

The Impact on Students Studying Abroad-- Take the Chinese Students Studying in Canada as an Example

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Abstract: Under the background of globalization, a lot of countries are trying to improve the level of education and encourage educational exchanges. Students studying abroad experience the culture and education system of different countries as global citizens, which is helpful to improve the education level of the country where the students are located, and at the same time, it also promote economic growth of the country who received the foreign students. The research on Chinese students studying in Canada is in line with the scope of global education.

Keywords: Studying abroad; Chinese students; Impact; Global Education

Introduction

Under the background of globalization, more and more Chinese students choose to go abroad and receive more advanced education. As a developed western country, Canada is popular among Chinese students for its advanced education, beautiful natural environment and multi-cultural integration. According to “the report of students on studying in Canada in 2023” states, in 2022, about 100010 Chinese students were studying abroad in Canada, accounting for 12.39% of all international students in Canada. Therefore, the topic of this paper is the impact on students studying abroad -- take the Chinese students studying in Canada as an example. In this paper, I will analyze the influence of studying in Canada on Chinese students in various aspects.

Through reading the relevant literature, I found that many research papers are conducted in the American background, and the research on the background of studying abroad in Canada is limited. At the same time, previous studies analyzed the problems in the life of studying abroad from the perspective of psychology, but few articles directly studied the experience of Chinese students studying abroad. My paper can fill in the blanks.

1. Literature Review

1.1 Study Abroad

The research on the concept of studying abroad is the basis of this paper. “Study Abroad is defined as any of a number of arrangements by which students complete part of their degree program through educational activities outside the their own countries”(Michael, n.d., p.1). Study abroad will better prepare graduates to meet opportunities and challenges in an increasingly globalized and interdependent world (Hser, 2005), that is, study abroad produces “global citizens.” Studying abroad has a positive impact on global participation. As a global citizen, international students create new knowledge, practice new environmental protection lifestyle, make charitable commitment, create or participate in social entrepreneurship (Woolf, 2010).

With regard to the value of studying abroad, a large number of studies focused on cross-cultural understanding, and reported the global participation, cross-cultural adaptability and cultural sensitivity of students studying abroad (Lewin, 2010). At present, most research focusing on the personal or psychological influence on study-abroad college students. The advantage of studying abroad is that enhance students’ self-confidence, independence, open mind and international vision (Black&Duhon,2006). Merrill (2009) propose “student engagement in education abroad experiences enhances global learning and development, which we argue should now become an important and even the core of holistic student development, a goal of almost every undergraduate college or university” (p.111). Meanwhile, there has been unprecedented impetus and growth over the past decade in international education as a vehicle to educate students as citizens for a truly globalized world (AACU, 2012). The outcomes of such education might include

knowledge of historical and political factors that determine the relations between one's own nation and other nations, capacity to communicate in world languages, willingness to engage in solving global problems, and capacity to engage in dialogue with others of differing backgrounds and beliefs (Musil, 2006). Just because studying abroad has many positive guidance for students and helps their future career and life, it attracts many students to leave their own country and experience different life and learning abroad, many Chinese students are also among them.

1.2 Chinese Students in Canada

According to "the report of students on studying in Canada in 2023" states, in 2022, about 100010 Chinese students were studying abroad in Canada, accounting for 12.39% of all international students in Canada. Another group of data from Immigration Canada also shows that from 2008 to 2017, the total number of Chinese students studying in Canada increased by 226% (China Youth News, 2018). According to the report, at the undergraduate stage, Chinese students are mainly from medical universities, of which about 17.9% choose McGill University, University of Toronto or university of British Columbia. Among the undergraduate application universities, Simon Fraser University is the most popular among Chinese students, accounting for 12.28%, followed by University of Western Ontario, a famous medical university, accounting for 9%, British Columbia University, 8.3% and Toronto University, 7.51%. It can be seen from the data that in recent years, the number of Chinese students in Canada has grown rapidly, and Canada attracts students from all over China with its unique advantages. Understanding the basic situation of Chinese students in Canada can deepen the understanding of the research content of this paper.

1.3 Impact of Studying Abroad

Understanding the influence of studying abroad experience on students from previous scholars' research can help us understand the significance of research. Vande Berg et al. (2009) reporting on a multi-year study of the impact of studying abroad on cross-cultural development and language skills found that the results were influenced by variables such as immersion, the presence of cultural mentors and the length of studying abroad experience. Pederson's (2010) study of students studying abroad for a year, in contrast to the Vande Berg et al. (2009) study, did not find a significant improvement in cross-cultural development as measured by the IDI when compared to students who have not studied abroad. At the same time, the first large-scale survey to explore the long-term impact of study abroad on a student's personal, professional, and academic life shows that study abroad positively and unequivocally influences the career path, world-view, and self-confidence of students (Stearns, 2009). National Survey of Student Engagement (2007) shows that intellectual and personal development is greater among students who study abroad than for those who do not. International education contributes to the pragmatic value of a college degree. The Association of American Colleges and Universities (2007), for example, recognizes the value of a global perspective in enhancing the employment prospects for graduates. In a similar vein, authorities acknowledge the social and economic importance of promoting global mindedness among future generations (Norris & Gillespie, 2009). Study abroad has shifted from a marginal opportunity for higher education students to a core strategy of U.S. colleges and universities, considered integral in the mission to globalize the academic environment (Sutton, Miller & Rubin, 2007). The assumption is that a broad set of efforts to expose students to alternate ways of viewing the world (including international education but also multi cultural and sustainable education) nurtures a global awareness and world-mindedness (Merrill, Braskamp, & Braskamp, 2012). It can be learned from the literature that the impact of studying abroad is not only to help students improve their language ability, but also to help students get better personal career development chips. At the same time, the global vision of international students can play an important role in their future life and work. The impact of studying abroad on students is extensive and far-reaching.

2. Discussion

First of all, we can learn from the above literature research that with the rapid development of globalization, more and more Chinese students choose to step out of China and experience different education and culture. Canada has become one choice for many Chinese students to study abroad. The experience of studying abroad has an impact on the way of thinking, the attitude of global citizen, global vision, learning ability, cross-cultural understanding and employment choice of Chinese students, which will be accompanied by Chinese students for a long time.

Secondly, Canada is very suitable for cultivating Chinese students' global vision and critical thinking. Canadian education is student-centered, which focusing on open-ended questions discussion and team-work projects. It requires students to open their minds and analyze questions from multiple perspectives. With the increase of students' studying abroad, their thinking has been well practiced, critical thinking and divergent thinking have been well expanded.

Thirdly, Canada's multi-cultural background also provides a good learning environment for Chinese students, respect and

understand different cultures, and release their goodwill, which will have a long-term impact on Chinese students.

Finally, although it is mentioned in the literature that studying abroad can cultivate various abilities of overseas students, studying abroad in Canada has not all positive effects on Chinese students. For example, some overseas students come to Canada to study because they are optimistic about the advantages of Canadian immigrants and hope to get long-term residence in Canada after graduation, so they do not pay attention to learning, only hope to get their graduation certificate and apply for long-term residence soon. This kind of learning attitude can not let them realize the advantages of Canadian education, and it is impossible to cultivate various abilities.

3. Conclusion

To conclude, In the background of globalization, studying abroad has become the choice of many students. This paper studies the Chinese students in the Canadian background, in-depth understanding of the impact of studying abroad on them, in line with the needs of the background of the times. Knowing its impact on students, we can better develop the good impact, put an end to the bad impact, and make some contributions to the research on the background of global education.

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