

Teaching in China: Rewards and Challenges

Dr Grant Meredith
Dr Leigh Achterbosch

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The Partnership

- Nine-year ongoing partnership with Shaoguan University
- Teaching the Advanced Diploma of Information Technology
- Face-to-Face block teaching
 - 2 week intensive
- One extra year Bachelor of IT option at FedUni
- Class sizes building over time
- Articulation numbers rising since New Colombo Plan funded programs





X312

X312

312 County Rd

Yufeng Food
裕丰美食

X312

171 Country Rd

Huanxiao N Rd

Huanxiao N Rd

Fengshi Rd

Fengyuan Rd

韶关大学

Zhaohui 1st Rd

Wenyuan Rd

Qinglang E Rd

Wenbo Rd

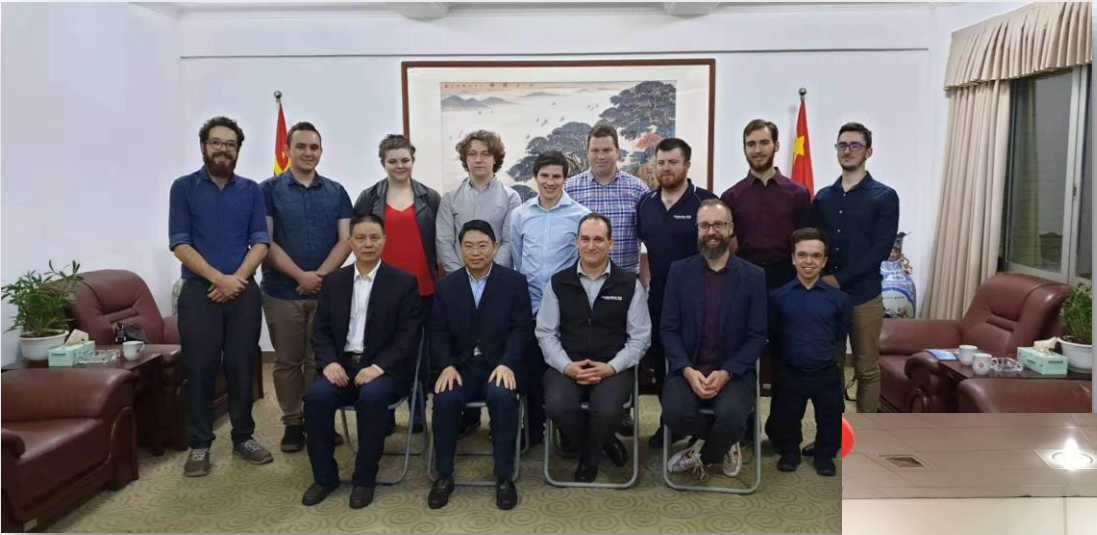
Chaohui Ring Rd

Chaohui 2nd Rd

Industrial and
Commercial Bank of...
工商银行

Google

New Colombo Plan programs



The Campus



The Students

- Before teaching in China disregard a “stereotypical” Asian student view

- Kids are just kids the world over
- Most live on campus & very independent
 - Usually from a young age
- Ages 18-21
- Many trilingual (if not more)
- “Sage on stage” educational upbringing
 - Could lead to initial plagiarism education
- Digital natives
 - Advanced smartphone use and bring own laptops to classes



The Students



- The students are very excited to have overseas visitors
 - They do a bit of detective work to discover their upcoming teacher
 - They found and downloaded a photo and shared it
 - Then decided I looked like...
 - ... Scarlett Johansson / Black Widow
 - Grant was given the title “Bai Long”



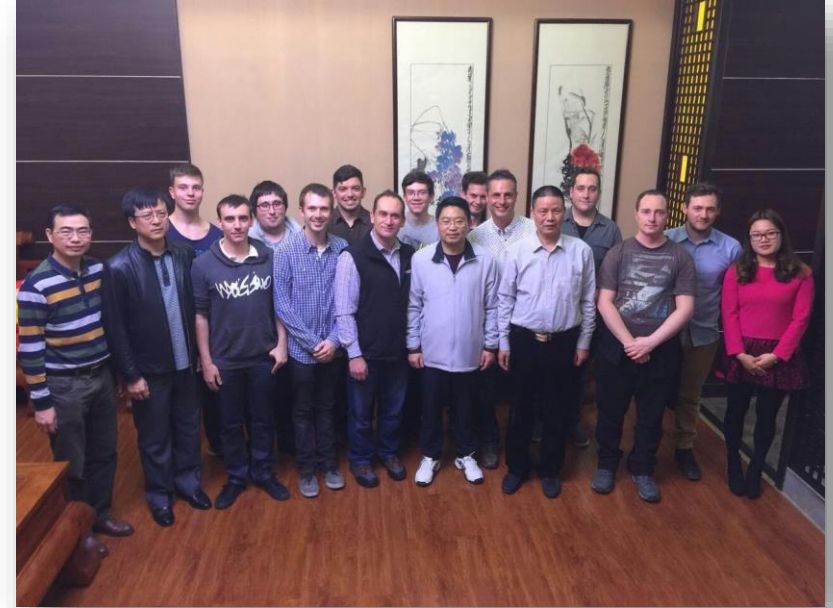
Teaching Infrastructure

- Learn as much about it as you can before you arrive
- Can be very mixed from chalk to WWW
- May/may not have heating or air-conditioning
- WiFi can be patchy or burdened by many connections
- A student may be the “monitor” holding room keys
- Accessibility to rooms may be very rigid
 - In some cases vacant rooms to be booked & paid for



Hierarchical University Structure

- Big universities with multi-tiers of management
 - Takes organisation and planning for meetings
 - Especially if outside of your host school
 - Unlike FedUni
- Titles reflect status & power



Get to know your students

- Do not be shy of socialising
 - You are only there for a short time
- Students will value the interaction
 - Chance to speak English
 - Cultural hospitality
 - Learn about different culture
- Respect lines are not blurred
 - But they may want to pay for your meal



Power distance/gap

- Western teaching style often has a closer power gap than Eastern
 - FedUni is known for close student interactions & support
- Students will need to adjust to our style of teaching
 - More conversational style teaching
 - And use of humour
 - We encourage and value questioning
 - We often mix more with students outside class times
 - Varied forms of teaching per lecturer
 - Think of internationalised examples



Language

- Mixed levels of English competencies
 - Conversational, written, comprehension etc
 - Conversational skills usually more mixed in proficiency levels
- Can be mentally taxing on a student and staff
 - Encourage short breaks and mixed teaching modes
- Many students transcribe notes
 - Before, during and after classes
 - May explain why they can be tired in the mornings
 - In class often using web-based translation tools



Language cont.

- Avoid slang and colloquialisms
 - At times though teach them and share
- When marking, focus on spelling & grammar, but look beyond for meaning and understanding



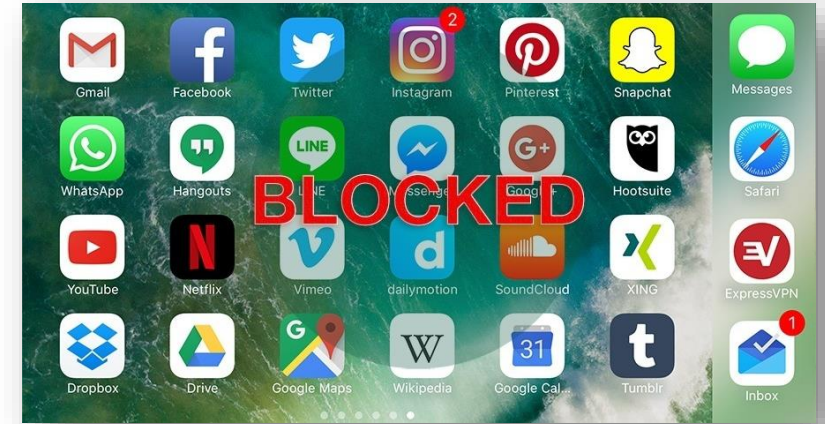
Competing student factors

- Other University classes & requirements
 - Compulsory classes outside of our degrees
 - Sporting commitments
 - Festivals
 - Local culture
 - The afternoon nap is highly valued
- Avoiding the canteen rush



Social media

- Many Western social media apps/sites are blocked
 - Check your course resources
 - Bring as many resources as you can with you
 - Even some FedUni resources can be troublesome
- Look at alternative Chinese platforms
- Embrace instant messaging
 - Used by most students and staff
 - WeChat, QQ etc
 - Often used for official School communications



Involve yourself in campus life

- Students around campus will often initiate conversation
 - To practise English and also to learn about your culture
 - Some though are very shy about talking to you
- Look for campus events and groups
 - Often sporting or national cultural events
- Look for “English corners” and clubs
 - Students from other schools & interests
 - Grant has judged English language competitions & plays



Questions & comments?

