and rewarding, the courses were stimulating and are taught by enthusiastic teachers who brought a wealth of knowledge and experience, I was able to study alongside local and international students which exposed me to the diverse perspectives and fostered a collaborative learning environment. Additionally, while enrolled at this amazing school I had the opportunity to improve my mandarin skills, which proved invaluable both academically and socially. Not only did this scholarship give me an amazing academic experience but it also enhanced my knowledge of China's beautiful culture and history.

Navigating life in a foreign country presented its challenges, but it also fostered significant personal growth. I learned to adapt to a new environment, manage my time effectively, and develop resilience. The experience of overcoming language barriers and cultural differences made me more independent and confident.

Living and studying in China gave me a global perspective that is crucial in today's interconnected world. I gained insights into China's role in international affairs, economics, and culture, which has enriched my understanding of global dynamics. This experience has also made me more culturally sensitive and open-minded.

In summary, studying abroad in China was an enriching experience that provided me with valuable academic knowledge, professional skills, and personal growth. The cultural immersion, academic rigor, and professional opportunities have significantly shaped my personal and academic journey, equipping me with the tools to thrive in a globalized world.

一段开阔视野 的成长旅程

格瑞斯·莱恩斯

当我获得奖学金时，我从来没有想过我可以远离家人，在另外一个国度学习A-level课程。旅行一直是我生活中不可或缺的一部分，我也希望保持这种状态，但在16岁的时候住在离家5000英里的地方是一种完全不同的经历，会产生完全不同的情感。正如许多其他留学生所说，搬到世界另一端，去面对一个彻底改变你的生活，可不是一个轻松的决定，但这是一个我不后悔的决定。

来中国是我做过的最好的决定。通过常州威雅的奖学金项目，我不仅在学术上，而且在社会和文化上开阔了我的视野。在中国的学校体系中，我比在英国的学校体系中更能挑战自己。在中国，我感受到了学术上的挑战，我不得不最大限度地运用我的认知推理能力。作为一个经常运动的人，当我来到中国时，我感到很欣慰，因为我可以继续将运动完全融入我的学校生活，而不必为了其中一个而减少对另一个的关注。来到中国让我的信心大增，这意味着我加入了学校里的许多社团和俱乐部，包括学术和非学术的，这些社团和俱乐部不断增加我的信心，并让我走出舒适区。

自从来到中国后，我结识了一些以前可能永远都不会认识的朋友，我认识了来自完全不同社会阶层的现任奖学金获得者和中国本土学生。通过奖学金项目，我很高兴认识他们，并与这些人建立了终生的链接。远离家乡也会让你重新审视自己，意识到自己性格中一些你可能不了解的东西，这就是为什么我在中国迄今为止结下的友谊如此深厚和有意义。因为我结交的朋友看到了真实的我，一个来中国之前我自己还不够了解的我。



在参加这个项目之前，我从未去过中国大陆。我有幸在此之前去过香港几次。香港是我了解中国文化的唯一参考。而事实上，中国文化的多样性在不同的省份会有各自的体现，包括食物、语言和习俗方面。我还发现，在中国生活期间学习普通话的经历让我增长了许多关于文化活力的认知，也认识到了语言对中国文化的重要性。



A Journey of Broadening Horizons

Grace Lyons-Hoare

When I found the scholarship, it had never really occurred to me that I could be studying my A levels in a new country away from my family. Traveling has been an integral part of my life and is something that I wish to remain so, but living 5,000 miles away from home at 16 years old is a completely different experience that fosters completely different emotions. Just as many of the other scholars can attest, the daunting prospect of completely uprooting your life and moving to the other side of the world is not a light decision but is defiantly a decision that I do not regret making.

Coming to China has been the best decision I've made. Through the Scholarship program at Wycombe Abbey Changzhou, I have been able to broaden my horizons not only academically but also socially and culturally. I have been able to challenge myself remarkably more in the Chinese school system than I would ever have been able to do in the UK schooling system, here in China I feel academically challenged and I have had to use my cognitive reasoning abilities in more profound ways. As someone who does a great deal of sport it was a relief that when I came to China that I'd be able to continue integrating exercise fully into my school life without having to reduce my focus on one for the sake of the other. Coming to China has defiantly made my confidence grow, this has meant that I have joined many societies and clubs at school both academic and non-academic which continue to cause my confidence

to increase and push me outside of where I am comfortable.

Since moving to China, I have made friends with people I would never have met otherwise, the current Scholars and the native Chinese students that I have met all come from completely different walks of life and through the scholarship program I have had the delight of meeting them and forming life-long relationships with these people. Living away from home also makes you reassess yourself and realize things about your character that you probably wouldn't have known without, that's why the friendships I have made so far in China are deep and meaningful because the people I have made friends with are seeing the true me that I didn't even fully know till coming to China.

I had never been to mainland China before until the program, but I have had the good fortune of being able to go to Hong Kong a few times prior. Hong Kong was the only reference I could use for how the culture of China would be, in truth nothing could have prepared me for how diverse Chinese culture is; the food, language and customs all change depending on which province you are in. I have also found that by studying Mandarin whilst living in China has taught me a great deal about cultural dynamics and how integral language is to Chinese culture.

在这里，我有了最深度的中国文化体验

伊万·史密斯

我叫伊万·史密斯，目前在常州威雅学校学习A Level课程。首先，我要向 HJ Colston-Inge、Theresa Booth、Jonathan Barry、David Fosu 以及所有参与奖学金项目的常州威雅和必益教育的工作人员表示衷心的感谢，是他们为我提供了这个难能可贵的机会。我从七年级开始，就一直对中国的各个领域特别感兴趣，从中国的语言到文化，到中国在全球重大决策中肩负起日益强大的作用。所以，我参加了普通话卓越项目，学习了5年中文，其中3年是在GCSE课程下学习的，毕业时我本以为自己会在英国的同一所学校继续学习A LEVEL课程。然而，我的中文老师在暑假刚开始一周就给我发了一封邮件，让我大吃一惊的是，这封邮件竟然是关于常州的奖学金项目开启的通知。我立即决定申请，我认为自己几乎不可能在英国作为代表被录取，但出乎意料的是，我顺利地通过了所有关卡，成功被常州威雅录取。在我魂牵梦绕的那个国家，有一段崭新的生活在等待着我。

一到中国，学校的设施设备以及整个常州的市政建设质量让我叹为观止。这就意味着我不仅能在威雅学习期间能享用学校优质的设施，还能体验一些学校在假期中为我们组织的丰富活动，我从中体验到了中国各地的风土人情，这对我来说是一段独特的体验，更加增强了我和其他奖学金项目同伴的文化体验。最值得一提的就是学校的体育设施覆盖面之广、质量之高、形式之多样性，这使我能够进行各种我需要的运动训练，包括篮球、赛艇、举重、游泳或羽毛球等。此外，学校的大部分体育设施都配有空调，为学生提供了最好的运动环境。由于这些设施设备和学校食堂提供的均衡、健康的膳食，自2023年9月入学以来，我的体重已经减轻了30多公斤。

如果您要问我最有意义的，那一定是学校的游学活动。学校为学生提供了最深度的中国文化体验：从强调户外技能和全人教育的强化营，到北京、南京、上海等繁华都市的假期，从田间到山川的恬静生活到夜晚城市深处的街道巷陌，我有幸探索了中国社会的方方面面。通过这些旅行对中国的语言和文化有了更好地了解，我与当地人的交流，我探索中国不同的美食，通过多次参观各类博物馆，加深了我对中国的历史有了更深入的了解。最重要的是，我和绝大多数中国学生一起学习，与他们一起讨论生活经历、文化差异、学业学习、未来规划。我再次非常感谢学校为我提供了这次机会，让我以这样从未企及的方式体验中国，我也非常感谢中国人民对我们无尽的热情和好客以及你们给予的点点滴滴。谢谢你们！



Here I Had One of the Most In-depth Cultural Experiences of China

Ivan Smith

My name is Ivan Smith. I am one of approximately 40 scholars enrolled on the Engage with China scholarship programme, and I am currently studying A level at Wycombe Abbey School Changzhou. I would first and foremost like to express my complete gratitude to HJ Colston-Inge, Theresa Booth, Jonathan Barry, David Fosu, and all the other staff from Engage with China, Wycombe Abbey School, and BE Education who have provided me with this exceptional opportunity, as I absolutely would not be the same person I am today if it were not for their involvement in my education. From year 7 onwards in my education I have always taken a particular interest in China in all its aspects, from its language to its culture, to its increasing role in deciding important global decisions such as the response to climate change. Having enrolled in the Mandarin Excellence Programme, I had learned the Chinese language for 5 years, including 3 under the GCSE curriculum, and graduated with the belief that I was going to study my A levels at the same school in the UK. However, about a week into the summer holiday, I was forwarded an email by my Chinese teacher, and, to my shock, it was a scholarship offer to study here in Changzhou. I decided I would apply, even if I figured it was not likely that I would be accepted out of the whole of the UK, and to my surprise, I managed to pass through all the hurdles to be accepted onto the programme. A new life awaited me, in a country I was already keen to explore.

Upon arriving in China, I was quite impressed to see the quality of the facilities not only of the school itself but also within the whole of the city of Changzhou. This has meant that I have not only had access to quality facilities during my education here, but also to a unique experience of many locations across China in a number of affordable and enriching holidays, strengthening the cultural experience I and the other scholars have

been able to enjoy. One aspect of the school to note is the extent, quality, and variety of the sports facilities, enabling me to train in absolutely any sport I wish to play, including but not limited to basketball, rowing, weightlifting, swimming, or badminton. The facilities are also for the most part well air conditioned and serve as the best sports environment one could ask for. As a result of these facilities and the balanced, healthy meals provided by the school's canteen, I have managed to lose upwards of 30 kilograms in body mass since my arrival in September 2023.

The school trips are worth noting, with the school providing very much one of the most in-depth cultural experiences of China one could ask for. From enrichment camps emphasizing outdoor skills and holistic education to paid holidays in key cities such as Beijing, Nanjing, and Shanghai, I have been given the pleasure of exploring many aspects of Chinese society, from life in farmland and mountains to the narrow streets of night markets in the inner cities. From this, I have been able to get a better understanding of the Chinese language and culture through exchange with the locals, exploration of different cuisines within China, and a deep view into Chinese history through a number of trips to all kinds of museums. Most importantly of all, I study alongside a vast majority of Chinese students, with whom I have been able to discuss life experiences, cultural differences, academics, and plans for the future. I feel that these exchanges have been very beneficial to me and helped me become who I am today, and I am once again very grateful to the school that I have been provided this opportunity to experience China in a way I otherwise could not have even dreamed of, and I am extremely grateful to the Chinese people for their unending hospitality and the experiences they have been able to share with me. “谢谢你们”!

在中国， 我结识了一位终生挚友

莱拉·阿布达哈

尽管我来到中国只有短短四个月，但我的生活已发生了翻天覆地的变化。我学到了大量的知识，感受到了中国悠久的历史。最让我感动的是，我在这里结识了一位终生挚友。这一切都要归功于这个神奇的奖学金项目，我深深感谢这个项目。

我对在中国的第一个月记忆犹新。新学年在九月开始了，我还记得开学前不久与我的室友初次见面的情景，即使我们有明显的语言沟通障碍，但我用尽了自己学五年的语言成果，而她则充分运用了她出色的语言能力来与我交流。一段时间后，我的中文词汇量有了大幅增长，她的英语水平也进步很快。因此我们可以常常彼此分享故事，包括那些有趣的经历和夜晚美好的时光。现在，我经常问自己，如果我没有接受这份奖学金，没有认识我亲爱的室友，我的生活将会是什么样子。

中秋节假期回来后，我的室友送给我一块样式精美的月饼。它由金黄色的酥皮、甜美而柔滑的莲蓉和两个金灿灿的蛋黄组成，尽管在来中国之前我也尝过月饼，但她送给我的这块月饼与之前品尝过的完全不一样，美味无比。

在中国的第二个月，我参观了不少中国的其他城市，比如南京和句容。我们去了南京的紫金山和南京动物园，这仅仅是我们参观的众多有趣的地点中的两个。这次旅行安排得很好，为所有国际奖学金生提供加强彼此联系的机会。我确信，第二个月的亮点就是在常州校园举办的教职工音乐会。在音乐会上，教职工演奏了独特的作品，聆听这些完美编排的中国传统乐曲，着实是一次令人着迷的体验。我对古筝和二胡等古典乐器深感兴趣，并希望进一步了解这些乐器。



十一月是我在中国的第三个月，这可能是我在中国度过的最美好的时光。我参与了阿斯丹商业模拟活动。通过参与这些活动，我和许多其他奖学金生的沟通能力得到了提升，我相信这些技能在不久的将来会非常有用。此外，我还获得了两次前往上海参观艺术展览的机会。这是一个绝佳的机会，不仅可以增进我和室友的关系，还能沉浸在最宏伟的艺术作品中。此外，我们参观了常州的青果巷、东坡公园和南山竹海等重要的文化遗址。这些旅行让我在感受中国古代历史中，学到了大量关于教育和文学的重要知识。

申请这个享有盛誉的奖学金项目，我毫不后悔。相反，我非常感激，因为它让我更深入地探索了中国及其广袤大地。我期待着继续我在中国的探险。我希望，这项奖学金计划能够让上一届、我们以及未来更多的学生得到进一步发展，并加强中英两国之间的双边关系。



In China, I Have Made a Friend for Life

Layla Aboueldahab

During the past four months, my life has completely transformed since my arrival in China. To summarise the cultural immersion that I have experienced up to this moment is a difficult task as there is a great amount of knowledge I have gained. Yet in this essay I hope to convey my gratitude for this incredible scholarship programme.

I recall my first month of being in China and my eagerness for knowledge on Chinese culture, more specifically the history surrounding Changzhou: the city I reside in. September was the time in which the academic year commenced and life was about to change. I distinctly remember meeting my roommate just prior to the beginning of school and although it was apparent that there was a language barrier, I utilised my five years worth of language learning and herself using her incredible linguistic ability in order to communicate. It is evident that my range of vocabulary has developed and so has my roommate's as we share our stories about the interesting events we have encountered or how we passed our time in the evenings. I often now question myself how my life would have been if I had not accepted the scholarship award and never acquainted with my dearest roommate. This must be another reason as to why I am so incredibly grateful for this opportunity; I have made a friend for life.

As well as this, upon return from the mid-autumn festival break, my roommate kindly gifted me an intricately designed mooncake consisting of a bronzed pastry, a both sweet and pearlescent lotus paste and two golden egg yolks. Although prior to my arrival in China I have tried mooncakes, the one given to me was delectable and completely different from what I had tried previously.

Near the beginning of October we visited the Zijin Shan and Nanjing zoo, both in Nanjing just to name two of the interesting locations we visited. This was an excellent trip composed to allow for all of the scholars to participate in such wonderful activities allowing for us to form stronger bonds and improve relationships between one another. I

am certain that the highlight of my second month must have been the staff concert hosted on our campus in which members of staff were able to perform unique compositions. It was most interesting to listen to the perfectly composed traditional Chinese pieces. I was fascinated by some of the instruments such as the guzheng and erhu and would hope to learn more about these specific instruments.

November was my third month in China and this was possibly the most incredible period of time I have spent in China. I had participated in the ASDAN business simulation where both myself and many of the other scholars were able to develop skills which I believe will be beneficial to us in the near future such as communication which is essential for developing stronger relations. As well as this, I was also provided with the chance to visit the city of Shanghai to visit two art exhibitions. This was the perfect opportunity to develop my relationship with my roommate and friends whilst immersing myself in the most magnificent artwork. To conclude November, the remainder of our cohort visited myself and the other scholars from our campus in which we visited key cultural locations such as Qingguo Alley, Dongpo Park and Nanshan Bamboo Ocean. Here I had learnt an incredible amount about the significance of education and literature throughout ancient Chinese history. Later on in November I visited Shanghai once again, which I was very much grateful for since I had wanted to return after my visit earlier on.

I am not regretful of my choices to apply for this reputable scholarship award but exceedingly grateful as it has allowed me to further explore China and its vastness. I am excited to continue my adventures across China. I hope that this scholarship award allows for both the past year's cohort, my current cohort and many future cohorts yet to come to develop and strengthen the bilateral relations between China and the UK.



非同一般的中国时光

莱克茜·瑞欧加



首先，我想表达我最深切的感激之情，感谢能有机会在中国这样一所享有盛誉的学校学习，并在一个陌生的地方延续我的教育之路。虽然我来中国的时间只有四个多月，但这段经历已经极大地改变了我的生活，并将使其变得更美好。我相信，我在中国时光不仅会给我带来难忘的回忆，还会让我深入了解中国丰富的文化和悠久的历史。

一直以来我对中国文化充满兴趣，这激励着我在英国的学校学习中文。通过学习中文，我对中国文化的

兴趣不断增长。我一直梦想着能去中国旅行，哪怕只是短短一周，而现在能够在这里生活，远超我曾经的梦想。

自从来到中国，我感受到了非一般时光。我不仅在常州度过了美好的时光，还去了南京、上海和杭州。这些旅程让我沉浸在中国文化的各个方面中：从品尝传统美食，到茅山采摘茶叶，再到在常州东方盐湖城观看传统舞蹈表演。我有幸看到中国城市璀璨灯火下的壮丽美景，也体验了中国乡村的那份宁静与活力。

从学术的角度来看，常州威雅为我提供了在英国无法获得的机会。我已经参加了三次学术竞赛，并期待参加更多类似的活动。我深信，如果我还在英国，我可能连一半这样的机会都不会有。在这里，我结识了许多新朋友，他们向我展示了他们的生活方式，帮助我拓展了对不同传统和价值观的理解。我对这份奖学金深怀感激，它激励着我努力学习，以便在未来回馈社会。我决心充分利用这段经历，并在我继续旅程时，为周围的社区和环境做出积极的贡献。

因此，再次感谢你们给了我这次在中国学习的宝贵机会。到目前为止，我在这里几个月深感震撼，我期待继续收获知识、经验，以及对整体中国了解。



My Time in China is Just Exceptional

Lexie Rioga

I would like to begin by expressing my upmost gratitude for the opportunity to attend such a prestigious school in China and further my education in an unfamiliar place. Although I have only been in China for just over 4 months, this experience has already significantly changed my life for the better. I am confident that my time in China will give me unforgettable memories as well as knowledge of China's rich culture and history.

I have always been interested in China's culture, which inspired me to learn Chinese at my school in the UK; through studying Chinese my interest in the culture began to grow and grow. I had always dreamed of visiting China even just for a week, to be able to live here is more than I could have ever dreamed of.

Since arriving in China, my time here has been nothing but exceptional. I have not only spent time in Changzhou, but also Nanjing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. These adventures have allowed me to be immersed into various aspects of Chinese culture; from eating traditional cuisine to harvesting tea leaves in Mao Shan mountain and watching traditional dances at the Changzhou Oriental Saltlake Resort. I have had the

honour to see not only the beautifully lit cityscapes of urban China, but also the tranquil and vibrant environment of rural China.

From an academic point of view, Wycombe Abbey School Changzhou has given me opportunities that I would never have access to in the United Kingdom. I have taken part in 3 academic competitions and look forward to taking part in many more. I am confident that if I was in the UK I would not have even half of the opportunities that I have here. I have made new friends who are able to introduce me to their ways of life and enable me to broaden my understanding of different traditions and values. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship which has inspired me to work hard so that I can give back to the community in the future. I am determined to make the most of this experience and contribute positively to the community and environment around me as I continue my time here.

So, once more, thank you for giving me this amazing opportunity to study in China. So far, my few months here have been astounding and I am looking forward to gaining more knowledge, experience and appreciation for China as a whole.

飞离英国 “家巢” 追求中国梦想

佩兴斯·沙利文

作为一名来自英国的奖学金生，我的中国留学经历改变了我的人生。在这个辉煌的国度里，短短时间内，我已取得了诸多成就，同时自己的生活也变得超乎想象的充实。

当我走下上海浦东机场的飞机时，潮湿闷热的天气与我习惯的寒冷英国天气形成了鲜明对比。我感受到了一种伟大的气息席卷而来，一片全新的领域在我生活里崛起。

如果有人在去年，甚至6个月前告诉我，我会因为学术奖学金住在常州的一所寄宿学校，周末喝着珍珠奶茶，假期在各个省份间旅行，我可能会笑出声。即使现在，我仍对自己身处的环境、相处的人们以及每天出现的新机遇和新情况感到惊喜。

虽然第一次离开家人独自生活并不容易，但我非常庆幸自己决定飞出“家的小巢”，来到常州威雅追求学术和文化更高层次的精进。

我对自己能获得这个奖学金机会感激不尽，学校为确保我能最大程度获得有意义、有活力的文化体验，付出了巨大的努力。



我已经与其他同学之间建立了许多终生珍惜的友谊。没有这样的机会，这些情谊将不复存在。我和如此多优秀的人，一起参加了许多令人难忘的旅行和活动。他们既友好又努力，我无法再奢求比这更好的经历。

我对未来充满了乐观和期待。我爱这里，感谢一路上帮助我的每一个人，希望这段旅程能让我不断进步！



Flying the Nest to Pursue My Dreams in China

Patience Sullivan

My experience as a British Scholar in China has been life-changing. I have achieved so much in the short time since I arrived in this glorious country and have enriched my life so much more than I ever could have imagined.

When I stepped off the plane at Shanghai Pudong Airport, the muggy heat was a stark contrast from the chilly British weather I had grown used to. I could feel a sense of greatness. A new frontier was arising for my life.

If you had told me last year, or even 6 months ago that I would be living in a boarding school in Changzhou on an Academic Scholarship drinking Bubble Milk tea on the weekends and traveling across the provinces on holidays, I probably would have laughed. Even now, I am still amazed at where I am, who I am with, the possibilities, and the new and fantastic opportunities that come to life every day that I am here.

Whilst it is difficult to get used to living away from my family for the first time, I am so glad I decided to fly the nest and pursue a higher degree of academic and cultural proficiency in Wycombe Abbey Changzhou.

The amount of effort that goes into ensuring that my experience is the most culturally engrossing and invigorating is clear, and I could not be more grateful for my fortune in winning the place on this scholarship.

I can already tell how many lifelong bonds I have made with the other Scholars, relationships that would be non-existent otherwise. Such amazing people who I have enjoyed many excursions and trips with, all so friendly and hard-working- I really could not have asked for a better experience so far.

Currently, I can only feel optimism for the future and what it holds for me. I love it here, thank you to everyone who has helped me on my journey so far, and may it only allow me to excel further!

在这里，我变得更加全面发展和自信优秀

苏菲·阿灵顿

我很荣幸能获得威雅常州的奖学金。我非常感谢这次难得的机会，它不仅提高了我的学习能力，还激励我进一步提高中文口语水平和与人交流的能力。我身边的人每天都在鞭策我成为最好的自己，他们的辉煌成就激励着我，鼓励我不断追求成功。

我新年主要目标之一是考上一所好大学，可以说我已经远远超过了我的目标。如果你在今年年初告诉我，我将有机会在中国完成A Level考试，我一定不会相信。我来到这里才几个月，就已经有机会做一些我在英国永远做不到的事情，而这一切都要归功于奖学金项目。我参加了篮球比赛，修复了古建筑，了解了茶叶的制作过程等等。我攀登过美丽的山峰，对美景肃然起敬。每周我给家人打电话，他们都不敢相信我参加了这么多不可思议的活动，这都要归功于奖学金项目。

来到这里，我最担心的问题之一就是我说中文的自信心，因为几年没说中文，我已经丧失了很多能力。不过，我一到这里，大家都非常热情，主动帮助我提高能力。我现在可以用中文和室友交流，也可以和其他同学聊天；我的一个朋友甚至每天教我一个新词，以进一步提高我的语言能力。来到中国是我做出的最正确的决定。原因有很多，但提高我的中文能力是很重要的一个。现在，我更有信心与当地人交谈并练习口语了。

此外，在有机会来到这里之前，我从未感到过学业上的挑战。在所有的课程中，我都在努力学习更多的知识，这有助于我成为一个更好、更全面的学生。学校的课程非常均衡，同时鼓励学生自学，这是成功进入大学的必备技能。学生们都非常专注于自己的学习，并且总是乐于助人，这鼓励着我像他们一样全力以赴，成为最好的学生。我从未想过自己能在过去几个月里能取得这么大的成就，因为奖学金给了我这样的机会。

来到这里，是我人生至今做过的最好的决定。这不仅是获得A Level课程学习的机会，更是能让我成为一个更优秀的学生，一个更优秀的自己。





A Journey to Becoming a More Well-rounded, Confident and Better Person

Sophie Allington

It is such an honour to have been granted a scholarship to Wycombe Abbey School. I am evermore grateful for this amazing opportunity and how it has developed my academic abilities and has inspired me to further my Chinese speaking skills and communication with others. I am surrounded by people who push me to be the best version of myself everyday and inspire me by their fantastic achievements, encouraging me to strive for success.

One of my main goals for 2024 was to get into a good college, and I can say that I have surpassed my goal by miles. If you told me at the start of the year that I would be given the chance to do my A Levels in China, I would not believe you. I have only been here a few months, and already, I have been given the opportunity to do things I never would have gotten to do in England, and it is all due to the scholarship program. I have participated in basketball matches, restored ancestral homes, and learned about the process of making tea, just to name a few. I climbed beautiful mountains and stared in awe at the view. Every week, I call my family, and they cannot believe all the incredible activities I have taken part in, thanks to the scholarships program.

One of my main concerns over coming here was my Chinese speaking confidence, as I had lost a lot of my ability due to not having spoken Chinese for a few

years. However, as soon as I arrived, everyone was really welcoming and offered to help me improve my ability. I now speak to my roommates in Chinese and talk to other students as well; one of my friends even teaches me a new word each day to further improve my language skills. Moving here has been the best decision I have made, for many reasons but especially to further my Chinese ability, and I am now much more confident to talk to locals and practice my speaking.

Furthermore, I never felt academically challenged before I had the fantastic opportunity to come here. In all my lessons, I am being pushed to further my knowledge, which helps me become a better and more well-rounded student overall. The school has a great balance of lessons, while encouraging students to self-study, which is an essential skill to have to be successful in university. The students are so focused on their studies and are always willing to help, which encourages me to be as dedicated as them and be the best student I possibly can be. I never thought that I would be able to achieve as much as I have done in the past few months, as the opportunities enabled by the scholarship have allowed me to do so.

Coming here was the best decision I ever made, not only for my A Levels, but also for me to become a better student and a better person overall.





2024年夏天, 国际奖学金生在常州威雅学校。
In summer of 2024, international scholars gathered at Wycombe Abbey School Changzhou

每一个孩子都卓越
Every Child Can Excel



威雅·常州
WAS Changzhou

No.9 Huanhu North Road, Wujin District, Changzhou, Jiangsu, P. R. China, 213149

中国江苏省常州市武进区环湖北路9号 邮政编码:213149

www.waiscz.com info@waiscz.com