

BEIJING, CHINA

TAMMY TIAN

Program: Tsinghua University Exchange, Year

Tammy's Major: Journalism

Academic Life: A majority of my coursework was in the Global Business Journalism program. It was a very on-your-own learning style; teachers will not reach out to you. The material can be as serious as the student wants it to be, as it is in the journalism courses at UW. The English courses had mostly other international students enrolled. I did take a couple courses in Chinese, and felt that the coursework was tougher. As a student particularly interested in contemporary China, I found talking to the professors and local students very interesting, but it is definitely hard making that connection. You could easily get by studying here with no knowledge of Chinese, but having the skill of Chinese will allow you to communicate with the locals more.

Interning Abroad: I did an internship at the Golden Bridges Foundation on the east side of Beijing. It is a non-profit that promotes exchange between young people. I maintained their blog and helped plan events. I was able to publish a few pieces of writing and meet people in various fields related to media. An internship abroad will show that you take initiative and will give you firsthand insight to what it's like to work abroad. I think that's important experience to have for our increasingly globalized world.

New Perspectives: Instead of leading our first inquiries of China as suspicions, animosity and competition, I think it could be beneficial to think first of ways to collaborate on projects. In meeting the people here, in universities and business, I found that Beijingers are quite entrepreneurial and open-minded. I think it is naive of us to ignore the progress China has made in technology and energy.

Tips for Future Students: If China ever crosses your mind, don't let it go. China is changing the way the world works in spite of all the negative attention it gets.



Tammy, in cap, graduating abroad.

“The way you experience life is not the same as the person next to you, nor is it the same as the person across the globe.”