

**I. COVER PAGE: Include student name, area of specialization, and name of exchange school. Photos and host school's pictures/ logos welcome.**

Student Name:	Galbue Wang
Area of Specialization:	Finance and Accounting
Name of Exchange School:	<b>China Europe International Business School (CEIBS)</b>
Host school website:	<a href="https://www.ceibs.edu/">https://www.ceibs.edu/</a>
School Logo:	 The logo for CEIBS (China Europe International Business School) features a stylized red house icon to the left of the text "CEIBS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**II. INTRODUCTION: Include a brief paragraph introducing yourself and describing your reason(s) for deciding to go on exchange and reason for selecting the partner school.**

Hello, my name is Galbue Wang, 2<sup>nd</sup> year MBA candidate from UBC Sauder school of business. My LinkedIn profile is here(<https://www.linkedin.com/in/galbuewang/>). I am Chinese and have been working in Big 4 accounting firms for nearly 5 years before commencing the MBA journey. My post-MBA career path is to immerse myself in the financial industry of Mainland China.

The reason I chose CEIBS includes a. Reputation. The reputation of the school is great in China even in Asia. Ranking #1 among all Asian business schools in 2018 just tells the truth. b. Connection. According to its employment report in 2018, 37% of their Full-time MBA graduates work for some big-name corporations in the finance industry including JP Morgan, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Fosun Group, China Renaissance, etc., therefore, the connections with CEIBS's current student and alumni would make me beneficial in the job-hunting season. Currently, I am doing my 2<sup>nd</sup> off-cycle internship as an investment banking associate in CV Capital, Shanghai office. This job is directly referred by one of my friends in CEIBS.

**III. ORIENTATION: What happened when you arrived? Did someone meet you at the airport? Did you receive an adequate orientation? Was there a buddy system in place to help orient you to your new environment? Were social activities included in the orientation (i.e. student-hosted socials, 'welcome' events, etc.) Were you made to feel welcome?**

Before my departure to Shanghai, CEIBS has sent us clear instruction including the school, the Shanghai city, and the local life. As for foreigners, CEIBS would advise you to install Wechat, Ctrip, Alipay, and other pragmatic mobile apps. The assigned buddy somehow helped me explore the new campus on the orientation day but honestly, I do not benefit a lot from the system. If you were a foreigner, you would record your arrival information in CEIBS and they might probably pick you up in the airport or give you clear instructions to arrive at campus via Metro or Taxi. By the way, Uber is prohibited in Mainland China and normally we use Didi instead. I feel welcomed in the orientation and meet a lot of exchange students from other schools. The friendship with some of them would last forever and this experience is priceless.



**Orientation Day**

- IV. COURSES & REGISTRATION:** How long after being nominated for exchange were you sent course information by the host partner school? Were you able to enroll in the courses that you wanted? Was the registration system efficient? What advice would you offer to next year's students regarding registration? How would you compare the level and calibre of courses at your Host University with those of UBC? Are courses generally more or less difficult? Is the workload heavier? What is the academic focus of your host University? (i.e. which MBA specializations are appropriate?)

the time gap would be around 2 months. I am officially nominated by UBC Sauder in early February and CEIBS had sent me the contact email as well as course information at the beginning of April. Viewing from my own experience, CEIBS's staffs are really helpful and responsive in a professional manner. One of their MBA program managers named Dili Lu contacted me directly and guided me in the phase of onboarding and course selection. CEIBS has a special course selection system called the Bidding system. I was lucky enough to choose all my first choice courses. Therefore, my advice to the potential exchange students in the next year is that read carefully the bidding system guidance and course descriptions, and do some fundamental research on the instructors. **All courses in CEIBS are taught by ENGLISH, NO MANDARIN.** Comparing the level and caliber of courses between Sauder and CEIBS, I thought that Sauder's classes are slightly more difficult and heavier work-loading. In terms of what I have known, they do have a lot of different specializations. My track in Sauder is Finance and therefore the majority of my courses are finance-related in the elective period.

- V. TEACHING:** Is the style of teaching very different from UBC? Is the material covered at a similar pace, depth or volume compared to UBC? What did you think about the quality of teaching? What style of teaching is used most often (seminars, lectures, case study, projects)? How much class participation, homework is involved?

The teaching style is similar to that of UBC, mainly used case study + lectures. All courses would deliver a course package to enrolled students before the beginning of the course. Everyone's case and pre-

readings are printed out in that course package. Considering copyright protection, no electronic files are allowed to distribute directly to MBA students. The instructors would assign some mandatory readings before launching the class and normally teaching assistant would email you a survey link to collect your answer towards some simple questions related to the readings. This collected data accounts for a certain part of your participation. CEIBS executed an extremely strict class absence policy and the TA might record your presence at least 3 times in the 3-hour class. More than 25% of absence or lateness would result in a downgrade. Generally speaking, class participation 20-25%, homework 40%-50%, presentation or group work, 25%-40%.

**VI. LANGUAGE COURSES (WHERE RELEVANT): Were there language courses available? If so, what were the costs? Were the courses beneficial? When did the course start? Would you recommend any other strategies for visiting exchange students to learn more of the language before starting their exchange?**

Yes, CEIBS provides mandarin teaching classes to all foreigners who prefer to learn basic Chinese. There is no additional cost to be enrolled in the mandarin teaching classes. My mother language is Chinese so sorry that I can't provide more information about it. Hearing from other exchange students, those classes are launched in September, twice a week. If you are highly interested in learning some basic Chinese, I would recommend you spare some time in the classes. Otherwise, ask for help from your Chinese classmates.

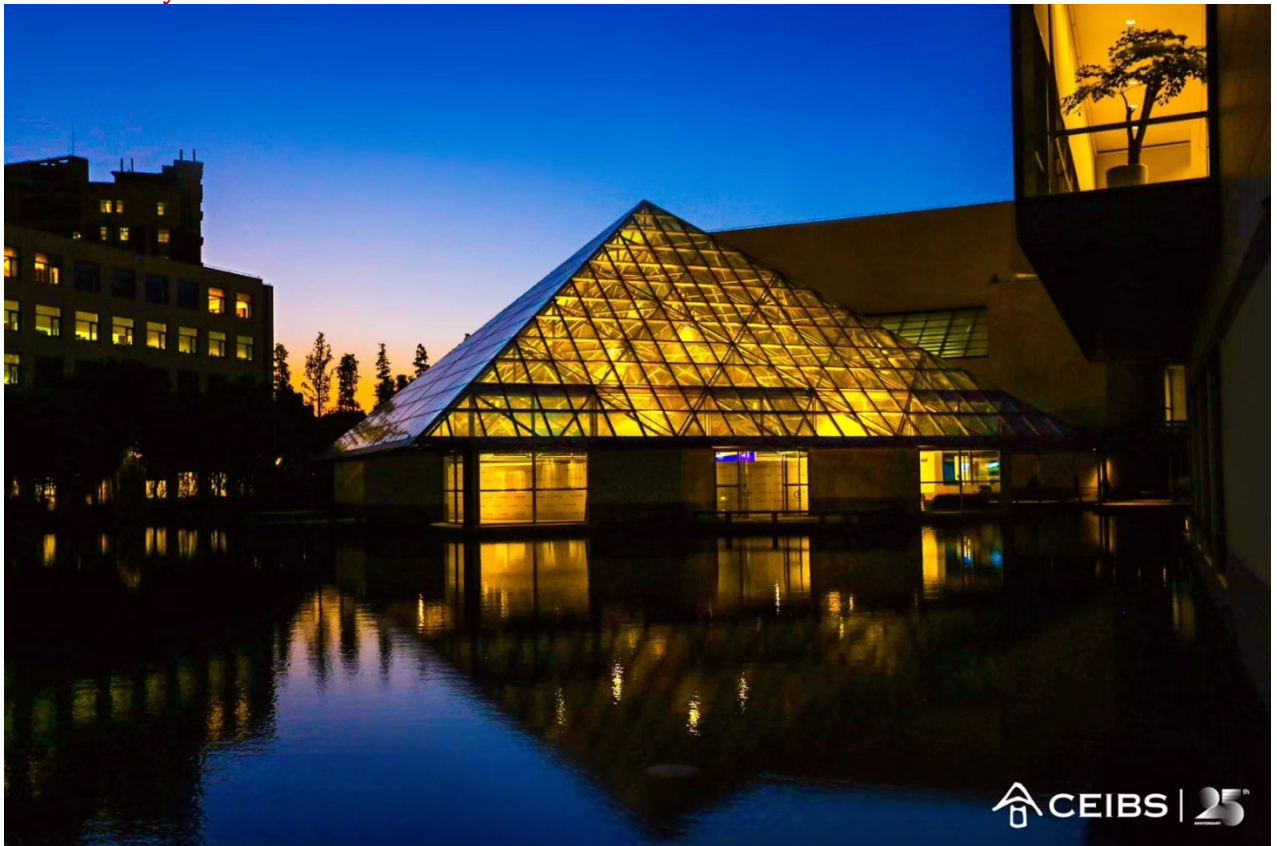
**VII. CAMPUS FACILITIES: What are the differences between UBC's campus and the Host University's campus? Where are the best places to study? Did you have access to computers? Should students bring their computers? Safety issues: Did you feel safe on campus? Were you made aware of available student services?**

CEIBS Shanghai campus is located at Hongfeng Road, Pudong New Area, with a small but very delicate area. The overall learning environment is very comfortable and quiet. I think there are two ideal learning places, the first is the central library, and the second is the discussion rooms in Academic Centre I. Unlike Sauder, these rooms do not have an open online booking system. So first come, first served. All exchange students will get a CEIBS account and a student card with a picture printed on it. Through this account, you can enter the library and use the relevant database, and also access CEIBS's employment portal (CSM-Cool). In principle, every student should bring their computer, but it is not allowed to use in class. Due to the strict security measures of the school, students' cards are required to show in and out of the library and the school, so the campus is very safe.





**Centre library**



**CEIBS Pyramid**

**VIII. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** Is there an international office devoted to helping international and exchange students? If someone was particularly helpful, please note their name. What types of programs are organized for international students? What programs or activities did you find the most rewarding?



CEIBS does not seem to have a dedicated international office to deal with the problem of exchange students. Usually, it is directly solved by the MBA program manager Dili Lu who is responsible for this. If you come to CEIBS for exchange later, you can get in touch with Dili Lu. She has rich experience and can speak fluent Chinese and English. During the three months of exchange, the CEIBS MBA office organized many rewarding activities, including Shanghai night, one day trip to Suzhou, Shanghai city tour, Exchange Promotion Fair, Professor, and student barbecue gathering, etc. I recommend you attend the one day trip to Suzhou.



**2019 CEIBS Exchange promotion Fair**

- IX. HOUSING FACILITIES:** Was housing organized by your Host School? Was the housing provided adequate? If you had to locate your accommodation, how did you do this? How do housing facilities compare? Are telephones, laundry facilities, cooking facilities provided? Are rooms quiet? Which are the best residences to apply to? What is the distance between the housing accommodation and the university campus? When was housing available? Did you stay in housing over the holidays? Is there a meal plan at the housing facility? What is the quality of the cafeteria food? Is food expensive? Is "eating-out" expensive? How close are the grocery shopping areas?

Accommodation is organized and coordinated directly by CEIBS. Two months before going to Shanghai, CEIBS will provide a spare room brochure with a monthly rent of RMB5,000 (equivalent to CAD1,000), excluding water, electricity, gas and other costs. Space is about 15 square meters, with its bathroom. No cooking facilities in the room but shared in the common area. You can choose to live on the campus or live outside the campus through some rent Apps such as Ziru, 58town, etc. to look for cost-effective accommodation. As there is no subway near the school(the walking distance around 15 mins to the nearest metro station Line 9 Taierzhaung Road), it is highly recommended that exchange students might choose accommodation within 5km to reduce commuting time. The school facilities include the laundry room, which is about CAD 4 Per laundry; Coffee shops (Luckin Coffee, CAD 4 Per regular cup);

Lanxin restaurant (CAD 3 per meal); Parking lot (all free during the exchange period); Academic center and dormitory area are both located in campus but completely separated with a walking distance of 7 minutes, and the dormitory area is very quiet, which is suitable for foreign exchange students to live here. During the holidays, you can choose to travel via Airlines (Hongqiao or Pudong Airport) or High-speed trains (Hongqiao Railway Station) or even stay in school. If you choose to eat out, there is a lot of Western food options nearby on the Red Maple Road, with the average price of CAD 30 per person.

**X. COSTS/ EXPENSES: Please give cost estimates that are as accurate as possible. You are the very best resource for future students in this area. Did you encounter any unexpected costs? Remember to include how much you spent over what period; e.g. rent/month or for the term.**

- a. Accommodation
  - b. Textbooks
  - c. Local transportation (buses, trains)
  - d. Food/groceries (Is this more or less \$ than Vancouver?)
  - e. Other
- 
- a. Rent: in campus RMB 5,000 (CAD 1,000) per month; Live outside RMB 3,000 – 6,000 (CAD 600 – 1,200) per month; considering of commute time, I SUGGEST exchange students to live in campus.
  - b. No charge fee. The course package would be printed out and distributed by the teaching assistant, no additional cost would be charged. If you chose to print in the campus, the first 2000 sheets are free using your student account;
  - c. Metro: RMB 10 – 20 per day (CAD 2-4 per day); If you chose to take a taxi, the fee would be related to the traffic and the distance; DO NOT TAKE TAXI OR DIDI DURING THE PEAK HOURS. TRAFFIC IS HORRIBLE.
  - d. Food/groceries. Many groceries around the campus. Normally, the cost is much less than that in Vancouver. If you cook by yourself, the average monthly cost would be below CAD 300. Of course, if you chose to eat in the campus restaurant, the cost would be more around CAD 400 per month.

**XI. STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES: Is there a health care unit on campus? Did you have to pay anything to use the hospital or student health clinic, if you used these facilities?**

There is no healthcare unit on campus. But fortunately, the nearest hospital is around 7 mins by car. Additionally, CEIBS requires every foreign student to purchase life insurance covering all related potential damage during the exchange period. Normally, if you are unfortunate, the insurance would cover all the cost including body damage, dental, fever, and so on.

**XII. SOCIAL EVENTS: What activities were planned? What clubs or groups are good to join? Where are the best places to eat or the best places to go for the weekend? Was it easy to meet new friends? Did you associate mostly with other exchange students or Host school students?**

Like I mentioned before, CEIBS organized lots of awesome activities for the exchange students. In September, there are orientation parties, barbecue gathering in the professor's house; one day trip to Suzhou; Shanghai city tour and so on. At the beginning of October, there is a 7 days holiday (Golden week) from Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. Many foreign students might travel in the mainland to some hot places such as Lijiang, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang. In November, there are anniversary celebrations, an exchange student fair seminar, and the most important one, Shanghai Night! The best places to go for the weekend include Suzhou City, Nanjing City, and ZhouShan Islands. I regard it easy to meet new friends because all exchange students and full-time CEIBS students are enthusiastic. I guarantee that you would meet and make new friends in a short period. The local students can speak fluent English and the majority of them have abroad worked or study experience. Mostly, I associate with local host school students and socialize with other exchange students during the case group work. Very valuable experience.

**XIII. CAREER SERVICES: Did you have access to Career Services at your Host School? If so, were you**

**given the same level of access to the Career Services as the host school's MBA students? Did you find that these Career Services were valuable? Were you invited to the company recruiting events?**

We are lucky. CEIBS gives us UBC students full access to the CSM (employment portal in CEIBS). We can access all internship or full-time jobs in the system and it shows that employers in mainland China have no bias upon the exchange students. In terms of the career center service, they have hosted seminars, workshops and even mock interviews twice a week. You can also book in the system to attend the campus recruiting of reputational companies such as Eli Lilly, Danaher Corporations, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and Roland Berger.

**XIV. SPORTS/ RECREATION: What sports/recreation facilities exist at the campus or nearby? What are the costs of using these facilities? Are they accessible? What sports equipment should UBC students take with them on the exchange?**

In fact, there is a stadium on the campus. The sports facilities are all free used for exchange students. You might use your student card to access those facilities. Additionally, they do host football and basketball games between Year 1 students and Year 2 students. I am delighted to join the game and compete with Year 1 students. Very interesting. As for female students, they can play table tennis or yoga in the gym.

**XV. STUDY TOURS/ FIELD TRIPS: Costs? Mandatory? How many? How long?**

Study tours. The exchange period ranges from the beginning of September to the end of November. Normally, as for us UBC students, we need to choose 6 or 7 courses to meet the minimum requirement of study hours and credits. Therefore, there are 5-7 classes (15-21 hrs in total) every week and we prefer to stay overnight in the libraries. Meanwhile, CEIBS has adopted an extremely strict policy to record class absence. Each class lasts for 3hrs and 15 mins. There might have 2 breaks (10 mins each).

**XVI. WHAT TO BRING: List the most important things to take with you!**

Your Laptop of course. That is something you need every day. Yes, check out the plug information online first, it might require you to bring along with a converter.

Living stuff, do not need to bring, you can purchase them here in groceries. The winter of Shanghai is not so cold until the end of December and hence you might merely bring one down coat.

No need to bring cash. The credit card is cool enough. In China, almost every grocery or convenient store would use Alipay or Wechat Pay. If you don't have either, use your credit card and you might need to open up the account after arriving in China. You take a taxi, pay the dinner bill, and even generously throw a red packet, all E-pay.

**XVII. GENERAL IMPRESSIONS: Please write as much as you want about your exchange experience. Remember all experiences are useful for prospective students to read about.**

**What was the most rewarding aspect of your exchange experience?**

**What were the biggest disappointments and why? What steps would you take, in light of your experience, to have better prepared yourself for your exchange program?**

**Part I: CEIBS overall experience and CEIBS Alumni Community.**

Generally speaking, experience in CEIBS is an amazing time and it has rooted in my life to influence a lot. Regarding my three-month exchange experience, I sense the friendly support and care from staff and students. Just like Roma City, the brand reputation of CEIBS is not built in one day but contributed from decades of devotion. As for me, I am indeed beneficial from CEIBS's prominent reputation and brand awareness. The proudness cultivated from diversified activities such as the 25th Anniversary celebration emerges naturally. Additionally, the strong connection built up with some students in the class of 2020 and other exchanged students are true assets for me. Neil Wong, Stan Li, Vincent Yao,



June Lv, Andrew Lu, Patrick Yang, Jason Zhao, Qing Ren, etc., are all my intimate fellows meeting here in CEIBS. I am glad to check out that the majority of them would work and live in Shanghai or the rest of China. I am fortunate enough to know these guys and the connections will last forever. That is why I chose to join the CEIBS Alumni community after the completion of exchange and enjoy outreaching more friends in the long run. Moreover, viewing from a longer period, I choose to root in China. Inevitably, the community and I would like to be mutually beneficial. Hardly can I say what kind of role I would play in the next ten years. But along with the honor of being a CEIBS alumnus, I would determine to make both UBC Sauder and CEIBS proud.



**CEIBS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

## **Part II: CEIBS's courses – Highly Recommended and Not recommended.**

The second part I want to emphasize more is the teaching content. Fairly speaking, the quality of the majority courses is GOOD, but there do have some minefields you need to skip.

The courses I highly recommend:

1. Fund Management, ★★★★★ recommended, taught by Mr. Aaron Low.

The instructor has a broad knowledge of diversified aspects including fund operation, ETF structuring, hedge fund portfolio management. He is also the principal of a mutual fund based in Singapore. I have to say that Mr. Low is talented in combining theoretical knowledge with practical execution. He makes this course easily understandable and motivates you to raise any questions.



## FINC093 Fund Management



**Prof. Aaron Low**

[aaronlow@ceibs.edu](mailto:aaronlow@ceibs.edu)

<http://www.ceibs.edu/low-aaron-hw>

Dr. Aaron Low is Visiting Professor of Finance at China Europe International Business School (CEIBS). He is currently a Principal & Managing Director of Lumen Advisors on investment strategies and asset allocation. Dr. Low is the Executive Chairman and Immediate Past Chairman of the Board of Governors at the CFA Institute. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Singapore Government Pension Fund and Board Director at the Wealth Management Institute (WMI) of Temasek.

2. Creativity and Design Thinking, ★★★★★ recommended, taught by Prof. Juan Antonio Fernandez.

The reason I highly recommend this course is that the structure of dealing with a social issue is the skillset to be further applied in your career. This course adopts many interesting mini-cases and group games to motivate the group to identify one social issue and the following paths to solve this. I am enjoying and fully immersed in the classes. By the end of the class, your group needs to identify one issue to be tackled within a certain area and activate the creative thinking to come up with a feasible way. You would never imagine how creative you truly are and I assure you would love it.

### LDSP031 Creativity and Design Thinking (repeated)



**Prof. Juan Antonio Fernandez**

[fjuan@ceibs.edu](mailto:fjuan@ceibs.edu)

<http://www.ceibs.edu/fernandez-juan>

Juan Antonio Fernandez is Professor of Management at CEIBS. He served as the Director of the Diploma in Management Programme at CEIBS from 2000 to 2002 and Director of the Centre of Entrepreneurship from 2002 to 2005. He was appointed as Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School (USA) from August 2011 to July 2012 and has been Visiting Scholar at the University of Lancaster (UK) since 2006.

The courses I **DO NOT** recommend.

1. China Rise, America's decline: Business-government strategy in the global Arena, ★ recommended, taught by Prof. Richard Carney.

I attend this course and honestly, it is below my expectations. The instructor assigns some really good cases to read but his lectures are horrible. The professor can't connect the readings with his main points well and therefore the majority of students including me get lost in the individual section. He puts lots of effort into illustrating China's government policy: The belt and Road Initiative. But the content is too superficial for us MBA students and you might completely learn this unknown in 3 hrs with Google rather than attending his class. That is why I do not recommend students to choose his class.

**STRT084 China' Rise, America's Decline: Business-Government Strategy in the Global Arena**



**Prof. Richard Carney**

[carney.richard@ceibs.edu](mailto:carney.richard@ceibs.edu)

<http://www.ceibs.edu/carney-richard>

Dr. Richard W. Carney is an Assistant Professor of Strategy at the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS). Prior to joining CEIBS, he held positions at the associate professor level at the Australian National University and as an assistant professor at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He was also a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

2. East Asian Financial Market and Economic Growth, ★ recommended, taught by Prof. Ronald Schramm

Prof Ronald Schramm is one of the most talented professors I ever meet. He is knowledgeable and kind to students. But if I have to rate his class, no disrespect to Prof. Ron, two stars is my opinion. He knows a lot but THERE ARE TOO MUCH CONTENT IN EACH SLIDE OF HIS PPT. I can't catch up with that. And viewing from the course description, I think he would talk more about the success stories and failed lessons related to the economic issue in East Asian countries. BUT the answer is NO. He introduces too many economic concepts into the courses and completely gets us students lost from the first class. I attend every class of this course but truly don't gain much.

**FINC092 East Asian Financial Markets and Economic Growth**



**Prof. Ronald Schramm**

[sron@ceibs.edu](mailto:sron@ceibs.edu)

Ron Schramm has been conducting research related to China since the early 1990s and is currently a Visiting Associate Professor at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. He is the author of *The Chinese Macroeconomy and Financial System: A US Perspective* (Routledge). He was on the faculty of IBSS in Suzhou as an Associate Professor (2013-2016), creating and directing its Economics PhD program. Before IBSS he had been on the faculty of Columbia Business School for over 27 years. He also served as Finance Editor for the International Journal of Emerging Markets. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Harvard University (with honors) and Master of Arts, Master of Philosophy and PhD in