

A Practical Study on Beijing Universities' Promotion of the Development and Exchange of Students from Taiwan Province

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Abstract: This study systematically examines the institutional mechanisms and practical approaches of Beijing universities regarding the recruitment, cultivation, and employment of students from Taiwan Province, together with their cross-Strait exchange programs. The study finds that although Beijing universities have established a basic framework for related work, certain issues still exist. This paper recommends that Beijing universities strengthen and refine their work on coordination mechanisms, student cultivation, internship and employment support, and youth exchange programs, so as to continue to play an active role in advancing cross-Strait youth exchanges.

Keywords: Beijing universities; the development and exchange of students from Taiwan province; practice

1. Introduction

The work of attracting young people from Taiwan Province to develop in the mainland and facilitating cross-Strait youth exchange and integration holds significant importance for cross-Strait relations and the great cause of rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In recent years, academia has conducted fairly extensive research on the development of young people from Taiwan Province in the mainland and on cross-Strait educational exchanges. Regarding the characteristics of the Taiwan youth group, Wu Yi (2025) analyzed the evolving features of Taiwan youth's value orientations and political attitudes, pointing out that their political influence continues to rise. Zhang Baorong et al. (2022) explored the social adaptation and identity construction processes of students from Taiwan province at mainland universities from the perspective of intergroup relations and integrated development. Bi Zeyu (2022) summarized the specific practices of national conditions education for students from Taiwan province in Beijing universities. In addition, some experts and scholars have also proposed macro-policy approaches from the perspective of the Beijing's high-quality efforts to attract young people from Taiwan Province to develop in the capital.

Although existing studies are relatively extensive, the following research gaps remain. First, systematic research on the institutional mechanisms for students from Taiwan province in higher education is relatively scarce, with most focusing on individual university or localized practices. Second, most studies are primarily descriptive, without closely integrating policy recommendations with institutional design and mechanism innovation.

To this end, this paper systematically reviews and distills the current situation and challenges of Beijing universities' work in promoting the development and exchange of students from Taiwan Province, and proposes feasible suggestions from aspects such as top-level design, cultivation mechanisms, internships and employment support, and exchange programs. This study mainly adopts questionnaire surveys, supplemented by policy analysis and summaries of practical work, striving to achieve breakthroughs at the level of mechanism analysis and provide academic support and policy references for university efforts to attract young people from Taiwan Province to Beijing for development and exchange under the new circumstances.

2. Main Contents of Beijing Universities' Efforts to Promote the Development and Exchange of Students from Taiwan Province

As the nation's capital, Beijing is home to numerous prestigious universities and rich higher education resources, giving it unique advantages in attracting young people from Taiwan Province to study, exchange, and develop. Over the years, Beijing universities have worked to improve support and complementary measures for the growth and success of students from Taiwan Province, optimizing service systems for their cultivation to create better conditions and more opportunities for them to come to Beijing for development and exchange. The university efforts to promote the development and exchange of these students mainly comprise three components: recruitment, cultivation and employment, and supporting short-term and long-term exchanges for young people from universities in Taiwan Province.

Regarding the enrollment, Beijing is among the earliest mainland regions to admit young students from Taiwan

Province. At present, over 40 universities recruit senior high school graduates from Taiwan province based on their GSAT (General Scholastic Ability Test) scores, including several renowned "Double First-Class" institutions. Following admission, universities apply convergence policies in academic administration, accommodation, medical care, and campus life, encouraging the integrated development of these students alongside their mainland peers. To enhance cultivation efforts, 42 universities jointly founded the Beijing Association for the Management and Education of Students from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and Overseas Chinese, which regularly shares information on courses, cultural activities, and internships organized for students from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, thereby providing richer developmental resources for students from Taiwan Province.

In terms of supporting internships and employment of students from Taiwan province in Beijing, Beijing universities regularly organize or host specialized recruitment fairs and publish internship information to broaden channels for internships and employment, thereby facilitating the development of these students in the capital. The Beijing municipal government has also actively provided platforms and opportunities for Taiwan youth to intern, work, and start businesses in Beijing through various means, including establishing Cross-Strait Youth Entrepreneurship Bases and demonstration sites for employment and entrepreneurship, regularly holding special job fairs, enterprise promotion events, and policy briefing sessions, and organizing the Beijing-Taiwan Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition.

On the exchange front, Beijing universities have carried out distinctive cross-Strait youth exchange activities, including teacher visits, student exchanges, academic seminars, competition exchanges, cultural visits, and other long-term and short-term programs. Since 2018, Beijing has hosted the Cross-Strait Youth Summit, and by 2025, six editions had been successfully convened, with a cumulative total of approximately 150 exchange activities that attracted the enthusiastic participation of over 6,000 young people from both sides of the Strait. The Summit has evolved into a large-scale platform where talented young people across the Strait strengthen friendships, exchange ideas, and look ahead to the future. Beijing universities actively participate in and support the Summit by hosting sub-forums and subsidiary events.

3. Current Practices of Beijing Universities in Promoting the Development and Exchange of Students from Taiwan Province

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms and practical pathways of Beijing universities' work in promoting the development and exchange of young people from Taiwan Province, this study designed and administered a survey questionnaire to representative institutions in the city. Participating universities included a diverse range of institutions with relatively large enrollments of students from Taiwan Province, spanning comprehensive universities, science and technology universities, medical universities, normal universities, finance and economics universities, and arts universities. The questionnaire comprised several sections covering basic information, staffing and resource allocation, coordination mechanisms, student cultivation, exchange programs, collaboration with external enterprises, major challenges, bottlenecks, and policy recommendations. A total of 13 valid responses were collected.

Overall, the responses indicate that Beijing universities have developed fairly sound working mechanisms for promoting the development and exchange of young people from Taiwan Province, with basic staffing and funding provisions, internal coordination mechanisms, and institutional rules and regulations in place. These have coalesced into a normalized, whole-process system for the cultivation, management, and service of these students. More specifically, Beijing universities have established relevant working mechanisms across recruitment, cultivation, and employment, including regular national condition education for enrolled students, exchange student programs to attract young people from Taiwan Province, and short-term exchange project mechanisms, among others.

In terms of enrollment, Beijing universities mainly admit undergraduate students based on Taiwan's General Scholastic Ability Test (GSAT) scores or the results of the Joint Entrance Examination for Students from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese. For graduate enrollment, they mainly employ the graduate entrance examination for students from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, while a small number of universities also adopt an application-assessment approach.

In the area of cultivation, Beijing universities attach considerable importance to the cultivation of students from Taiwan Province. The teaching, daily life management, and services for these students are basically the same as those for mainland students. For some students who are prone to difficulties in mathematics and science courses after enrollment, some universities encourage them to utilize existing learning resources to overcome these challenges, while others provide sporadic or relatively systematic assistance as needed. Moreover, according to its own characteristics and educational resources, universities also independently organizes activities for students from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan to deepen their understanding of national conditions.

For the internships and employment, Beijing universities mainly provide students from Taiwan province with the same

career guidance services available to all students, supplemented by the distribution of job information and the provision of employment policy consultations. At the same time, they actively organize and guide Taiwan students to participate in various job fairs, enterprise promotion events, and other activities organized by the Beijing municipal government or other universities, thereby providing internship and employment opportunities for these students.

Turning to the exchanges, Beijing universities collaborate with partner institutions in Taiwan Province to implement mutual exchange programs and short-term visits. The questionnaire survey shows that short-term exchange activities have played a positive role in helping Taiwan youth experience the development achievements and vitality of the mainland and enhancing their identification with Chinese culture.

4. Challenges in Beijing Universities' Promotion of Development and Exchange of Students from Taiwan Province

4.1 The Coordination Mechanisms in Universities Needs to Be Strengthened

The questionnaire survey shows that, in most universities, carrying out the work of promoting the development and exchange of students from Taiwan province requires coordination among various departments and schools, with varying degrees of effectiveness. The number of staff engaged is relatively limited, and for most of them, this work is not their primary responsibility.

4.2 Student Cultivation Work Needs Further Improvement

Survey findings indicate that most universities consider students from Taiwan Province study in Beijing universities deepen their understanding of national conditions after enrollment, but these students also encounter specific challenges during their studies that merit attention. Many demonstrate relatively weak foundations in certain disciplines such as advanced mathematics, and experience considerable peer competition pressure. The academic support currently provided by universities tends to be sporadic and individualized, lacking a systematic, institutionalized framework; supporting efforts remains necessary.

4.3 Internship and Employment Support Requires Greater Attention

In this domain, employment assistance measures for students from Taiwan Province remain relatively generalized. Among surveyed institutions, 38% reported that their support measures are still rather limited. Current efforts rely primarily on "providing consultation" (53.8%) and "disseminating job information" (53.8%), while specialized supports such as "dedicated recruitment fairs" and "targeted enterprise referrals" each account for less than 30%. Collaboration between universities and external enterprises also remains limited.

5. Suggestions for Enhancing Beijing Universities' Work in Promoting the Development and Exchange of Students from Taiwan Province

Based on these findings, this paper suggests that universities approach the following areas to improve their work in promoting the cultivation and exchange of young people from Taiwan Province.

5.1 Improving the Coordination Mechanism

Universities should continue to refine the institutional design of work related to youth from Taiwan province. First, strengthen inter-departmental coordination to improve both efficiency and effectiveness of collaboration. Second, formulate and improve the systems for student cultivation and exchange work to ensure that the work has clear guidelines to follow. Third, ensure adequate staffing and resources for program implementation.

5.2 Improving Student Cultivation

First, in terms of psychological adjustment, universities can explore establishing mentorship or peer support system, in which faculty members or senior students provide one-on-one or group-based academic and career guidance. Through cultural and sports activities, peer exchanges, holiday greetings, and other means, universities can help students navigate the adjustment period after enrollment, fostering a stronger sense of belonging to the institution.

Second, regarding academic assistance, universities should address learning difficulties in mathematics and other quantitative subjects by establishing dedicated, regular academic support mechanisms such as tutorial classes and peer tutoring programs.

5.3 Strengthening Internship and Employment Support

Universities need to focus on two aspects: enhancing students' job-seeking capabilities and confidence, and expanding access to internship and employment opportunities. On the one hand, strengthen career development planning and guidance from the time of enrollment. Through policy briefings, enterprise visits, peer exchanges, and individual counseling, universities can provide guidance on improving employability and build students' confidence in future career development. On the other hand, coordinate and connect with enterprises to match students with internship positions and establish structured internship programs, thereby broadening channels for internships and employment.

5.4 Actively Developing Cross-Strait Educational Exchange Programs

Universities can grasp the topics of common interest to contemporary youth, such as technology and culture, to design exchange programs that resonate with young people's interests and reflect contemporary trends. For example, programs might be anchored around current hotspots in higher education such as AI seminars and competitions, integrating Beijing's distinctive historical and cultural resources to create high-quality exchange opportunities that encourage more Taiwan youth to participate in exchange activities.

6. Conclusion

Beijing universities have accumulated considerable experience and achievements in the cultivation students from Taiwan province and facilitating cross-Strait exchanges, but there is still room for improvement.

In the future, Beijing universities should continue to promote the integrated development of young people across the Strait, actively advancing various student cultivation, internship and employment support, and exchange programs, thereby deepening mutual understanding among young people across the Strait, fostering people-to-people bonds, and promoting the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations.

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