



# Research on Influencing Factors of International Student Mobility: An Empirical Study Based on Panel Data

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## Introduction and Purpose

The BRI(The Belt and Road Initiative) set up a new avenue to promote political mutual trust, economic integration, and cultural inclusion of all countries and become a community of interests, destiny, and responsibility. With the encouragement of national policies, China's efforts in international education have gradually increased, especially in B&R countries. China constantly improves policies to attract students from around the world.

This study analyzes the factors affecting students of different educational and economic development levels to study in China and put forward policy recommendations.

## Conclusion

First, higher education gross enrollment ratio is lower, the more degree student coming to China to study.

Second, for undergraduate and graduate students studying in China, the scale and quality of higher education in the country of origin has a significant impact on the undergraduate and graduate students studying in China.

Third, it is found that for the total number of students studying in China, the scholarship in China has a significant positive impact on those with academic qualifications from developing countries and those with non-academic qualifications from developed countries.

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## Research Method and Main Process

The data is based on the Concise Statistics of International Students Coming to China (2010-2018), the World Bank, UNESCO, UN Comtrade, the World Bank, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Longitude and Latitude Inquiry System, the CEPII Database, and the China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Information website. Our sample includes 141 countries and covers periods so we have a panel dataset with observations.

The dependent variables in this study are the different education level of students coming to study in China, including the number of degree students, non-degree students, undergraduate students, and graduate students.

Gross enrollment ratio, student-teacher ratio, and per capita expenditure as a proportion of GDP per capita reflect the development of higher education in a country and are "push" factors to influence students coming to China. The student-teacher ratio and per capita financial expenditure as a proportion of GDP per capita are two indicators that mainly reflect its quality in each country. Scholarship opportunities and mutual recognition of higher education qualifications reflect the degree of educational exchange and cooperation, which are the "pull" factors influencing students to study in China.

And other socio-economic indicators.

In building the regression model, the missing value in this dataset is supplemented by the linear interpolation method and linear trend method of adjacent points successively in SPSS.

## Results and Analysis

■ Major influencing factors of overseas study for degree and non-degree students in B&R countries

The gross enrollment rate of higher education is negative at the confidence level of 1%, while the student-teacher ratio is positive at the confidence level of 5%, indicating that the lower the quality of higher education in B&R countries, the more students go study in China. In general, education has a significant impact on degree students traveling to China but a small impact on non-degree students. The students' subject interest and subject ability have a significant positive impact on the primary selection.

The more R&D researchers (per million students) from the source country, the more non-degree students travel to China.

The financial expenditure per college student in developed countries has a considerable impact on academic and non-academic study in China but does not in developing countries.

■ Main influencing factors of undergraduate and graduate study abroad in the countries along the Belt and Road route

The scholarship opportunities has a significant positive effect on the study in China, but has no significant effect on undergraduates.

Tertiary gross enrollment rate is significantly negative for undergraduates and postgraduates studying in China at the level of 1% confidence.

From the social and economic dimension, the "trade volume between the two countries" has a significant positive impact on the undergraduate and graduate students in China.

Scholarships were more attractive to undergraduate and graduate students from developing countries along the route.