

# I Dreamed It, I Made It

Xinying Zhang

(Joint Ph.D. Candidate at Harbin Institute of Technology and the University of Utah)



我的梦想，我去实现

When I enrolled at Harbin Institute of Technology in China and heard that I could apply for the opportunity from the Chinese government to study abroad as a joint Ph.D. candidate, I dreamed that I could have it. I started to look for the experts and professionals in my related field.

当我被中国哈尔滨工业大学录取时，得知有机会向中国政府申请以博士生的身份出国时，我非常希望能够有这个机会。于是，我开始寻找我所在领域的专家和教授。

What I cared was not only the reputation of universities but also the characteristics and research spirit of my future supervisor. I read hundreds of papers and wrote to the authors to seek the chances to be accepted. In the first year, I didn't prepare enough materials for the audit and of course failed but I definitely got the experience as well.

当时的我不仅仅关注学校的名声，同时也关注我今后导师的性格以及研究精神。我读了成百上千的文章并且给作者写信来寻求被接受的机会。在第一年，由于审核的材料准备的不够充分，虽然失败了，但是同样我也得到了很多经验。

Fortunately, a couple of invitation letters arrived from Georgia, Utah, Paris, Soul, and so on. One of them was from Dr. Michael Hardman, the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Utah and I was deeply impressed of his rich and wide researches. He got his Ph. D. degree before I was born and works as a professor, a writer, a dean, and a counselor for the education departments of the United States and the United Nations. He has published nearly a hundred of papers mostly about special education and education polices. He is a saint, an Angel and my hero. How I wish I could learn from him, do the research work with him and help the disabled together! Then, things seemed easy and I partially turned my dream into reality.

幸运的是，随后我接到了很多来自佐治亚、犹他、巴黎、首尔等地区的邀请信。其中的一封来自犹他大学教育学院校长 Michael Hardman 博士，我对他丰富广阔的研究印象很深。在我出生之前，Michael Hardman 博士就拿到了博士学位，他不仅是教授，作者，校长，同时也是美国及英国教育部门的顾问。他发表了将近一百篇论文，大多数都是关于特殊教育及教育政策。他是一个圣人、天使、我的英雄。我是多么希望可以向他学习，并且和他一起做研究工作，一切帮助残疾人呀！接下来，一切都看起来很顺利，我的部分梦想终于变成了现实。

Nightmare! I didn't get my DS-2019. It might be lost on the way. Although Michael resent it but I would obviously missed the recruitment of the new semester. Then I knew that U.S. Consulate offered the urgent interviews for students. Thank goodness. I made the reservation. I understood how human, considerate and thoughtful the U.S. Consulate is. Before the interview, I googled the legends about how to get the visa and what to say in the interview and practiced them time and time again. I started to blabla my well-prepared speech in front of the visa officer. She smiled, checked all my certificates, asked about my research proposal and showed me a piece of paper with the working rights on it. I couldn't believe it. I made it!

噩梦发生了！我没有收到 DS-2019 表，一定是在邮寄的路上丢掉了。虽然 Michael 重新给我发了一次，但是很显然我已经错过了新学期的招募。后来得知美国领事馆为学生提供加急面谈。我在网上查了一下如何办理签证，面谈的时候应该如何回答并且练习了好多次。在签证官面前我开始背诵准备好的材料。签证官笑了，检查了我所有的证书，并且询问了我的研究计划，然后给了我一封信，上面写着在美国工作的权利。我真的不敢相信，我做到了！

Thanks to so many kind people, I can study at the university, work as a volunteer to help people, do the research, and break ice to build up the collaboration between the University of Utah and Harbin Institute of Technology. I will go on dreaming for I am sure of the achievements after dreams.

感谢这么多善良的人，让我可以在大学学习，并且以志愿者的身份去帮助其他的人，做研究，并且为犹他大学和哈尔滨工业大学的合作做出了贡献。我会为可以看到的美好前程的梦想努力！

