

## International Student Spotlight Interview Questions

NAME: Zhengxi Lin

YEAR AT K-STATE: Junior

MAJOR: Education: ELP

HOME COUNTRY: China, Eastern Province

- What was it like coming to K-State? How did you decide to come here?

My mom wanted me to come to American for college because she was afraid I would have too much free time in Chinese college. It is quiet here and the people are very nice. I did some research when I was looking at coming to the US and I saw that the education program was very good here, so I applied. I knew I wanted to study education in high school.

- What has your experience been like so far?

I have many a bunch of friends. Especially with all the other international students from China. With my degree in education I have also made lots of American friends and that's been nice because I can improve my English. I like all the activities on campus. I also like to spend time at the Rec too.

- What were some of the big differences when you first arrived (social, academic, weather, etc.)? Was there anything that was really surprising?

There is no public transportation. I came from a big city so there are lots of different ways to get around, like by bus or subway. Here you need a car and it is hard to get to bigger cities. I don't like driving. I didn't think the people would be so nice here though. I know in bigger cities the people are not always so nice.

- Was K-State what you expected? Was Manhattan what you expected?

Honestly, no. It is safe and people are nice. But there wasn't as much entertainment or things to do. Like shopping, for example, I have to go to KC which is two hours away. There also is not a lot of diversity for food. I love to try new restaurants and wish there were more. I do like that there are two Thai restaurants here and I have tried more Mexican foods.

- Is classroom culture a lot different here?

It is very different. I don't know much about college in China because I came here for it, but in America the professors are much more relaxed. In China the professors are more formal and there is

a different level of respect. The relationships between peers here is cool and different too. I think the people here are more outgoing and I have learned to be too.

- What do you like about being a student at K-State?

I like the pride of the university and that people wear KSU stuff all the time. There is a college culture which is cool. You can see it with Willie and students wearing purple all the time. Back home you must wear uniforms before college and I didn't like that. I like being able to wear what I want, and I like that students wear purple because they want too. Also, there are KSU alumni everywhere. When I went to Denver I met someone from KSU who talked to me.

- What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?

Mostly things related to the college of education. I am on the diversity programming committee. I also do a mentor's thing within the college of education, it's a program called Call Me Mister. I'm also one of the members in international honor society in education, Kappa Delta Pi. One of the ambassadors of project EXCELL.

- What do you do for fun in Manhattan?

I love to play volleyball at the rec. Both sand and indoor volleyball. I also skateboard and longboard. Love drink with friends in the bar.

- If you could have known one thing before moving here, what would it be?

I wish I knew about the poor transportation because I really don't like driving.

- Do you have any advice for incoming international students?

I would say to be open to make new friends and talk to people. Don't worry about the language and try to be outgoing. Otherwise you will feel lonely. My first year I lived in Marlatt and made lots of new friends by stepping out in the hallway and lobby. I loved new Kramer too.

- What would you like others to know about being an international student at K-State?

I idea of diversity is really interesting. Sometimes I am the only Asian in groups. There is one student organization where I feel so special and different being the only Asian. I also think that sometimes it is hard to make friends with Americans too.

- Would you mind sharing a phrase from your native language and what it means?

知之为知之， 不知为不知， 是智也。

**Translation:** If you know something, then you know something. If you don't know something, don't pretend you know it. That's the intelligence.



**Photo:**