

Diversity Essay

One of the greatest components of diversity is the ability to engage with others from different areas, backgrounds, and those with different views. As the first Sino-foreign university in China, The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) has provided me with an excellent place to communicate with various people from different nationalities, cultural backgrounds, and races. I made friends with students and staffs from not only all over UK, but even Denmark, Canada, Mauritius, and Kenya. To better promote the diverse culture at the university, I participated in organizing the Global Village activity every year. The Global Village holds every year for students from different cultural backgrounds to set up stalls to promote their cultures through a wide variety of methods, such as food, music and dance. During organizing the whole activity, I learnt how to communicate and cooperate with people from different cultural backgrounds, and how to respect the difference and share ideas, values, skills, and even different understandings and appreciation of life.

As an advocator, I supported the foundation of a student society called Diversity at UNNC. In 2014, a group of students, including LGBTQIA students, and I, decided to create a society focused on promoting diversity throughout the university. We seek to create an embracing environment for all students, raise awareness, and break down stereotypes. At the beginning, we faced a number of obstacles. In China, homosexuality remains stigmatized throughout most of the country, partly because it clashes with the long-held belief in China. As a result, one important goal that our society decided to commit to becomes controversial. Fortunately, after aliasing with more than ten professors, our society was finally set up. When working for the society, I first noticed that, even in an international university in China like UNNC, there exist racial discrimination and prejudiced thoughts. Some people tend to discriminate others simply because of their religion or sexual orientation. I was very angry about these nonsenses at the beginning because I thought students, especially college students who have received higher education, should never do these illogical things. These feelings began to take in charge of me after I faced with these things more and more often. For a certain time, I was reluctant to be involved in any society activities because I found myself helpless in front of any kind of unreasonable prejudice. However, during this time, the founders and other society members never gave up, and instead, they kept working on the society regardless of potential misunderstanding from their peers. It does not take a long time for me to be encouraged by this spirit and cheer up again. Later work at the society helped me understand that discrimination and prejudice are both learned behaviors. No one is born hating other people, and it is a behavior that is picked up from observations. This further firmed my determination in protecting and promoting diversity throughout the university.

In the following three years, I consistently supported and involved in a series of activities as a society member, such as workshops on sexual and gender diversity, HIV prevention, feminism and Woman Roundtable. Specifically, we cooperated with Dignity at Ningbo Network (DANN), which is a peer-based advisory body, to support the provision and implementation of the Dignity Policy at UNNC. We committed to creating a positive workplace and safe learning environment that is free from bullying, discrimination, harassment and victimization.

Diversity is defined by Noah Webster as “the quality or state of having many different forms, types, ideas.” Typically diversity is used to describe racial differences, but for me the importance of diversity expands greater than simply appreciating the differences in our skin color. It aids us in understanding other people, solving problems, and better appreciation of life.