



The Sino-German Study Program (ECUST-FHL)

Since September, 2004, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences and East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST) in Shanghai have offered English-language programs in Environmental Engineering and Information Technology together. The study program is the first, and so far only, Sino-German study cooperation of its kind in Schleswig-Holstein, and was a pilot project throughout Germany which was awarded top scores.

The first year of Chinese students started the second phase of study in Lübeck in March 2007 and graduated from Lübeck University of Applied Sciences in July 2008. The graduates work now in Chinese as well as in German companies. Some have started postgraduate studies in China, Germany and other European countries, in the United States of America or Australia. Since March 2010, the fourth year of students studies in Lübeck.

Particular features of the study program are:

- Students receive a dual Sino-German degree.
- The study program offers labour-market oriented, future-oriented programs which are tailored to preferred fields of development in Sino-German economic cooperation (especially in environmental engineering).
- Students spend three of eight semesters in Germany and thus gain strong linguistic skills and intercultural competence.
- Lübeck University of Applied Sciences (about 4,400 students) has a very strong partner in the top Chinese university, ECUST (about 20,000 students), with whom they are working on equal terms.
- Ongoing Sino-German project management takes care of the organisation and development of the program as well as advising the students.
- Students write a thesis in Germany – a very good opportunity for companies to get to know these talented people intensively, shortly before they graduate, by advising them on their thesis work.

Lübeck University of Applied Sciences is looking for diploma positions for the Chinese students in cooperation with the Business Development and Technology Transfer Corporation Schleswig-Holstein (WTSH) in Kiel.

The project is supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the context of the program "Study programs of German Universities Abroad".

Background

For more than 15 years, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences and East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST) have worked closely together in the exchange of scientists and, since 1995, in the exchange of students as well (the Shanghai grant). The partner university in Shanghai is among China's top universities, and regularly takes top places in the annual national rankings.

In 2001, ECUST expressed a desire to deepen the relationship in the form of shared study programs based on the model of the practice-oriented German technical college concept. Sino-German Study Program (ECUST-FHL) began in winter semester 2004/05 and aroused great public interest in Shanghai. Since 2005, the project has been supported by DAAD as part of its program "Study programs of German Universities Abroad".

Goals

The program has as its goal the education of highly qualified members of the technical workforce for the international market, particularly for Sino-German economic relationships. The motivation for introducing the program for both universities was a desire for significant internationalisation of their study programs. The contribution to intercultural understanding provided by the study program is highly praised.

Structure

The Sino-German Study Program (ECUST-FHL) includes the two programs "Electrical Engineering and Automation/Information Technology" and "Chemical Engineering and Technology / Environmental Engineering". After eight semesters in Shanghai and Lübeck, the students receive a dual Sino-German degree: a Diploma of Lübeck University of Applied Sciences and a Bachelor's degree of ECUST (until 2013).

In the course of the Bologna resolution, the Sino-German Study Program (ECUST-FHL) was accredited in March 2010. Students who start their studies in winter semester 2010/11 will be the first to graduate with a double Bachelor degree: the German Bachelor of Science and the Chinese Bachelor of Engineering.

Professors from Lübeck University of Applied Sciences stay for several weeks each semester in Shanghai in order to lead seminars in the context of both shared programs. They provide about 10% of the teaching during the first five semesters at the Shanghai location. In all, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences shoulders 40% of the teaching burden. A train-the-trainer program allows four ECUST professors each year a two-month stay in Lübeck, in order to familiarise themselves with the teaching methodology of the university. These measures ensure that the Chinese students are comfortable from the start with the initially unfamiliar requirements of German university study, such as its practical orientation and the emphasis on self-reliant work. The cooperative study program is initially only open to Chinese applicants, a total of 40 per subject per year. However, the acceptance of a limited number of German students into the English-language lectures in Lübeck is already planned. The introduction of integrated study semesters in Shanghai for students of Lübeck University of Applied Sciences is under discussion.

Management

In order to manage the cooperative study program with Lübeck University of Applied Sciences, ECUST founded the Sino-German College of Technology. There, the program has access to highly qualified teaching and administrative personnel, as well as the latest in educational and laboratory equipment. The director of the college and project head in Shanghai speaks fluent German and has many years of experience in Germany. At the German end, the model is organised by a project team which is a direct part of the Lübeck University of Applied Sciences President's Office, in close cooperation with the departments involved and the International Office. The Joint Management Committee is responsible for the management of the joint program. It consists of four representatives of ECUST and four from Lübeck University of Applied Sciences, and meets every six months, alternating between Lübeck and Shanghai.

Applicant selection

The selection of students is the responsibility of ECUST. Since it is among the top universities in China, only the students with the best grades in the national university admissions exam (the Gaokao) have a chance of admission to the program. From all the applicants, ECUST's first step is to select students based on Gaokao results, and then they perform another round of selection.

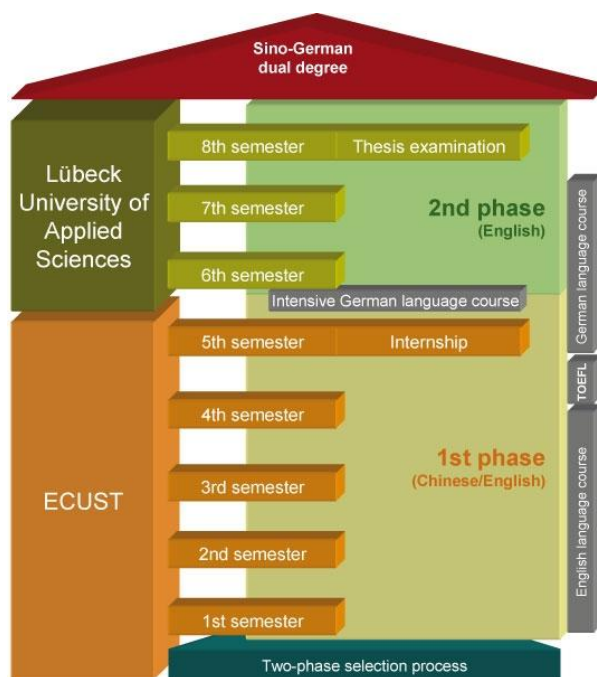
This ensures that only outstanding students are accepted to the demanding program. The experience of the first three years have shown that the Sino-German study program attracts

particularly highly qualified students: their Gaokao results were significantly above the average of all applicants at ECUST. The number of qualified applicants far exceeded the 80 spaces available.

Study structure

The study program breaks down into two phases: from the first to the fifth semester, Shanghai hosts the cooperative model; from the sixth to the eighth it is in Lübeck; after eight semesters, the students receive a dual Sino-German degree.

At the beginning of the course, the focus is on the mathematical and scientific basics and the English language. Before the end of the fourth semester, the students must pass the Internet-based TOEFL English test with scores of at least 71 points. This is the requirement for going on to Lübeck in the sixth semester. In the fifth semester, there is an internship at companies in and around Shanghai. At the same time, German courses start in preparation for the stay in Lübeck. The students spend their sixth and seventh semesters at Lübeck University of Applied Sciences. Starting from 2007, the lectures were preceded by a two or three-week intensive German language course accompanied by a cultural program in order to simplify the start in Germany. In addition to the technical lectures in English, the German courses are continued and intensified during the semester. The eighth semester is reserved for thesis work, which is performed and monitored in companies in the region and across Germany.



The Sino-German Bachelor Program:
Lübeck University of Applied Sciences contributes 40%,
ECUST 60% of teaching.

Evaluation

The Sino-German College at ECUST and Lübeck University of Applied Sciences is a persuasive example of successful collaboration between a German and a foreign university.

(Dr. Ewald Berning, certifier)

After the University Rector's Conference presented the study program of Lübeck University of Applied Sciences and ECUST as one of the seven best-practice models of Sino-German university cooperation in their study "Sino-German Study Programs: Analyses and Recommendations", an

independent certification team engaged by the DAAD evaluated the project very positively after an extensive examination at the Shanghai location in December 2005. The Sino-German study

program has a solid foundation, and promises to become an example of positive programs. According to the evaluation, the cooperative contract, the board of directors of the Sino-Germany College, and the Joint Management Committee will be a reliable basis for high-quality theory, research and continued education. Certifiers praise the technical, administrative and amicable equality of the partners, the institutional recognition for the project on both sides, and the coherent financing concept. The teaching and study conditions are considered very good. The evaluators have assessed the content of the study programs as up to date and oriented towards the job market. Particular attention was paid to the fact that Lübeck University of Applied Sciences has brought elements of its practical, industry-related engineering education to the program – elements which have not yet been a part of the theory-heavy Chinese curriculum. The students in the program excel owing to their above-average performance and very good English skills. Lübeck University of Applied Sciences has succeeded in winning in ECUST a very strong partner for shared educational and research plans.

A further evaluation in June 2008 confirmed this appraisal and described the study program as a best practice project of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). For this reason, the DAAD decided to support the program until end of 2012.

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