

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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A key Challenge for Chinese students 对中国学生的关键挑战

Yang Li: 大家好，我是杨莉。Welcome to Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English. With me today is Finn.

Finn: Hello there. Well today we have a question about Chinese students coming to study in the UK. It's from our listener Wang Qi and here it is read out by our colleague Rebecca.

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What is the biggest challenge for Chinese students going to study in universities? How can they succeed?

Yang Li: 王琦想了解中国留学生在英国大学学习中遇到的最大挑战是什么。怎样才能成功。

Finn: Well, I think that's a really good question and especially for people who are planning to come over the UK to pursue further studies.

Yang Li: To pursue further studies 深造学业。

Finn: Now, Gail Langley is head of the English language training programme at London South Bank University. Over the years she's worked with hundreds of overseas Chinese students.

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One of the key challenges facing the Chinese students coming to study in universities in the UK is really their communication skills. So students are coming from one educational culture where they have been very successful in a certain way, often with more reading and writing, but in British universities there is a much greater expectation that students will participate in classes more and will communicate more with other students and with their lecturers.

Finn: She said that communication skills are the key.

Yang Li: Communication skills 交流的技巧。

Finn: In the UK, people expect that students will participate in classes more and will communicate with other students and with their lecturers.

Yang Li: 英国大学对学生参与课堂交流的期待值更高 **a greater expectation**. 参与 **participate**.

Finn: **And I think it's fair to say that Chinese students have a reputation for being polite and hard-working but that generally they are also seen as lacking communication skills. Now is this a matter of confidence?**

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I think to some extent they lack the confidence to speak and also unfamiliar with our educational culture which has a much greater expectation of participating and speaking and working with students and questioning lecturers. I think that in itself is a big point that here lecturers respect students who ask questions and challenge ideas.

Yang Li: 在一定程度上是因为缺乏自信, **lack the confidence**. 同时, 也因对英体制不熟悉 **unfamiliar with the British educational culture**.

Finn: **Here lectures respect students who ask questions and challenge ideas.**

Yang Li: 英国的教师喜欢那些爱提问和挑战教师观点的学生。

Finn: **And you know I think that by asking questions and challenging ideas you might find you can actually understand the subject matter better.**

Yang Li: **You are right Finn. As Gail points out, communication skills are closely linked to their university results:** 交流能力和大学成绩紧密挂钩。

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I think we do notice with our Chinese students that, not overall but there is a tendency for students perhaps to get lower grade in their final results because they don't have sufficient language ability.

Finn: **She said there is a tendency for Chinese students to get lower grades in their final year.**

Yang Li: **A tendency** 趋向于 **lower grade** 较低的分數。

Finn: **And that this is mainly because they don't have sufficient language ability.**

Yang Li: 缺乏足够的语言能力, 这里主要指中国学生的外语交际能力不够。其实中国学生都知道自身的弱点。可是如何改进呢?

Finn: **Well, Gail has offered us a few tips for better communicative competence.**

Yang Li: **Better communicative competence** 更好的交流能力。

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Well it's always going to be practice. And obviously while they are here they've got to be confident to go out and find those opportunities. So for example, talking to other students in class and in their halls of residence, in cafeterias, joining students' societies, taking part in sports activities, anything that brings you into contact with people and thus gives you more opportunities to communicate in a natural way.

- Finn: You know Li, I couldn't agree more. As we say, practice makes perfect 熟能生巧。
- Yang Li: And I can't agree more with you, Finn. 我绝对赞同你的观点。熟能生巧。 There are actually a lot of good opportunities while you are in the UK, aren't there?
- Finn: Yes well they're everywhere. Wherever you go, from the classroom or as she said the halls of residence, also places like students' societies and also when you're taking part in sports activities.
- Yang Li: **Hall of residence** 学生宿舍, 此外, 教室, 活动中心, 学生俱乐部还有体育活动都是语言交流的好机会。
- Finn: And you know what, I think it's really anything that brings you into contact with people that can help you speak in a more natural way.
- Yang Li: 在实际生活中的自然交流 To speak or to communicate in a natural way.
- Finn: And you know what I think the most important thing is, Li?
- Yang Li: Yes?
- Finn: It's not to be afraid of making mistakes, because absolutely everyone makes mistakes.
- Yang Li: That's a brilliant point. 不要怕出错, 脸皮厚一点, 你的英语交流能力就会迅速提高。
- Finn: Of course, and it will help you get better grades at university.
- Yang Li: And another place to help you with your English is our bilingual website.
- Finn: Our bilingual 双语的 website. The address is www.bbcchina.com.cn
Thanks for listening and we will see you next time.
- Yang Li: 我们下次节目再会。Bye!
- Finn: Bye.

Glossary

challenge 挑战	tendency 倾向；趋势
pursue 追求	lower grade 较低的分數
expectation 期待	halls of residence 学生宿舍
reputation 名声	sufficient 足够的
confidence 自信	communicative competence 交流能力