

# A Few Suggestions for the "Reverse Study Abroad" Boom among Chinese Students

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**ABSTRACT:**This paper analyses the main causes and dangers of the "reverse study abroad" boom on the Chinese internet by analysing the phrase "A British university classroom is full of Chinese". This article analyses the main reasons for the "reverse study abroad" trend and its dangers. The analysis resulted in a set of preliminary recommendations for the Chinese government's policy, hoping to provide strong evidence to support the addition of educational and academic security issues to the non-traditional national security system.

**KEYWORDS:**Reverse study abroad, Educational Safety, National Security

## I. INTRODUCTION

The term "reverse study abroad" refers to the emerging phenomenon of Chinese students studying abroad and finding Chinese people in the majority of classrooms. The emergence of this phenomenon is currently sparking a lot of public opinion.

[1]In early October 2022, a netizen posted a video on Tik Tok of his own classroom at the University of Southampton in the UK, where he was a graduate student. Let's teach in Chinese directly" .....(SOHU, 2022)

For "reverse study abroad", it has a strong correlation with schools and majors. Foreign universities where this phenomenon exists are generally internationally ranked and highly recognized institutions in China, which help students find jobs and therefore attract a large number of Chinese students. On the other hand, Chinese students generally prefer big cities, and some schools prefer international students, especially Chinese students, and their admissions are high. "Reverse study" is more common at the master's level, and there tend to be more Chinese students in business, computer science, engineering, etc. This is also related to the strong

disciplines of different universities. This may be a direct result of the concentration of Chinese students, or the "reverse study abroad" phenomenon. The so-called "reverse study abroad" video, which took place in the UK, has also prompted the public to think about studying in the UK. [2]The UK is attracting international students from around the world with its high quality of education, with a record 31,400 Chinese students applying to UK universities, an increase of 193% on 2013, according to the latest figures released by the Office of Higher Education Admissions (UCSA) in July this year (UCAS, 2022). The director of the UK Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) said Chinese students are particularly interested in the UK's top-ranked universities in the global league tables. [3] Also in early 2022, the UK Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) released university enrolment data showing that 32% of non-EU students were from China in the 2020/21 academic year (HESA, 2022). Chinese students are the largest group of international students in the UK outside of the EU. In addition to the year-on-year increase in the number of Chinese students staying in the UK, it seems to be a popular trend for UK universities in recent years to keep expanding the number of students. In May this year, the British government even proposed an HPI (High Potential Individual Visa) visa program for graduates from the world's top universities to help the UK retain top talent. However, experts in the UK are concerned about the rising number of Chinese student applicants, saying that these figures will cause anxiety if the UK economy becomes increasingly dependent on Chinese student tuition fees.

Under the phenomenon of "reverse study abroad", we can also see that the number of Chinese students studying abroad does not seem to be decreasing at the moment. In the post-epidemic era, although the studies of many international

students have been affected, the study abroad boom does not seem to have cooled down. [4] According to the Report on the Development of Study Abroad in China (2020-2021), which is jointly researched and compiled by Globalization Think Tank and the Development Research Institute of Southwest University of Finance and Economics, the number of Chinese students studying abroad continues to grow positively, while the number of returnees continues to increase (Globalization Think Tank, 2022). The number of returnees shows the international talent circulation pattern of "study abroad - return to China for employment".

At the same time, some people use the number of Chinese students as one of the measures of the merits of overseas universities, and it has also become a stereotype for many people about international students, and there are even a large number of international students who make fun of themselves in this way. There are some highly controversial issues in the study abroad circle under the epidemic, and there are also various chaos in the study abroad industry. Although it is impossible to make a generalization about all study abroad, the state should implement a program to rectify the current chaos of Chinese students in order to avoid endangering National Security and Education Safety.

## II. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In fact, not only in the UK, but also in recent years, especially under the influence of the new crown epidemic, "reverse study" has actually become common in popular countries. Due to the increasing number of Chinese-foreign cooperative programs and targeted cooperation between overseas universities and Chinese institutions, students of "2+2", "3+1" and even "college to bachelor and master" programs have formed a large group of students who are in immediate need of studying abroad. The students of "2+2", "3+1" and even "college to bachelor and master" programs have formed a huge group of students who just need to study abroad.

From a school perspective, overseas universities that offer "reverse study abroad" are generally those with high international rankings, high domestic recognition, and benefits for students' future employment. They are also institutions that are not as well known internationally but have lower entrance and graduation requirements and standards than the average institution. From the perspective of majors and programs, "reverse study abroad" is more common at the master's level and is concentrated in

business, media, education, computer science, engineering and other fields of study.

Plus, the dismal performance of the Chinese stock market reflects the current state of the economy and future trends, and if it turns around and surges downward, it is still more than 900 points short of going back to the year 2000, or even the last century. This economic situation is actually in crisis and will eventually have a direct impact on the job market. What is the future of China going to depend on to pull the economy? If the economic foundation determines the superstructure, then the primary job now is to revitalize the economy. The biggest predictable result is an increase in "in-rolls", but this also means that the overall quality of the nation will eventually be improved, and the value created in this is much less harmful than "in-rolls".

Therefore, in the face of the current situation of "reverse study abroad" and the strategic demand of "double circulation" proposed by the Chinese government, China can turn study abroad into "export to domestic sales" by keeping students in the country and controlling study abroad through reform. "By opening up domestic graduate enrolment, China can boost domestic demand. In the current situation, the most easy to apply for and graduate from and at great risk of infiltration is the education management program, the most famous of which is the education program at UCL and Harvard University, and the number of such majors with great potential risks should be cut across the board.

Specific recommendations are as follows.

1. The university adopts the reform of the undergraduate system.
2. Accept all students who want to study for master's or doctoral degrees, but control the graduation standard.
3. Fight against "reverse study abroad" to keep wealth in China and boost domestic demand.
4. Control the study abroad business of non-essential international students, such as education management, Chinese language and literature, Chinese as a foreign language, etc.
5. control the majors applied by international students to study abroad, the state has a plan to encourage directed study, i.e., the majors in shortage of talents and high, precise and sharp majors are given priority, and those who want to buy and sell degrees all stay in China to study in their own universities.
6. In response to China's college entrance examination model, a policy of accelerating competition in first-rate universities, streaming in second-rate universities, and guaranteeing

admission rates in third-rate universities and vocational-technical universities can be introduced. This will ensure that all high school graduates have access to college.

7. take the universal high quality education improvement plan as a breakthrough to accelerate the construction of socialism and meet the growing material and cultural needs of the people. Education is only responsible for cultivating talents, leaving the issue of employment to the market to decide.

8. For the sake of fairness and convenience of resource allocation, open master's programs in the existing vocational, private and public third-rate colleges and universities, and change them to awarding the National Master's Diploma of the People's Republic of China, or NMD for short, after graduation, and encourage NMD to run schools outside China.

9. Cancel the existing treatment of returning students in China and abolish the preferential policies for the introduction of foreign students' talents.

In addition, the essential goal of the current Chinese academic community is the ranking of universities based on SCI. The assessment standard of universities is "to issue papers as heroes", and no one cares about the content and contribution of the papers. The first thing that is introduced to scholars is how many SCI and SSCI papers they have issued and what journal resources they have in their hands, without talking about their disciplinary contributions. Some 985 and 211 institutions, in order to apply for national funding projects every year, "keep" a large number of "writers" professors, specifically to apply for academic funds. Academics have declined to the extent that they rely on journals for window-dressing, data manipulation, and the use of so-called advanced software to change forms. There are numerous subterfuge, power and money deals, power and sex deals, and corruption in academia.

The main issue to consider for reform is how to assign actionable targets, not just targets that report a vanity metric for high results. What are vanity metrics? Simply put, vanity targets are superficial indicators consisting of numbers or statistics that look desirable when presented, but which have no relevance to solving the actual problems of society. It is also recommended that the state organize scholars with deep Marxist philosophical materialistic dialectic, materialistic dialectic epistemology, and political economy to reshape the research methodology system of Chinese social sciences, management sciences, and other subject areas. The complete destruction of the

de facto dominance of American pragmatism, pragmatist epistemology, and its positivist methodology in the current Chinese research methodology system is also a major threat to shake the foundation of the country and should not be ignored.

### III. CONCLUSION

The NSA pursues the International Security Academic Centers program to bring university curricula and talent development and academic activities under the security agency's oversight. The NSA began advancing the National Cybersecurity Academic Centers of Excellence (NCAE-C) program early around 2019. The program is managed by NSA's National Cryptologic Institute, with federal partners including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)/National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Defense Office of the Chief Information Officer (DoD-CIO), and U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM). A large number of selected universities and research institutions are included. The CAE-CD Cyber Defence Program, which trains undergraduate and graduate students, and the CAE-R Cyber Research Program, which trains doctoral students, have been formed. Academic security has also been integrated into the U.S. intelligence community through the diverse "Centers of Academic Excellence" programs that shape and regulate the U.S. intelligence community.

In view of the current chaotic situation of study abroad in China, China's overall national security concept includes "non-traditional security" in its regulation, but does not yet include "educational security" and "academic security" separately. This also constitutes the basis of my presentation. This constitutes one of the important implications of this proposal, which is to suggest that "educational security" and "academic security" be incorporated into China's overall national security concept and regulated by the national security system and the judicial system.

What China's academia needs now is not a "soup to stop the boiling" but a profound academic revolution, not a gradual reform, but a subversive innovation. The Chinese academy needs a self-revolution that will last for decades, free from the theoretical "shackles" of the capitalist state, so as to promote the transformation of our academic achievements into productive forces.

It is worth mentioning that a small part of this proposal has been first published by the author in the exchange group of directors and overseas presidents of the Chinese Association for the Promotion of Democracy and People's Livelihood, as evidenced by the screenshots attached here.

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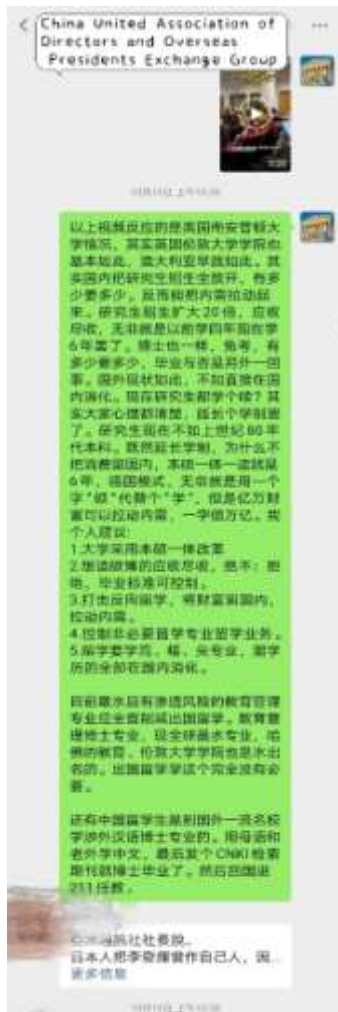


Figure 1 Screenshot proof

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