

## Three Challenges that CUHK(SZ) Graduates will be Facing

Qizhou Robin Luo

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After several months, the first cohort of CUHK(SZ) will graduate, entering a jungle that full of competition. On many faces of the graduates, we see frustration, lost and anxiety. What they will encounter will be the most severe challenge ever. Some of them will enter dream companies, while others will be defeated by their contemporaries. They will be sure to face three challenges, which are listed below.

Challenge one comes from the culture shock. In CUHK(SZ), students are indulged in a western-like culture, in which they speak and listen to English, and think as westerners. While in the real society, they cannot just do whatever they want. For example, a student can mock the host on the stage during an activity in front of hundreds of participants. Students can talk to the president and professors without calling his or her title. If they do this at work, they will probably be dismissed. They cannot easily shift the cultural perception that is underlying in their mind.

The second challenge comes from their peers. Although some top students choose CUHK(SZ), the Shenzhen campus is definitely not among the top universities in China. It still has a great distance with the leading ones, such as Peking University, Tsinghua University, and CUHK Shatin Campus. Many of CUHK(SZ) students set their mind to work with prestige investment banks, though it is almost unrealistic. The main reason is that CUHK(SZ) is not a target school for the top investment banks. Even in Fudan University, only the top 5% graduates might have chances to enter foreign investment banks and earn a higher salary than their peers. What I can see among the students in CUHK(SZ), they are not talented nor diligent. I am afraid of how many of them can survive in a highly competitive world of finance.

Table: Students at Top Universities in China

Rank	University	Location	Student Quality (Tsinghua=100)	No. of Students
1	Tsinghua	Beijing	100	47201
2	Peking	Beijing	96.1	40709
5	Fudan	Shanghai	91.8	29810
7	Jiaotong	Shanghai	89.4	48866
	CUHK			
29	Shenzhen	Guangdong	77.1	7000

Source: <http://edu.sina.com.cn/gaokao/2017-05-09/doc-ifyeychk7169780.shtml>;  
<http://www.cunet.com.cn/daxue/paiming/2017/236892.html>

Maybe the last challenge is the most crucial one. It is their background. Most of the students at CUHK(SZ) come from grassroots socio-economic backgrounds. They are not backed by strong families, and even some of them are from deprived homes. Most of their parents cannot provide any resource to help them stand out. Despite the disadvantageous background, many of them are

full of pride, believing that they are able to be super rich after graduation. However, what they think is no more than an illusion. No man can succeed without working and accumulation human capital through a long time. Society will, I beg not to be too cruel, teach them lessons about how to be ordinary people. They cannot put their pride on the ground and start doing things, which will be the most critical potential risk in their future lives.

To summarize, the circumstance for the first cohort of graduate is pessimistic. Whether they can be successful is determined by whether they will fit in and excel in the local culture, be diligent than their competitive peers, and be hardworking to overcome their shortage in the background. I wish they will be smooth and most of them will fulfill their dreams, after a long-term suffering.