

Growing up in Qiqihar, I was surrounded by Norse Mythology at a young age. I was exposed to the architecture, history and music of Nordic countries when my older brother went to study in Denmark. The mist-home, the niflheim, and the Hvergelmir formed a magical world that irritated my curiosity to explore more about Nordic Countries. Later, when the president of our college, Professor Chen Yuyuan led a lecture on horticulture and shared his study process in University of Copenhagen, I was further convinced that I would like to study master of Production and Environment in University of Copenhagen located in Denmark, a country I have been longing for several years.

My undergraduate study, which I spent four years in Beijing Forestry University, laid solid foundation for my future study. I maintained high marks in most of my courses like Ornamental Plants Genetics and Breeding, Cultivation and Maintenance of Landscape Trees and Shrubs, Greenhouse Operation and Management, etc. Due to my efforts, I ranked top 2 among 45 students in our major. I also kept the triple A student award for a consecutive of three years, as well as winning the merit-based scholarship for a consecutive of three years. Since my university ranked first in the field of Ornamental Horticulture in China, I was able to go all out to learn new knowledge, acquire ornamental plant cultivation skills, and talked about current horticulture issues with excellent professors and entrepreneurs. In addition, I was lucky to be studying in a university that put great emphasis on practice. I was therefore able to go to several sites and learn much practical experience. For instance, I once went to Beijing Xishan Tree farm and pruned peach trees for the whole afternoon. I also gained chance to plant my own flower border in our university nursery garden. In my senior year, I went to visit the best horticulture enterprises in China, which located in Yunnan Province. I would say that due to these practices, I developed deeper interests in pursuing this major, while enjoying creating beauty with gardening plants.

In addition, my enthusiasm for research has motivated me to do a number of studies related to horticulture, which deepened my insights in horticulture study. My student research project, which started in my junior year, trained my professional skills as a researcher. It was a project that explored the genetic principles by measuring hybrid offspring of dwarfing *Lagerstroemia indica*. We have five team members. I, as the team leader, was responsible for the data measurement, data analysis, and the report writing. When it came to the data measurement, we went to *Lagerstroemia indica* planting base located in Fujian province and Beijing city. It was very hot summer, and we had to measure more than one thousand *Lagerstroemia indica*s. Although the task was tough, I kept the record every day and collected data on time. Another challenge was that we had to learn data analysis by ourselves, with which only those graduate students could handle. Our efforts were finally paid off when we figured out the genetic features of different types of *Lagerstroemia indica*. We were also delighted to find that we could contribute a little to the research of *Lagerstroemia indica*. Furthermore, we gained the excellent award from our university. Professor Li spoke highly of my engagement, in return,

he offered me another project, which has become my graduation project now. I have currently established a germ-free type, pending for doubling tissue. I felt delighted that I was familiar about plant tissue cultivating now.

Moreover, my internship, which started in October 2016, trained my insight in solving project problems. I participated in both the production and project production process. As the team member, I participated in every stage of this project, including the topic selection, data analysis and report writing. The experience made me a professional worker in a botany lab. I also realized several problems in horticulture industry, like the poor quality of the post-harvest treatment, the backward production technology, the lack of brand protection, etc. This also became the very reason that I want to study in your country, where better technology was observed. I am currently doing internship in a horticulture company, mainly in charge of the maintenance of indoor plants and the design of indoor gardening projects, a big challenge to me. I believe it will help a lot with my future study in your university.

Your esteemed faculty and student community, your excellence in theory and practice, and your courses which can equip me with the skills and methodology to cultivate ornamental plants appeal to me most. I am very interested in Professor Renate Muller's research project, which focuses on postharvest biology and plant quality improvement. I am also interested in his studies relating to plants and human health. I will be very honored if I have any chance to join him and participate in further study concerning human health therapy with garden plants. Moreover, equipped with my specialized knowledge of horticulture and real project experience, I can contribute to your program with my international perspective.