

Chinese student Zhang Liyuan: “In Russia, even strangers bless me”

Zhang Liyuan, a student from China, is pursuing a master’s degree in microelectronics telecommunication systems at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University. Liyuan shares her impressions about studying in Russia, cultural peculiarities and the reasons that made her choose our country for her education.



Tell us about your field of study in your country.

During my studies in China, I studied industrial robotics. After finishing my bachelor’s degree in automation at Changchun Institute of Technology, I decided to continue my studies in Russia. I knew that education in this country is at a very high level, there are many universities in the world rankings, I just had to choose a university. Exploring the Internet, I came across the website of the International Olympiad «Open Doors: Russian Scholarship», which offers scholarships for talented students. I decided to try my hand and, having won the Olympiad, I chose a master’s degree program at Polytechnic University, in the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications.

What were your impressions when you first came to Russia?

I arrived in winter and the magical snowy landscape mesmerized me. Since I studied in Northeast China, this kind of weather is familiar to me, but the way the Russians decorate the city gives a unique atmosphere.



When did you start speaking Russian?

My parents work for a nuclear company that cooperates with Russian nuclear power plants. As a child, I had Russian friends who spoke the language. However, I didn't start studying Russian seriously until 2022, when I arrived in Russia. After a year of intensive lessons, my level allows me to feel confident in most everyday conversations.

Why did you choose Polytechnic University?

I chose Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University because of its strong international reputation, especially in the field of microelectronics and telecommunications. Its high world ranking and the professors' experience of working with international students were key factors in my decision. I truly believe that Polytechnic University offers the ideal environment to achieve my academic and career goals.

Tell us about your program. Why did you choose it?

I chose to specialize in microelectronics and telecommunications because I studied digital and analog circuits and participated in several research projects in China. I was particularly interested in telecommunication systems. One of my favorite subjects is the development of neural networks and classification of ECG data. These projects have greatly improved my research and practical skills, deepening my understanding of embedded systems and neural networks in clinical applications.

What is your impression of the professors at Polytechnic University?

SPbPU's professors are experts in their fields. They are open, friendly and use interactive teaching methods that effectively combine theory with practice, making courses very engaging.



Do you have a favorite place in St. Petersburg?

In the summer, I like to spend time in the parks. They literally come alive in May, and you can not only enjoy the beautiful scenery, but also participate in various festivals.

Tell us about the differences between Russia and your country that

surprise or amaze you.

It surprises me that people in Russia always say «Bless you» when someone sneezes. In winter, when I sneeze because of the cold, I always hear this phrase from complete strangers, it's very funny.

What are your plans for the future?

After finishing my Master's degree, I hope to find a job in an international company where I can apply the skills and knowledge I have gained at Polytechnic University.

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