

Wei Gao

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Education

03/2020-12/2021	Technology and Language Learning <i>Master of Applied Linguistics</i> (Minor thesis topic: Development of Interactional Competence during Study Abroad: A Case of Chinese L1 Speakers)	The University of Melbourne WAM: 83/100 (In progress)
09/2015-07/2019	English Language and Literature <i>Bachelor of Arts</i> (Honor thesis topic: The Effect of English Debate in English Class of Chinese Universities)	Xi'an International Studies University WAM: 85.8/100 (First Class)

Research Experience

Shanxi College Students' Innovation and Research Training Program **08/2017-07/2019**

Project: Developing and Promoting Cultural Industries of Ethnic Minority Groups in China

- Designed, implemented in-depth interviews and conducted a three-month field study with minority group society in Shanxi and organizational culture diagnosis
- Analyzed optimal marketing strategies on promoting cultural industry using quantitative analysis on past market data
- Helped selling 280,000 ethnic-cultural products increasing minority groups' income by 17.8 percent

Australian Research Center **Research Assistant** **09/2018-06/2019**

Project: The Role of Australian Study Abroad Students in Chinese Universities

- Managed a large number of interview data and transcribed conversational data
- Coordinated and connected interviews among participants in six Chinese universities
- Edited and improved the analysis and discussion part in the research report
- Worked with overseas researchers to communicate the project process

Publications

Wei, G. (2019). The learning motivation of English learning of non-English majors in Chinese Universities. [J], *Overseas English*, (10): 257-260.

Professional & Teaching Experience

The University of Melbourne, VCE Summer School *Tutor* **11/2020-03/2021**

Responsible for teaching English Language and Chinese Second Language subject (20hrs per week); followed up on students' learning and provided timely feedback on assignments

Overseas Edition, Xinhua News Agency *Intern Editor* **03/2019-06/2019**

Edited English news reports; supported the online publishing process

School of English Studies, XISU *Teaching Assistant (American History)* **03/2018-12/2018**

Prepared weekly tutorials for undergraduate students (15hrs per week); marked and provided feedback for assignments; coordinated office-meetings between students and lecturers

Xi'an Campus English Division, New Oriental Inc. *Teaching Assistant* **03/2016-06/2016**

Managed teaching materials in three-month class curriculum and assisted classroom activity (10hrs per week); encouraged students to engage during in-class activities

Awards and Scholarships

Best Graduate Award, Ministry of Education, China 07/2019

National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China 09/2019

Award of Best Speaker, The 12th 'FLTRP Cup' National English Debating Competition 08/2018

Champion 1st Award, "Chu Yin Cup" English Debating Competition 11/2017

Award of Best Speaker, World English Debating Championship 08/2017

First Prize, Asian International Model United Nations, Peking University 03/2017

Outstanding Academic Trainee Entrepreneur's Training Camp, Peking University 01/2016

Second Prize Academic Scholarship, Xi'an International Studies University 2015-2018

Additional Information

Qualification: English (IELTS 7.5); Shanghai Certificate of Proficiency in Foreign Language (English) Interpretation; BEC C1 Business Higher English Certificate

Skills: Adept at using Microsoft Office Word, Excel, SPSS, NVivo & ELAN; Quantitative data analysis; Qualitative data processing; Translation and Interpretation; Academic writing; Collaborative research; Bilingualism

Referees

Referees available on request

COVER LETTER: Supervisor

29th April. 2021

Dear Associate Professor Carsten Roever,

I'm Rena (Wei Gao), a current student in the Master of Applied Linguistics at the University of Melbourne. I've developed my keen interests in L2 pragmatics, so I hope to pursue further study in this area. I have conducted a research project as master thesis to measure the listener responses and interactional competence of study abroad Chinese L1 speakers in Australian universities. During my undergraduate study (2019), I published a Chinese paper on investigating English L2 learning motivation in Chinese universities among non-English majors.

Please allow me to introduce my PhD topic briefly, and I believe my proposed topic matches with your research area. After doing a preliminary study, I noticed that improving interactional competence in language expression is essential in developing pragmatics ability for study abroad students. In my research, I would mainly focus on the development of interactional practices (e.g., email in an academic setting; the expression on social media, chat with native speakers and etc.) during study abroad and applying a cross-linguistics approach to analyze the impact of L1 when developing L2 competence. Chinese L1 students in Australian universities would be the main population of this study. Also, I would apply discourse analysis to provide both qualitative and quantitative empirical data in this research.

I've learned that you have published widely in these research areas, especially in areas related to L2 pragmatics and interactional competence. I believe my proposed topic is suitable for you to supervise. I wonder in the next available intake (2022), do you have a plan to recruit new PhD students, and will I have the honor to work with you under your supervision? For your further consideration, I attached my CV, 2500-words Research proposal and response to attributes.

Thank you for your time reading this email and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind
regards,
Wei Gao

Response to Graduate Attributes: PhD Supervision

1. Academic skills

1.1. Ability in academic writing

After successfully completing a bachelor's degree in English Language and Linguistics at *Xi'an International Studies University*, and as a current master student in Applied Linguistics at *the University of Melbourne*, I have been trained to individually conduct academic writing and critical reading. I have high score in honour thesis (86/100) and have successfully published an academic paper on a linguistic journal in 2019.

1.2 Relevant prior research and/or professional experience

As an Applied Linguistics major, I have experience in being a teaching assistant (TA) in university subjects and have tutored two subjects in VCE (English Language and Chinese Second Language) in the year 2021. Besides these teaching experience, I have considerable research experience in the field of pragmatics and discourse analysis. For example, the topic of my honour thesis is about analysing the impact of English Debate in English classroom in Chinese university with the methodology of discourse analysis and quantitative statistics.

1.3 Understanding of the research question to be explored

In my proposed PhD topic, I clearly address six research questions around pragmatics competence and interactional competence. All six research questions are related to the measurement of interactional competence and are all closed related to the theoretical framework in assessing second language pragmatics.

1.4 Prior academic performance and, if relevant, professional qualifications

I have published an academic paper related to learning motivations for Chinese ESL learners on *Oversea English Journal* during my bachelor's degree. And I have considerable experience as a research assistant in the Australian Research Center in linguistics and cross-cultural study. During my bachelor's degree study and master's degree, my WAM is all H1(85.8 for undergraduate study and 83 for master's degree in current progress). I have proposed a project in measuring interactional competence as the thesis in master's degree in 2021, which is directly links to my future PhD topic, I believe this can solid my research foundations in academic preparation for PhD study.

2. Preictally Grounded

2.1 Motivation and capacity to complete the course in a timely manner

The reason why I want to apply for PhD study is that I hold passion in second language pragmatics since it is related to how to use language resources in daily communication, which I believe is essential to explore as a linguistics major and a multi-language speaker myself. Overall, during my past study experience in both undergraduate and graduate study, finishing tasks with proper time management skills is important, especially when I was conducting my honour thesis project within a year independently, I improved a lot in planning and adjusting myself in finishing a huge research project.

2.2 Competitiveness for scholarship allocation; and the ability of the Faculty to provide the appropriate supervision, facilities and resources for your intended project

My average WAM and past research performance are capable in applying scholarship; as for my proposed topic, in school of language and linguistics there are several supervisors who are available to supervise the research in language testing and second language pragmatics (e.g., Carsten Roever; Jason Fan, Ute Knoch). Moreover, within the Language Testing Centre, there is huge potential in promoting pragmatics assessment in large scale language tests which directly matches with my topic.

2.3 Have obtained the endorsement of a prospective supervisor

Yes, Carsten Roever would be my supervisor.

2.4 A Master's degree in a relevant discipline which includes a substantial research component, equivalent to at least 25% of one year of full-time study and achieved a minimum weighted average of 75% or (University of Melbourne) equivalent, with a minimum result of 80% for the research component

My weighted average is 83% (in process) and I would conduct a 25-points research module (minor thesis for applied linguistics) under the supervision of Carsten Roever in 2021.

2.5 English Language Criteria

I have studied in Melbourne for two year and my IELTS score is 7.5 with the average band of 7.0.

3. Socially responsible

3.1 A high regard for human rights, social inclusion, ethics and the environment

For my personal experience, I had conducted a research project to help Chinese minority group to protect their cultural heritage, so I believe I'm capable enough to consider human right issues. I also attended a number of subjects concerning human right issues and historical development during my past study, such as Australian History, American History. During this process, I gained a deep understanding in how to interpret events (e.g., feminism issues) under certain social background and the meaning of human right in history.

3.2 Ability to work collaboratively with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds

During my past research experience, I have collaborated with oversea researchers and successfully helped to manage a huge cross-cultural linguistic study as a research assistant. In addition, during my master's degree, I often helped other members who have diverse cultural and language background in my team to fulfill the group project as a group leader.

Requirement URL:

<https://study.unimelb.edu.au/find/courses/graduate/doctor-of-philosophy-arts/entry-requirements/>