

TSINGHUA

Study Abroad Reports

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: **Fall 2019 – Tsinghua University**

REPORT:

My academic and educational objectives for my time in China were (1) to become more familiar with Chinese society, (2) to improve my Chinese language skills, and (3) to gain an overview of the mainland Chinese legal system. I registered for the following five courses:

- Chinese Civil Law (3 credits)
- Chinese Society and Chinese Law (3 credits)
- Chinese Civil Procedure and the Conflict of Laws (3 credits)
- Chinese Constitutional Law and Administrative Law (2 credits)
- Chinese Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure (2 credits)

These courses were taught in English and provided a brief overview of several topics in the Chinese legal system. We studied the provisions of laws such as the General Rules of Civil Law, General Principles of Civil Law, Tortious Liability Law, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, and Civil Procedure Law. In addition, the courses discussed how Chinese society and recent history have shaped the legal system, including the role of the constitution in modern China. We also touched on several points of comparison between the Chinese legal system and legal systems in other countries. I believe the coursework allowed me to meet my objectives of gaining an overview of the mainland Chinese legal system and becoming more familiar with Chinese society. I can now speak with a bit of knowledge about the structure of the Chinese legal system and discuss some interesting facets of it.

The overall experience at Tsinghua University Law School was extremely positive. Although there were some difficulties initially with course registration, we were given plenty of time and assistance. It was important to be patient at this stage of the process. For the fall 2019 semester, there was not a huge variety of courses to choose from, but we were told that the elective course offerings change from year to year. During the course registration period, we also had to complete visa formalities such as a medical check and an interview with the immigration office. It was a good idea to get these things done as early as possible so that they did not interfere with classes. The immigration office needed to hold our passports for up to three weeks, so we had to take that into consideration if we were making any travel plans. Even domestic travel in China requires a passport, so we could not leave Beijing while the immigration office had our passports.

The faculty are all truly approachable and the classroom ~~experience was very~~ comfortable. The class size was small, so the interaction with the professors was informal and relaxed. There was a bit of a language barrier, but it was not a big issue because the professors were very patient. At the end of the semester, the exam period was a bit hectic because exams occurred on consecutive days. Some courses also had two separate assessments – a final exam and a final paper. There was not a lot of advance notice of exact exam dates or of the assessment formats. Because of this, it was a good idea to start working on final papers as we received the assignments because other assignments were sometimes announced by surprise.

The objective of improving my Chinese language skills occurred mostly outside the classroom. Outside of campus, there were ample opportunities to use the Chinese language. A lot of apps – such as those for booking railway tickets, online shopping, food delivery, online banking – were available only in Chinese, so it was a very immersive language-learning experience. Tsinghua matched each exchange student with a “buddy” in the Chinese law school,

and they were very generously willing to help with any difficulties caused by the language barrier.

Lastly, for off-campus housing, it helps to have assistance from an agent or a local friend if the dorms are not available. I originally intended to live in the dorms, but all the available rooms were taken before I could get one. The dorms fill up within minutes becoming available. Because of the above factors, it was important to arrive in China with patience and an open mind. The experience was very rewarding not just in terms of educational objectives but also in terms of being an adventure.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☐
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☐
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name: _____

Semester/Institution: Fall 2017; Tsinghua University

REPORT:

Overall I had an excellent study-abroad experience at Tsinghua. I had three goals before walking into this program: 1) gain a solid understanding of the Chinese legal system and how it is intertwined with the Chinese society in general; 2) learn about the Chinese legal market for intellectual property; and 3) network with local attorneys, law students, and other science and engineering students in Tsinghua. I have reached my goals in the following ways.

The three mandatory courses I took laid out a solid foundation for my understanding of Chinese law. The Chinese Law and Society course was taught by former law school Dean and LLM Program Director Wang Chengguang. Prof. Wang was born in the 50s and witnessed firsthand the struggle of the Chinese society in coping with post-war era and modernization, and he spoke in-depth on how exactly the legal system and legal education has evolved in the nation's capital and the country in general. The Chinese Constitutional Law course was taught by a young professor from Peking University. He completed his PhD studies in law at Oxford University and was an expert in conveying the subtle details of the Chinese legal system from a comparative perspective. The Chinese Civil Law course was taught by law school's Vice Dean Cui Guobin. Professor Cui used to study at Yale and he knows all the struggles students from common law system has in understanding China's civil law system. All of the Professors I had spoke fairly fluent English and I never experienced issues with their language use. I am also under the impression that my classmates share my view. The professors treasure the opportunity to speak about Chinese law to foreign students with a diverse background. They are always easily approachable, and most of the time they are open to share their own views on the country's legal system, whether it's good or bad.

Aside from the mandatory courses, I took a class with local PhD law students in Intellectual Property Theory. This course was also taught by Prof. Cui, since he is one of the go-to the expert in IP law in the country. Prof. Cui is often summoned by the Beijing Intellectual Property Court to comment on significant cases, and he is more than willing to share that experience with the class. I also had a valuable opportunity to network with local students who had a strong interest in intellectual property law just like myself.

Tsinghua University is often considered as the "Top Two" post-secondary institution in China. Although the university is renowned for its science and engineering program, in recent years the university has invested a great amount of resources in its humanity studies, and the result is apparent. Tsinghua Law is now a top five law school in the country. The campus is the biggest in Beijing if not the country. International students are provided with single-room dormitories with weekly cleaning service. The room is small, but overall I have had no issue while living on campus. The commute from the dorm building to law school requires a bicycle, which was no longer a hassle thanks to the advent of shared bike services in China (Mobike and Ofo). The air quality was one of my biggest concerns going in. Nevertheless, while I was there the city of Beijing had one of the best winters in terms of air quality in the past 10+ years. The central government was very serious about improving the air quality in the nation's capital and they delivered. The other surrounding regions, however, were not so lucky.

Because I myself am a Mandarin speaker, I had no issue communicating and networking with local students on campus. If you speak no Chinese at all, you should still find many of the local students approachable as long as you put on a smile and remain respectful. The other exchange student from BU Law barely spoke any Chinese when he arrived, but by the end of the semester I think he may have made more local friends than I. The trick is to be open-minded and proactive. Many local students tend to be shy at the beginning, which is culturally different from American college campus and could get some time to get used to.

The exchange program is organized as a part of the LLM Program in Tsinghua Law. The program director, Camellia, was nothing but amazing. She is detailed-oriented and very tentative to every aspect of student life in or out of the classrooms. Moving to a new country to study is never an easy process, but she made it much more bearable that it otherwise would've been. The LLM Program in my year had 19 students including those on exchange. The student body comes from a diverse background. The course load is reasonable. All the classes are scheduled on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and if you want to take some time to travel, you have plenty of opportunities to do so. Exchange students are also offered an option to come back to Tsinghua for one more semester in the next two years if getting a Tsinghua Diploma is an educational goal.

China is a country whose economy is on the rise, and the general population is, on average, quite optimistic about where the country is heading. Because human labor is still relative cheap, services like "waimai (food delivery)" is extremely convenient. Electronic payment system is so popular to a point where I almost never have to bring cash or credit cards while I'm on the street. Nevertheless, free speech does not exist, and as a foreigner you should exercise caution in things you share and say in a public setting (including online settings like Wechat chat groups).

Overall, the Tsinghua exchange program was an invaluable experience to me. For those who have a genuine interest in China and the Chinese market, they should find this program a perfect fit in their educational experience. Aside from a top-notch faculty, the experience of living in the country's capital for a prolonged time is by itself a perfect opportunity to get immersed in the culture. Beijing is perhaps the most "Chinese" city out there with its strong political existence, cultural heritage, and significant number of migrants from all classes. I am happy to speak with anyone in person regarding my experience at Tsinghua.

10/30/12

BU Law 3L

Note: I am willing to share this review and my information with prospective study abroad students.

Classes

Maybe it is the cultural differences (Confucian rather than Socratic?) but the classes are dry. The format is purely lecture - student interaction is essentially non-existent. This is unfortunate because our class body is composed of students from all over the world, with diverse academic and professional backgrounds and varied perspectives. The professors' strong accents, the three hour class periods, and over indulgence in power point slides also contribute to render monotonous classes. But the material is interesting, and it seems as if the curriculum at Tsinghua is intended to highlight the unique features of Chinese law.

Outside of the English-taught law classes, I have focused on improving my facility with Mandarin Chinese. The school is flexible in allowing students to audit law classes taught in Chinese. One of my most valuable experiences has been auditing a commercial law class offered to undergrads. I have developed a strong vocabulary in professional legal Chinese, and even learned a little about Chinese business law. I have also learned a lot of specialized vocabulary through the advanced spoken Chinese class also offered at Tsinghua. And of course it has been invaluable being able to apply my language skills outside of campus, whether talking to my Chinese roommates, taxi drivers, street vendors, or new friends around the city.

Beijing

My first reaction to Beijing was physical discomfort; the thick pollution, arid climate, and crushing crowds are exhausting and unpleasant. My disappointment with the city continued when I found that the price of a decent apartment off campus was similar to that of Boston – a far cry from the \$100 a month apartment I rented in Chengdu before law school. But I've come to make peace with some of the city's flaws, as it offers some major perks as well. I will list a few:

- Great food, including foreign food for when you need a break from the local fare
- Myriad cultural sites like the Great Wall, Forbidden City, historic "Hutong" neighborhoods
- The locals speak standard Mandarin Chinese, allowing you to get the most out of your Mandarin Chinese learning
- Major transportation hub – flights, high speed trains, overnight buses for weekend trips (facilitated an incredible weekend trip to Inner Mongolia)
- Well educated college-aged population, large diverse foreign population

Social

Day one at Tsinghua felt a lot like day one of my first year of law school. Everyone was very eager to meet one another, and the school hosted social activities to allow us to get to know each other.

Within the first half of the semester our group of exchange students has already visited the Great Wall and the national museum, enjoyed Peking Duck, as well as a turkey dinner on Halloween (which was a bit odd, although there may have been some confusion in the planning). Our small class size of 30 students also fosters a strong feeling of collegiality.

This semester I have also often ventured outside the school gates. Through Weibo, (China's Twitter) a Chinese JD student at BU introduced me to a group of lawyers in Beijing with whom I have become close friends. I have picked up my saxophone, which had been gathering dust in Boston, and found a weekly jazz gig in downtown Beijing, performing with some old friends from my time in China before law school. I also paid a visit to my future law firm's Beijing office and developed relationships with some of the team who I may be joining a few years down the road.

Verdict

The past two months have been immensely fulfilling. I have developed language skills, relationships, and legal education that should be highly advantageous towards my future career. I have also had an absolute blast in the process. Law students interested in China, a future legal career here, or looking for a holistically rewarding experience, would be well served spending a semester here. The one caveat is that those who are purely looking for a top-notch academic experience may be disappointed by the English language law classes.

MID-SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a one page report assessing your experience abroad, in light of your academic and personal goals. Topics to consider:

Courses

Professors

Housing

Social Activities

City Life

Money Matters

- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒ NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your mid-semester report (with any indentifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒ NO ☐

Please write your Mid-Semester Study Abroad Report below.

PROGRAM NAME & SEMESTER:

Study Abroad Mid-Semester Report

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Fall 2012

I am extremely glad I decided to pursue the study abroad program in Beijing. Not only am I experiencing new things on a daily basis, but I am learning a lot about Chinese law that I believe will help me in private practice. I won't be working for a law firm that caters to China-specific issues, but any law firm that deals with corporate clients is invariably experience a stream of Chinese corporate clients walking through the door, and having knowledge of the language and corporate/banking laws of China will only help to serve and retain those clients.

I had assumed that only students who could already speak Chinese would come to the program, and I am happy to say that I was incorrect. About half of the students in the program, who come from all over the world, speak no Chinese whatsoever. They get around just fine in

Beijing, and even seem to be enjoying the trial and error process of learning the words for their daily activities. All the professors in the program speak English and I haven't had any problems with a language barrier. The classes are definitely not "easy A's," and students must commit themselves to doing the readings and studying. However, it is definitely not so time-consuming that one would have to sacrifice a Saturday night to working. There is plenty of time left over for exploring Beijing. As of this writing, finals were still a few months away, but I suspect that is still the case even during exams.

There are many options for having a robust night life in Beijing. In my experience, the other students in the program are extremely friendly and eager to develop friendships with each other. There is certainly never a dull moment and there is always someone to go out with, even if it's just to the dining hall.

With regard to housing, I chose to live on-campus and I am extremely grateful for that. The dorm for foreign students is one of the nicest dorms on campus. There is a 24/7 doorman and it is extremely safe. My alternative would have been to deal with a potentially unsavory landlord in trying to find off-campus housing. However, the other student from BU chose to live off-campus and seems to be enjoying that decision. There are pros and cons to each decision, and I am happy to discuss living accommodations with any interested study abroad candidates.

One thing worth noting is that the notion that China is cheap is incorrect. I studied abroad about 5 years ago and the exchange rate was very much in my favor. The cost for everything from food to shopping to the nightlife was negligible, even on my college student budget. A lot has changed in these past few years, and I was surprised to learn that Beijing is not far from New York or Boston prices. That goes for food, rent, shopping, cabs, and other services. It's not overly onerous, but American money won't buy a gilded lifestyle in Beijing, if that's what study abroad candidates were hoping for.

Within China and indeed throughout the world, Tsinghua is a prestigious university and students hoping to do anything China-related would be well-served by having Tsinghua on their resume. The campus is beautiful and historical and students coming here will improve their Chinese language skills as well as learn a lot of law. I am enjoying my experience and am happy to discuss the program with any interested candidates.

02/05/10
Beijing, China

BUSL Semester Abroad Report: Tsinghua University

Before I left for a fall semester at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, I had three main goals. First was to obtain an introduction to China's legal system, second was to learn Chinese, and last, was to find out if I could live in China in the future for work. By the time I stepped off the plane in Beijing I was determined to accomplish these three goals. After four months, I walk away with an introductory understanding about Chinese law and a better understanding of the Chinese culture. I also walk away with a very basic level of Chinese and a greater admiration for the language. Lastly, after four months, I have become familiar with the neighborhoods and streets of Beijing and would be thrilled if given the opportunity to work in the city.

I knew leaving BUSL for a semester abroad would mean missing certain classes that I would not be able to take in spring or later, but academically, a semester at Tsinghua Law School has taught me things about Chinese law that I would not have learned anywhere else. I had a full schedule at Tsinghua, taking six courses total, which ranged from Chinese Constitutional Law to Chinese Society and Culture. One of my favorite classes was Chinese Company Law taught by two professors, both who also practice law in China. This class exposed me to Chinese laws and regulations passed in response to the enormous number of foreign investments in China in the 2000s. China's economy was and still is exploding and its legal system is trying to keep up with this growth by passing new laws and regulations as quickly as possible. Another class that stood out from the semester was Chinese Society and Culture taught by Tsinghua's

former Law School Dean, Professor Wang. He helped put the overall Chinese legal system in perspective and how the system has evolved as a result of the cultural changes that occurred in China. I also appreciated the program being a LLM program in Chinese Law, which made the program extremely organized and attentive to all the students in the program. The only critique I have about the program is that some of the professors were difficult to understand at times because English was not their first languages, and sometimes they had difficulty answering questions raised due to the language barrier.

Including classes at Tsinghua I also took private Chinese lessons three times a week for two hours each meeting. It was really important to me to learn Chinese while in China for my personal growth and also to survive in Beijing. It is a rarity in Beijing for people to speak English, thus after the first couple of weeks I had even greater motivation to learn the language. Chinese is probably one of the most difficult languages, which not only includes the memorization of letters, but also tones. After four months I have the vocabulary of a five year old, but unlike, the first month I was in China, I can bargain for clothes and tell a cab driver relatively where I want to go. Similar to the knowledge I have acquired about Chinese law, these four months has given me a starting point to learn Chinese, which I hope to continue with.

I have wanted to go to China to study since starting law school at BU, and after having completed my semester abroad I walk away with four months of experience that will shape the way I view China, legal systems and life in general in the future. Unlike the United States that has had a long-standing legal system since its creation, China, like other countries, has gone through various systems. I learned with a better understanding that no legal system is perfect and from a superficial point of view it is easy to criticize

interesting food options) made my time abroad more enriching and memorable, and that is exactly what I was looking for when I chose this program.

I will never forget the incredible four months I spent studying and living in Beijing. I learned so much about Chinese law, culture and language in such a short time. Moreover, I met interesting and diverse people that I hope I will keep in touch with for many years to come. My experiences at Tsinghua University were amazing and I would definitely recommend it to anyone looking for a rewarding study abroad semester.

other legal systems, but despite the corruption and lack of transparency in China's legal system, its legal system is evolving as fast as possible to accommodate its growing economy. I view this semester abroad as only the starting point to my understanding of Chinese law and Chinese, and extremely grateful for this opportunity.

Study Abroad Evaluation
1/29/06

My Semester at Tsinghua University

This was a fantastic experience, one that I appreciate Boston University for offering me and one that I am very glad I took. While I am sure I would have learned useful and important things had I remained at BU for the semester, the uniqueness of this opportunity to study in Beijing, at Tsinghua, at this particular moment in time made it more than worthwhile.

Academically, my goal was to get an understanding of basic Chinese law. With China growing as a global economic and political power, and American-Chinese business relationships ever-increasing, I felt that it would be useful to know how law was conducted and viewed across the Pacific. Moreover, I have a personal interest in how Chinese law works, based in my ancestry and my general academic curiosity in international law.

Tsinghua's program fit this goal perfectly. The classes were those that one would generally expect a first year law student to take, thereby presenting both a breadth of topics and a certain level of fundamentality needed to get started in a study of Chinese law. That being said, the quantity of information actually received was less than what one might expect back in the U.S. This may be credited in part to the fact of a different teaching style, communication problems and the existence of a completely different legal system. With respect to teaching style, almost all the professors used a straight lecture style, which for me personally, works less effectively than a more engaging style. All the professors taught in English, but some still had difficulties at times conveying concepts. The same can be said for some of the translated course material that we used. Finally, the

Chinese legal system is entirely different from the American one, and since legal systems are often a product of culture, it took many students a longer time to grasp what the Chinese system was aiming to do without an inherent understanding of the culture. Despite this, I still learned the basic laws, and more importantly, learned the general philosophy and aims of the Chinese legal system. I think this is the most important thing to learn from a practical standpoint, should I ever get a chance to do legal work in China. The detailed law should be left to local experts, but to serve a client, one should know how things will work and how to achieve the client's goals in a different setting.

Personally, I wanted to just experience China at this unique moment in its history where it is growing rapidly. I could feel the optimism in the general population, all the while seeing how far the country still has to go. I enjoyed meeting with locals as well as other foreign students, exchanging views and ideas about the world. I picked up some hobbies and tried new foods. I was able to travel to parts of the world I always wanted to see (e.g. Tibet and Cambodia), while still learning to experience Beijing itself. I made a number of close friends, and got to know my fellow BU study-abroaders much better. I was able to do some language study and improved my Mandarin skills, which should only serve to benefit me in the future.

I would recommend that everyone study abroad, and that anyone with a particular interest in China should try Tsinghua. It is not a vacation living in Beijing, but the fact that it is not is part of the great experience one can have. I certainly learned a lot both inside and outside the classroom, and that's exactly what I wanted to do.

Final Report
Tsinghua University, Beijing China

My time at Tsinghua University has been one of my best experiences at law school. Having always had an interest in international affairs, I'm infinitely grateful for having been given the opportunity to explore my legal education outside of America in a country experiencing such exciting change and development.

China has been somewhat of a mystery to most Americans until recently, with its accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001 and now with the spotlight shining upon it for the 2008 Olympics. These changes set the stage for China's role as a key world player and demonstrated the country's unhindered growth. China's impressive development has also unearthed new and existing social problems. With a growing middle class and more money at stake, more companies and citizens grow aware of their legal and fundamental rights. As America works even more closely with China on an economic and social level, I felt that it was important to study Chinese law and culture and to understand how it compares with American law and society. The program at Tsinghua University provided me with this opportunity to learn more about China's legal system and to interact with classmates, not only from America, but all over the world. We were able to share our ideas, challenge each other's concepts, and to understand our similarities. It was truly an eye-opening experience from start to finish.

Before going to China, I did not realize how youthful the Chinese legal system was. China's fast development has spurred a country, once without the rule of law, to strengthen and develop its legal system. To that end, China has adopted a constitution which sets forth basic principles and rights. However, in contrast to America, the Chinese Constitution lacks legal bite as citizens are rarely able to bring claims within the courts based on their constitutional rights. It was remarkable to see a budding legal system grow and develop while we were there. We

studied the *Sun Zhigang* case, popularly referred to as China's *Marbury v. Madison*, which was the first case to raise a claim against the unconstitutionality of an existing law. What took place in 1803 in America, almost happened in 2003 in China, with Chinese courts countenancing the idea of entertaining constitutional questions and ruling definitively on the constitutionality of laws. It was truly remarkable to watch a legal system being shaped and defined by events that happened around us while we were there.

My time in China also afforded me with the opportunity of establishing meaningful relationships within the legal community. Our classes were taught, not only by leading professors, but also by experienced professionals. I took a class taught by a partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer who was an expatriate from America. I found it very interesting to be taught by an American who had lived and worked for many years in China, but could still relate to our questions and confusion over the differences between our system and theirs. Moreover, as students we were able to establish a direct relationship with the Dean of the law school, Wang Chenguang. Over dinners and informal conversations we were able to learn much from him. It is exciting to truly see how much the legal community overlaps, as he is now teaching at NYU School of Law Chinese Law and Society; the very class we took with him last semester in Beijing. I look forward to meeting with him again in New York next week.

Outside of the classroom, I enjoyed every minute of living in China. I loved every challenge that I faced, from understanding the different cultural norms (there is no concept of a queue in China!), to learning a new language that finds its expression through tones (often resulting in comedy for the Chinese students – one mistake in tone can take you from trying to say “I lost my backpack” to “I lost my baby”, as I personally found out). My travels took me from hiking in rural Tibet to being jostled by city slickers in Hong Kong, and from the quiet city

of Xi'an to trendy Shanghai, catching great walls, revered mountains, and many different cuisines in between. All this formed part of my education and supplemented the knowledge I gained in class. This semester was an amazing opportunity and I would not hesitate at all in recommending this program to any interested student at BU.

My semester at Tsinghua University in Beijing was an incredible experience and I am so glad that I decided to spend the Fall '08 semester there. I have been back for about a month now and I am already wishing that I could go back. I would definitely like to go back for another semester at some point so that I can obtain my L.L.M. Degree. My semester in Beijing far exceeded my expectations in many ways, both academically and personally.

As I mentioned in my mid-semester report, one of the greatest attributes of the Chinese law classes at Tsinghua University was the diversity of students. The L.L.M. class had students from the U.S., Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa, which made the discussion of China's legal issues much more interesting as each student's background added something unique. Because of this diversity, I learned not only about Chinese Law, but also French, German, and Philippines Law.

My academic goals before I went to China were to learn more about Chinese law as more and more firms are expanding their presence in China. I was able to see first hand the growing Chinese economy from the increased creation of large multi-national corporations to the ever-expanding street vendors and small shops. It was exciting to be in Beijing during and immediately following the Olympics because it was so full of life and possibility. I believe that the core classes I took, most importantly Chinese Corporation Law and Chinese Investment Law, will help in my goal to practice international corporate law. While China's economy is booming, the law regulating corporations, contracts, and foreign investment are still in the preliminary stages. For example, while corporations with limited liability have been around legally since 1993, the basic concept of piercing the corporate veil was only introduced in 2006. Other corporate concepts that are well established in western countries, such as duty of care for board members, have also just recently been instituted in China. Through my classes at Tsinghua University I have also been able to learn more about the foreign investment laws, specifically joint venture law. I believe this basic knowledge will help me assist future clients that may be looking to expand into China.

More than just specifically learning about Chinese laws, my semester at Tsinghua taught me how to research and review Chinese laws, and taught me about the process of lawmaking in China, which is vastly different from the U.S. The judiciary is not a strong presence in China,

which makes it difficult for foreign investors to adequately protect their interests. While, I know that I have much more to learn in terms of Chinese law, I feel that my semester abroad gave me a basic foundation to build from and I hope to continue my study of Chinese law in the future.

Personally, another goal of mine was to immerse myself in a culture that was vastly different than my own, and Beijing definitely exceeded my expectation in that regard. The city is an amazing mixture of modern and ancient and I made every attempt to explore both sides of the city. I went to the Commercial Business District (CBD) and saw the new Beijing full of high-rises, shopping malls, and fancy restaurants. In contrast I also explored the hutongs (alleys) of old Beijing that were filled with street vendors selling everything from slippers to vegetables. I visited incredible cultural sites like the Forbidden City and the Great Wall, and also got to go to the Birds Nest and Water Cube from the 2008 Olympics. All of these visits enhanced my knowledge of Beijing and Chinese culture and customs and I am so grateful that I had the opportunity. Additionally, I got to visit other parts of mainland China, as well as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea, all of which added to my cultural experience.

I wanted to be challenged by my study abroad experience and Beijing challenged me in a good way. I will never forget the experience of getting off the plane in Beijing and attempting to get to my dorm room with a cab driver who spoke no English and seemingly had no idea where I needed to go. However, as difficult as that first night was, it made me resolve to learn enough Mandarin so I was able to at least get back to my dorm room. I found it incredibly rewarding to take a Chinese language class at a nearby language school for six hours every week. Mandarin is a very difficult language to learn, where the tone of what you are saying makes all the difference. I still remember trying to order chicken, which is ji in the first tone, and them not understanding because I think I was saying it in the third tone, which means machine. However, I think that I improved over the course of the semester and it was always a small victory when somebody could understand what I was saying and I understood them. Another challenge for me personally was using a bike as my primary means of transportation. The Tsinghua campus and surrounding areas are so large that a bike is an absolute necessity. For someone who hasn't really ridden a bike since I was a kid, it was difficult to just ride in a straight line, but I was also faced with weaving around thousands of other bike riders, pedestrians, cars, rickshaws. I got better at it, but to this day I have nightmares of trying to cross the intersection outside of the East Gate of Tsinghua. But all of these new and challenging experiences (I haven't even mentioned the