

**Sophie Junfeng Wang**

## **Students' Mobility: Policies and Practice for Internationalization of Higher Education in Germany and China**

### **Abstract**

Within the globalization and internationalization of higher education, student mobility has been the main form of educational exchange and cooperation among countries and regions in the world. Nowadays, with the marketization and globalization of higher education, there are education internationalization policies in student mobility occurring in different countries. The study will analyze the data from the policy documents, literature, reports from higher education experts, information on websites, about internationalization of higher education and student mobility. In addition, the researcher will use purposeful sampling to identify and interview several participants from 12 selected colleges and universities and gather data regarding the interviewee's perceptions and experiences of the internationalization policy, practice, development for student mobility in their colleges and universities. The study will use the scientific methods to analyze the implementation and practice of internationalization policy in China. And then suggestion will be given to reduce imbalance of student mobility and improve the attractiveness of Chinese colleges and universities.

### **Introduction**

Today internationalization of higher education has become one of the most important components of higher education reforms. Most of the countries in the world attach great importance to the role of internationalization of higher education in improving the quality of higher education, enhancing their nation's overall strength and international competitiveness, and consider it as an important strategy aimed at becoming a strong country through higher education. Germany is the cradle of the modern university. With its long history, German higher education is well known in the world. With the rapid development of the globalization of economies and promotion of European Integration, Germany has begun to carry out an all-around reform of higher education, including the promotion of internationalization. German government made efforts to strengthen the internationalization of higher education and enhance international competitiveness. For example, Ministries of Education play an important and leading role in policy of higher education internationalization. As we know, Germany is the fourth most popular destination for international students, preceded by the US, the UK, and Australia. Germany, together with France, is regarded among "the middle powers" (Verbik & Lasanowski, 2007, p.2).

When the Open Door Reform was implemented in China since 1978, international cooperation and communication was strengthened in the field of higher with an increasing number of international students studying in China and Chinese students studying in foreign countries. In the 21st century, internationalization of higher education has developed rapidly in China and has become an important strategy for the development of colleges and universities. The Outline of the National Program for Long-and-Medium-Term Education Development (2010-2020) points out that Chinese higher education should strive to achieve a world-class level, which shows the Chinese government's resolution to enhance the internationalization of higher education.

Student mobility has experienced an enormous increase in recent years. More and more students are inclined to go abroad in order to pursue high quality education and individual competitiveness. In order to promote student mobility and cultivate talents with global perspective, and an ability to understand international affairs, the government and higher education institutions have placed internationalization policy and strategies as their highest priority. Student mobility affects communication in culture and business. Therefore, the study of student mobility in Germany and China in the context of internationalization, globalization and informationalization is particularly important and essential.

## ***Background***

With the geopolitical, cultural, and technological shift that accelerated in the 1990s in the context of globalization, universities were under increasing pressure and facing great challenge in internationalization of higher education: from the composition of faculty, staff, and students, to curriculum, research agendas, and service missions (Pan, 2006; Stromquist, 2007; Taylor, 2004). Under the trend of globalization, cross-border higher education development and education reform, internationalization policy is increasingly becoming the mainstream trend of higher education policy. Cooperation and exchange, mobility and resource-sharing have become important ways that higher education has developed, and both cooperation and competition in higher education have intensified. Europe Union policies in the internationalization of higher education are intended to promote the cooperation and exchange in higher education between EU member states, improve higher education quality throughout Europe, enhance the competitiveness of European higher education, and ultimately contribute to the European economy and social development.

The Chinese government plays a leading role and attaches great importance to cooperation and exchange in higher education with European countries. In the recent years, a large number of Chinese students choose Germany as destination for study abroad, including students with scholarship and at their own expense

## **Study Experience**

2009-2012 Master Degree for Comparative Education Tianjin Normal University

## **Work Experience**

04.2012~12.2014 Editor/Journalist in Education Field

Journal of World Education, Education Management Information Center, Ministry of Education, China

08.2012~12.2012 Assistant

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Network for International Education and Value Education (APNIEVE), China