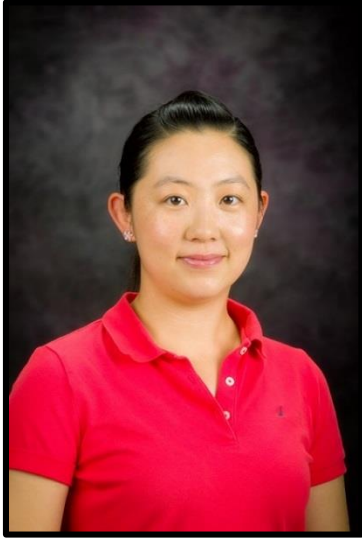


# International Student Spotlight Interview



**NAME:** Yang Liu

**YEAR AT K-STATE:** 5th

**MAJOR:** Biological & Agricultural Engineering

**HOME COUNTRY:** China

## ***What was it like coming to K-State? How did you decide to come here?***

Coming to K-State was definitely a life to me, when I decided to come for my master degree after finishing undergraduate program in P.R. China. Anything interpreted in a different language would be challenging, though opportunities always lie there as well. I got a handful offers from the US and Canada. The K-State campus and community environment attracted me more. Besides, the recruiting office in Beijing provided some mental comfort.

## ***What has your experience been like so far?***

It is great so far. Inspiring faculties and staffs, friendly and amazing classmates and friends. Everyone is seems very committed to the K-State and Manhattan community. I lived with two girls from Kansas in my first two years in Manhattan. They gave me rides for shopping and social event. The most important thing was their encouragement and warm hug when I was at the bottom.

## ***What were some of the big differences when you first arrived (social, academic, weather, etc.)? Was there anything that was really surprising?***

Almost everything was new and potentially surprising then, socially and academically. We had not created the public transportation system yet in 2011 while TAXI was and is way too expensive, which basically trapped me on campus. It may also have isolated me from distraction as well.

Classes are very different too. There are always lots of questions asked by students in class, and a long list of reading materials. In terms of homework, critical thinking and writing was challenging. I was quite surprised that the Hale library opens all night (Monday through Friday), and many students study that late or even all night.

The social culture is quite different from the oriental culture I'm from. Fortunately it did not take me to long to be proud to speak out loud. Yan

## ***Was K-State what you expected? Was Manhattan what you expected?***

Due to zero knowledge about it, there was not any expectation about Manhattan but it was definitely unimaginably small to me, given the context of the regular city size of China. As time went by, I began to enjoy this city more and more and appreciate its functionality more and more. After four years staying, my favorite time slot became summer when there are always parking spot and fewer students.

## ***Is classroom culture a lot different here?***

Yes! I really appreciate that the fundamental point of class is self-motivation. Professor's office hour is also always helpful. Beside, their enlightening tutorial did sharpen my thoughts and enhance my enthusiasm. Presentation was also a new thing to me. Soon I realized the beauty of construct my logic in presentation, where I can deeper understand the knowledge. It is something worth time.

## ***What do you like about being a student at K-State?***

There are plenty of accessible academic resources both online and offline. A handful of things coming to my mind are the editing center, the library (interlibrary loan) and statistical consulting service. The university and student organizations design many amazing activities and events, including social event and professional development. The strong sense of belonging occurs at the football season, where the only color you can see is purple, and I feel proud to be a part of this community.

## ***What kinds of things are you involved in on campus?***

I like to participate in different organizations, and I found it very helpful for community engagement. I joined the international buddy and international speaking bureau. In college of engineering, I'm serving as the chair of Information and Publicity of Graduate Student Advisory Council, secretary & treasurer of BAE Student Organization. I am also a member of the library student ambassador.

## ***What do you do for fun in Manhattan?***

I usually go to recreation complex and swimming pool on campus. As an outdoor lover, I have highly enjoyed places like: the linear trail, Konza Prairie, and the Tuttle creek state park. There is a place that is not so well known but I kind of like it, the Pillsbury crossing. I sometimes go to trap shooting, which is more thrilling and fun.

## ***If you could have known one thing before moving here, what would it be?***

Driving.

## ***Do you have any advice for incoming international students?***

Try to find a native speaker as your roommate or good friend (or both), this will help a lot!

***What would you like others to know about being an international student at K-State?***

Try to step out of your comfort zone, reach out by either talking to different people or reading. Be brave, be hungry and be funny. Keep in touch with advisors in international student center, they are the expert about your VISA questions.

***Would you mind sharing a phrase from your native language and what it means?***

“艰难困苦，玉汝于成。” (“Jian Nan Kun Ku, Yu Ru Yu Cheng”). Challenge is the foundation for greatness.