

Internship report Shanghai

Ecosystem services are a very relevant and fascinating topic, especially in combination with the field of urban green. Thanks to Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste and Prof. Ph.D. Junxiang Li who arranged an internship at the School of Ecological and Environmental Science, East China Normal University, I had the opportunity to spend two months in Shanghai analyzing the topic of ecosystem services of urban green space – Natural Experience in Shanghai Parks.

The field of activity of my internship consisted mainly in analyzing existing structures of natural experience in Shanghai Parks and investigating a more emotional segment of the topic. Therefore, with the help of the local students I was able to develop a questionnaire about recreation and experiences of nature and more than 600 Chinese participated. Six diverse areas had to be analyzed and that resulted in a diversity of experiences as well as a certain familiarity with the megacity of Shanghai.

Furthermore I had the chance to communicate with local authorities and employees of the relevant research areas.

For me personally the combination of the hustle and bustle of the city Shanghai has been both challenging and exciting. Because of my Bachelor I have certain but limited language skills in Chinese but with the help of Prof. Ph.D. Junxiang Li and his students as well as Mr. Liang Zhao any arising challenge or problem could be solved immediately.

With this internship I could combine not only my knowledge gained from my Master studies in Spatial Development and Natural Resource Management with my Bachelor's studies in International Culture and Business, but also my interests of this field. As a result I was able to combine this internship with the development of my Master thesis.

It has been a very interesting and exciting experience in a different yet thrilling cultural background and I am glad and thankful that I had been given this unique opportunity.