

你好!

My name is Ashabria Mangum 孟莎

I am a BU alumni from the spring class of 2018. I am from Philadelphia and I currently work and live in Beijing, where I am a language teacher.

Studying Chinese:

Studying any language, other than your native one, is important for any future success both personally and professionally. For me, studying Chinese has led to nothing but amazing opportunities.

At first learning Chinese was something my parents enforced during my high school education and later became something I willingly continued to learn while in college. Chinese isn't easy but nothing good comes easy anyways. Right? Please don't give up. Keep pursuing the language. Make sure you continue all the way to Chinese 4.

Studying Abroad:

I could say that most of my knowledge and understanding of the world and other cultures has come from an academic perspective. I was given the opportunity to study abroad in both Morocco and China throughout my time as an undergraduate at Bloomsburg.

I personally think studying abroad should be a requirement for all college students. It's an unimaginable experience. So if you can, PLEASE take the opportunity to study abroad. Culture Shock does exist but you cannot let it take over your experience. Do stuff. Be curious. Pay attention. Paying attention is important because it connects you with the culture.

Moving to China:

After graduation, choosing a career path was a challenge for me, as it may be now for many of you. Personally, I struggled with the idea of finding the "perfect" career. I didn't want to start a career in China I'd later hate. Of course my prior experiences in China as a student has helped me with my professional transition. I am happy with where I am now because I'm preparing for where I plan to go.

Take risk. Make sacrifices. Believe in yourself. Life is only lived once and it's led by you.



