

Final Report: Research Stay at Freie Universität Berlin

Assistant researcher, Yu, Cao

Peking University

Education on sustainability value of undergraduate students: courses, institution and student's participation

November 26 – December 19, 2018

I have spent four weeks at Freie Universität Berlin during November 26 – December 19, 2018, working on the subject of sustainability value education. Thanks to the cooperation mechanism of the UAS, I had the chance to look into the specifics of sustainability value education in other universities directly, which gave me new revelations of my research on comparative perspective.

- a) **Basic information about my staying:** I have stayed at Freie Universität Berlin for 23 days, the Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management provided me the office space and their staff. Katrin Risch helped me with establishing contact with the interviewer of my research, the director of the Unit Andreas Wanke and other staffs in the office also helped me a lot, and some of the received my interview about the curriculum construction and the course management.
- b) **Research process:**
1. Literature research: Reading the written materials of the general professional skill courses in FUB, focus on the goals and approaches of the sustainable development module. The materials in the library also helped me building the deep insight of the situation sustainable development education in German.
 2. Interview:
 - Dec.3rd 2018, with Bettina Tackle, staff of the Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management in FUB: management of the sustainable development courses.
 - Dec.6th 2018, with Katrin Risch, staff of the Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management in FUB: the construction of the sustainable development curriculum.
 - Dec.7th 2018, with Nina Kolleck, professor in education department of FUB: theory and practice of education on sustainable development in German.
 - Dec.11th 2018, with Inka Borman, professor in education department of FUB: theory of education on sustainable development, and the curriculum design of the ESD courses in FUB.
 - Dec.17th 2018, with Karola Braun-Wanke, professor in Environmental Policy Research Centre of FUB: the curriculum design and teaching of the ESD courses in FUB.
 - Dec.18th 2018, with Anna-Maria Goldberg, staff of the Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management in FUB: curriculum construction and course management of the sustainable development courses in FUB.
 3. Immersion observation:
 - Nov.30th 2018, the seminar on Sustainability Transitions, held by Prof. Berthold Kuhn, the political science department
 - Dec.3th 2018, the lectures on UN sustainable development goals held by the Unit for

Sustainability and Energy Management

c) Results:

The staying in FUB not only strengthened my understanding on sustainable development, but also inspired me in the teaching formats in general education.

The research during staying in FUB provided a comparative aspect of my research on the education of sustainable development in Peking University especially inspired me of the practice part and students' participation in the ESD courses. The report will be finished and submitted to the executive director on general education in PKU.

Through the combination of different researching method, I also have understood the construction of the education of sustainable development at FUB in a stereoscopic way. The literature research gave me a theoretical background and overall appearance of the education of sustainable development at FUB, while the immersion observation on specific courses and seminars gave me a vivid understanding of the ESD courses teaching. The interview with different people showed me the education of sustainable development in different ways: the professors of education care about the theoretical part while the teachers of the ESD courses put them into practice, and the staffs did a lot of work in actual impetus. General Education Review preliminary has accepted the paper. I will try to improve the research and publish the paper in some academic conference.