

# US students come to China as part of exchange project

By LUO WANGSHU  
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Andrew Campbell, a graduate student from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in the United States, has come to the Chinese capital to investigate how a city benefits from providing a bicycle rental service to residents and visitors.

As one of 40 US graduate students in the 2012 Sino-US Young Professionals in Science and Engineering Exchange Program, Campbell will spend two months conducting his study at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

"Nowadays, people have multiple choices for transport, and China has a massive share of the world's bike riders," the 30-year-old said, adding that China provides a great data foundation for his study.

The exchange program, also known as the East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes, is administered by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and the US National Science Foundation. It allows US graduate students in science and engineering to conduct research at Chinese universities over the summer.

It aims to improve academic and cultural exchange between young professionals from China and the US.

This year, the program has brought 40 US graduate stu-

dents to China. Most of them will finish their research this month and return to the US, said Emily Ashworth, the director of the China Office of the US National Science Foundation.

The students work at universities across China, including in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

"Most of them majored in environmental and basic sciences, and have been carefully selected," Ashworth said, estimating that of every four applications only one was selected.

"Each student is an ambassador to China," she said, adding that the program will improve understanding between the two countries.

She also said the US government will invite 10 Chinese young professionals to Washington to conduct a 10-day academic exchange visit in October.

"We've already successfully hosted the program for eight years," said Jin Xiaoming, director of the international cooperation department of the Ministry of Science and Technology, adding it is a wonderful program to encourage academic exchange.

"Young professionals come together, bringing the possibility for future cooperation," Jin said.

As the main sponsor, Jin said the Ministry of Science and Technology has invested heavily in the program.

He said the program, in its current form, has favored US researchers coming to China to conduct research over several months, but he hopes in the future, more Chinese researchers will be able to travel to the US.

As it stands, many Chinese students benefit from the program by working with the visitors.

Zhao Shan, 22, Campbell's temporary research assistant, a junior student at Tsinghua University, has learned many things from the experience.

"I asked him about the US academic and research environment, as well as the culture," Zhao said, who plans to pursue his PhD study in the US.

On Friday, the 40 US graduates and 80 young professionals from China gathered in Beijing to attend the second China-US Young Scientist Forum.

They conducted talks on many topics, including climate change, water supplies and food safety issues.

Jin from the Ministry of Science and Technology said China and the US have a long history of cooperation in scientific research.

Robert Wang, deputy chief of the mission at the US embassy to China, spoke at the opening of the forum, saying the program goes beyond cooperation between young professionals and improves the relationship between China and the US.



## LAPSE INTO LINSANITY

PHOTO BY SAM YEY / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jeremy Lin, a player in the NBA, holds up a child while meeting fans in Taipei on Saturday. Lin was warmly welcomed during his first visit to Taiwan since his rise to fame last season on the court, a performance that brought him a global following known as "Linsanity".

## Compensation sought from train crash

By WANG HUAZHONG  
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The relatives of the people who were killed or injured on a freight railway bridge in Funing county, Hebei province, will enter into difficult negotiations with railway authorities on Monday as they try to obtain compensation for their losses.

A group of gardeners from the village of Qijiazhai were hit by a train at about 5:28 am on Friday after they had decided to go past security fences and walk on the bridge, according to an official report by the regional railway administrator.

Nine of the gardeners on the track died and four were injured. "It's hard to assign blame in this

case," said a former Party secretary of the village who declined to give his full name.

"Some of them, apparently, were hit by the train. But others were injured because they fell from the trains' momentum. And you just don't know what caused some of them to fall off the (20-meter-high) bridge."

He said the victims' relatives are going through hard times and will find the talks about compensation difficult on Monday.

A publicity official for the Funing county government said on Sunday that the amount of compensation the victims' relatives receive will be determined after a full investigation is conducted.

The official said railway authorities are leading the investigation.

The Taiyuan Railway Administration, which is in charge of the section of the railway, posted a message on its micro blog on Friday saying the villagers had "got past security fences".

It added, "there wasn't enough time for the freight train to stop" and warned the public about the dangers of walking on railways.

The newspaper Beijing News reported that railway police are talking to a watchman at the bridge about the accident.

The survivors said no one was inside a nearby watch post when they got past the fences, which are about 1 meter tall. They said no one tried to stop them from getting on the bridge.

Beijing News reported that the fences' wires had been tampered with.

The watch post stands about 10 meters away from the place where they broke in.

Li said the village had been linked to the outside world chiefly by a road bridge that had run parallel to the railway bridge. It was demolished this year so it could be reconstructed and a temporary path serving the same purpose was built in its stead.

That was recently destroyed by the torrential rainfall. Without the path, residents have had to take a lengthy detour to go to the Funing county seat.

The victims in the accident took the risk of walking on the bridge so they could ride in a vehicle that was waiting for them at the other end, a survivor was quoted by Beijing News as saying.

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