

Reflective Journal of My Exchange Study in Shanghai

In the fall of 2024, I had the privilege of studying at Fudan University in Shanghai for a semester. From the moment I arrived, I was struck by the sheer size of the campus, which dwarfed most universities in Hong Kong. The campus, however, was more than just vast—it was beautifully landscaped, with lush lawns and tree-lined paths that created a warm, inviting atmosphere. In my free time, I loved strolling through the grounds or lying on the grass, feeling connected to nature. As late fall settled in, the golden ginkgoes on both sides of the road, and the maple leaves turning red as the temperature dropped, which was very nice.

Classes at Fudan offered a refreshing contrast to my experiences in Hong Kong. Students arrived early, eagerly awaiting the start of each session, while professors often used chalk and blackboards to share their notes, a nostalgic touch that reminded me of my middle school days. The sound of bells signaling the start and end of classes added to this sense of familiarity. The campus buzzed with a palpable passion for learning. Each time I passed the library, I saw it brimming with students immersed in their studies, many staying until closing time. Beyond the classroom, our professors enriched our education by organizing visits to companies and laboratories. These trips allowed me to explore potential career paths, gain insights into industry expectations, and stay updated on the latest developments in my field.

Fudan also fostered a vibrant cultural life. I attended academic talks hosted by the faculty, where foreign scholars shared perspectives that broadened my worldview. The lawn in front of the Guanghai Building frequently came alive with lively stalls, and I often wandered over after class to soak in the festive atmosphere and connect with fellow students.

Living in Shanghai introduced me to a diverse group of new friends who enriched my experience. In my dormitory, I bonded with peers from Taiwan and Hong Kong, our casual conversations revealing fascinating insights into their cultures, traditions, and experiences studying abroad. In the classroom, I grew close to Fudan classmates from my major, learning about their daily routines, study habits, and aspirations. I also joined the university's middle- and long-distance running team, where I met an inspiring group of runners who shared my passion. Training with them not only improved my skills but also motivated me to stay committed, even on challenging days. I was particularly impressed by their ability to balance academic schedules with daily training. One highlight was participating in the university's Fun Run, a lively race around the sprawling

campus—an event that would be nearly impossible to replicate on the compact campuses of Hong Kong.

Above all, I am deeply grateful to the teachers, classmates, and friends who supported me throughout this journey. Their kindness and encouragement made my time at Fudan unforgettable. This exchange program was more than an academic experience; it was a transformative chapter that broadened my horizons, deepened my connections, and left me with memories I will cherish for years to come.