

Education system

China

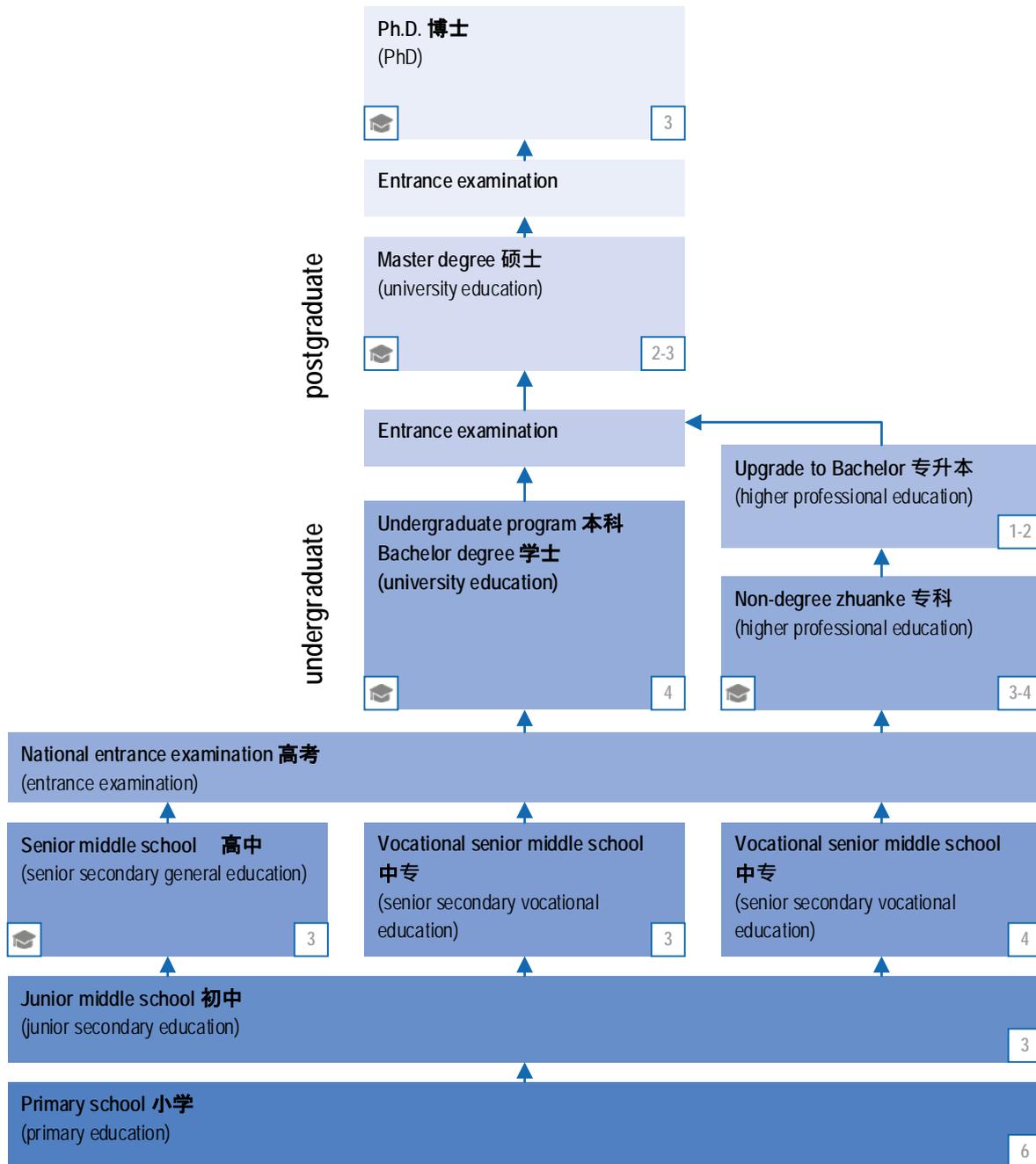
The Chinese education system described and compared with the Dutch system

This document provides information about the education system of China. It also includes the Dutch comparison of qualifications obtained in China.



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Education level

Duration of education

Click here to view a sample of the diploma

Evaluation chart

In the following chart, the left part lists foreign qualifications. The right part lists the Dutch comparisons, with corresponding levels in the Netherlands and European qualifications frameworks.

Degree or qualification	Dutch equivalent and NLQF level	EQF level
Vocational senior middle school graduation certificate (<i>zhongdeng zhuanye xuexiao biye zhengshu</i>) (3 to 4 years)	MBO diploma (qualification level 2 or 3)	2/3
Senior middle school graduation certificate (<i>gaozhong</i>)	HAVO diploma	4
Graduation certificate from a <i>zhuanke</i> programme (2 years)	2 years of HBO	5
Graduation certificate from a <i>zhuanke</i> programme (3 years)	3 years of HBO	5
Graduation certificate from a bachelor's programme (4 years)	HBO bachelor's degree or 2 years of WO	6
Graduation certificate from a bachelor's programme at a Project 211 institution (4 years)	WO or HBO bachelor's degree	6
Graduation certificate from a master's programme (2 years)	WO master's degree	7

NB

- The information provided in the table is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.
- NLQF = Netherlands Qualifications Framework. EQF = European Qualifications Framework.
- The evaluation of a foreign qualification in terms of the EQF/NLQF does not necessarily mean that all of the learning outcomes associated with these levels have been achieved.
- Information on the Dutch equivalent qualifications is available in the *Netherlands Education System*. See: <http://www.nuffic.nl/en/library/education-system-netherlands.pdf>
- The information regarding international study programmes at VMBO and MBO level is issued by SBB, the foundation for Co-operation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market.

■ Introduction

China has 23 provinces, five autonomous regions (Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Tibet and Xinjiang) and four direct-controlled municipalities (Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Tianjin).

The People's Republic of China was declared in 1949 by Mao Zedong. Since that time, China has been a single-party state with a centrally-organised political and economic system and means of production owned and run by the state.

The Chinese education system took its current shape between 1977 and 1980. The total nominal duration of primary and general secondary education was set at 12 years, and a national higher education entrance examination instituted. Undergraduate bachelor's programmes were established with a nominal length of 4 years, as well as nominal 3-year postgraduate master's programmes. The system for adult education was also significantly expanded.

When the People's Republic of China was declared in 1949, all private education institutions were either closed or converted into state-run institutions. In the early 1980s, the Chinese government once again took a more positive view of private education and some decentralization took place. The government realized that state-run institutions were not able to accommodate the social demand (at that time only two percent of examination candidates were admitted to higher education) and wanted to create better opportunities for students. The first private higher education institution since 1949 was founded in 1982.

The Chinese education system has a very centralized structure and is supervised by the Ministry of Education, which was called the State Education Commission from 1985 until 1998. The Ministry creates the policy, which is then implemented at provincial level by the provincial educational authorities.

The official language of education is Mandarin (*putonghua*), which is taught to all pupils at school. The written language has been standardized, and since 1949 has been written using simplified characters. Hong Kong still uses the original traditional characters and recognised minorities use their own language as the language of instruction. Chinese characters can be transliterated into the Roman alphabet using the standardized *Hanyu pinyin* system.¹ The content of all textbooks is still only prescribed in general terms by the national government.

The academic year runs from September until June and consists of two 20-week semesters.

¹ Where possible, Chinese educational terminology and the names of institutions in this module will be presented in brackets in both characters and Hanyu pinyin.

■ Primary and secondary education

Primary education lasts 6 years and is intended for children aged 6-12. Subsequently, pupils move on to the 3-year junior middle school (初中 *chuzhong*), which marks the end of compulsory education.

After completing an entrance examination, pupils can choose between the 3-year senior middle school (高中 *gaozhong*) or a 3 or 4-year vocational programme (中专 *zhongzhuan*) at a vocational senior middle school (中等专业学校 *zhongdeng zhuanye xuexiao*).

Senior middle school concludes with what is called the *huikao* (会考) examination, which is taken in nine subjects: politics, Chinese, mathematics, a foreign language (often English, but may also be Japanese, Russian, French or German), physics, chemistry, biology, history and geography. Pupils also complete practical examinations in physics, chemistry, and biology and are assessed on their moral, ideological and political development. At the end of the general programme, pupils are awarded the senior middle school graduation certificate (普通高中毕业证书 *putong gaozhong biye zhengshu*).

In terms of level, the senior middle school graduation certificate is comparable to a *HAVO diploma* in the Netherlands.

At the end of the vocational programmes, pupils are awarded the vocational senior middle school graduation certificate.

In terms of level, the vocational senior middle school graduation certificate is comparable to an *MBO diploma* at qualification level 2 or 3, depending on the specialisation.

Huikao becomes general ability test

In 2002, the Ministry of Education announced curriculum reforms and changes to the examination system, as a result of which a new system will gradually replace the *huikao* examination. Each province will do this in its own time, yet the system was nationally implemented in 2010. The new system is as follows. A credits system has been introduced in the 3 years of senior secondary education. Pupils must obtain a total of 144 credits in order to complete the programme (116 from compulsory subjects and 28 from electives). New subjects have also been introduced into the curriculum, including research skills, social service, social work experience placements, physical education, and art subjects. Each subject is made up of various 36-hour modules which are worth 2 credits, except for the art and physical education modules, which are worth 1 credit. Subjects are also subdivided into eight areas of study, namely: language and culture, mathematics, humanities and society, science, technology, art, and a combination of practical activities. A distinction is now drawn between compulsory and elective subjects. One hundred points can be obtained for each subject (sometimes less for electives, this differs between provinces). The points score is then converted into a letter according to a slightly modified assessment system made up of four letters:

Letter grade	Points	Description	Meaning
A	100-85	优秀	Excellent
B	84-70	良好	Good
C	69-60	合格	Satisfactory
D	59-0	不合格	Unsatisfactory

The name of the final examination is no longer *huikao* (会考), but has been replaced by the name *xueye shuiping kaoshi* (学业水平考试), in English usually translated as ‘general ability test’. There are several provincial variants, including 学业水平测试, 学业基础会考 (general ability basic *huikao*), and Beijing is the only region to use the variant 模块考核 (modular test).

The examination is conducted twice per year, and excellent pupils can sit the exam from the second year of senior middle school onwards (except for the three compulsory subjects of Chinese, mathematics, and foreign language; these must be examined in the third year). The highest score obtained in any subject is the one that counts. The results for electives are only valid for the same year, as opposed to the results of compulsory subjects, which are valid for 3 years.

The new curriculum² is as follows:

Area of study	Subject	Compulsory credits (116 in total)	Elective credits
Language and literature	Chinese	10	28 credits in total
	Foreign language	10	
Mathematics	Mathematics	10	
Humanities and society	Politics	8	
	History	6	
	Geography	6	
Science	Physics	6	
	Chemistry	6	
	Biology	6	
Technology	Technology (including computer sciences and practical technology)	8	
Art	Art/Music/Fine Arts	6	
Physical education and health	Physical education and health	11	
Combination of practical activities	Research-based learning activities	15	
	Social service	2	
	Social practice	6	

The year is made up of 41 weeks of study (including one week of social work experience) and eleven weeks of holiday. Practical examinations are taken for science subjects, technology subjects, and arts subjects. In most provinces, students can choose from the following foreign languages: English, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, German, and French. The subject 'research-based learning activities' encourages pupils to analyse and solve problems independently and to develop study skills.

² Source: website of the Chinese Ministry of Education

www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe_711/201001/78378.html

A major exception to the implementation of the new system is the province of Jiangsu, which implemented the new curriculum in 2005, but without Chinese, mathematics and foreign language or the arts subjects, physical education and practical activities. Chinese, mathematics, and foreign language are examined during the *gaokao* examination in the province of Jiangsu. In addition to the general ability test, Jiangsu also has a comprehensive quality assessment (综合素质评价) that covers the arts subjects, physical education, and the practical activities. The new curriculum covers the following seven subjects: politics, history, geography, physics, chemistry, biology, and technology. The curriculum contains five compulsory subjects and two elective subjects. Pupils choose between history and physics, and select one of politics, geography, chemistry or biology. The first batch of pupils to go through this new system in Jiangsu graduated in 2008.

■ Admission to higher education

The national entrance examination (高考 *gaokao*) was reintroduced in late 1977 and is conducted once a year. Admission to university depends primarily on candidates' results in this examination. However, it is also possible for a select group of students whose academic performance is outstanding, to be granted an exemption from the entrance examination and be recommended directly to the university of their choice (保送 *baosong*). Some private institutions are exempted from the *gaokao* and accept all students who can afford the tuition fees.

Prestigious universities (key institutions) maintain higher admission standards, and therefore require higher *gaokao* scores than other institutions. Admission to these institutions is extremely competitive.

To take part in the entrance examination, students must have a senior middle school graduation certificate, sometimes also translated as 'general secondary education certificate' (*gaozhong*). In general, students with a vocational middle school certificate are officially allowed to take the *gaokao*. However, the entrance examination scores of pupils with this certificate are generally lower than those of pupils with a senior middle school graduation certificate, due mainly to the more limited number of general subjects in the programme.

The 3+X model

A number of changes to the national entrance examination (*gaokao*) were set in motion in 1999 and implemented in 2003, known as the '3 + X model'. The number '3' stands for the number of compulsory examination subjects (Chinese, mathematics and a foreign language), and the letter 'X' for the following six subjects: chemistry, physics, biology, politics, history, and geography. Every provincial-level examination authority was able to choose its own combination from these six subjects. Usually, three standard combinations were chosen: humanities (3+文科综合, consisting of politics, history, and geography), science (3+理科综合, consisting of physics, chemistry, and biology), or a combination of these two. However, in recent years the combination model seems to have fallen out of use. Mathematics is different for both subject clusters.

The *gaokao* examination offers a maximum of 750 points: 150 points for each of Chinese, mathematics, and foreign language, and 100 points for each subject in the humanities or science combinations (i.e. 300 points per combination). There are several exceptions, amongst which Jiangsu province— in this province the total number of points in the *gaokao* examination is 440: 160 points for Chinese, 160 points for mathematics and 120 points for foreign language. Nationally, the better universities demand a *gaokao* score of 330 from candidates from the Jiangsu province. In the Hainan province the maximum score is 900 points, in Zhejiang province 810 points and in the municipality of Shanghai 630 points.

For other provinces, the better universities demand a *gaokao* score of 550 or over; however this score fluctuates per year. The entrance scores for *zhuanke* programmes are lower than for bachelor's programmes.

Higher education (高等教育 *gaodeng jiaoyu*)

Higher education is offered at institutions that call themselves 'university', 'college' or 'school'. These include degree-awarding institutions (including several hundred research institutes), specialised institutions, professional universities, military institutions, medical schools and colleges (both regular and military), and executive training schools, which train staff for state-run companies and ministries.

Since 2008 official legislation made it possible for all *independent colleges* (独立学院, *duli xueyuan*) to issue their own diplomas and bachelor's degrees. Before that date the university they cooperated with would issue the diploma and the degree. The programmes of the *independent colleges* are considered to be equal to the ones offered in regular higher education in China. In 1991, the first recognised *independent college* was established. Currently there are about 292 recognised *independent colleges* as per 19/6/2013. This kind of education institutions cooperate with well known universities, private organizations or private investors and does not obtain any governmental funding. Furthermore, the tuition fees for the students are higher than for students at regular higher education institutions. According to law, *independent colleges* must offer programmes at minimally the level of 4-year, professionally oriented undergraduate programmes, they are not allowed to offer *zhuanke* programmes. The programmes offered are very popular with the students: English, computer science, international economy and business, etc.

Admission to these *independent colleges* is through the national entrance examination for higher education, similar to regular higher education institutions. The scores required for admission are however lower than those required by the universities. Further information on the official legislation, including a list of *independent colleges* can be found at the website of the Chinese government . See under **Addresses**.

Institutions that operate directly under the supervision of the Ministry of Education are the most prestigious (such as Peking University and Tsinghua University). The concepts of 'college' (学院 *xueyuan*) and 'university' (大学 *daxue*) are sometimes used interchangeably, yet 'college' usually implies a less prestigious institution than a university. The Chinese word for 'university' (大学 *daxue*) is sometimes also translated as 'college'.

In 1992, the Chinese government introduced 'Project 211' (211工程 *211 gongcheng*). The number '21' represents the 21st century, and the '1' stands for the 100 institutions selected for participation in the project. The aim of Project 211 is to improve the quality of education at 100 institutions to such an extent that they satisfy the highest international standards. As national examples, these institutions will then play a key role in China's social and economic development and receive financial support from the government for better facilities, equipment, and staff. A list of Project 211 institutions can be found further along in this document. The number of participating institutions fluctuates a great deal, partly due to the many recent mergers taking place in Chinese higher education. The list recently counted 112 institutions.

In 1998, the Chinese government introduced 'Project 985' (985工程 *985 gongcheng*) both as part of and as a follow-up to Project 211. The project awarded a number of prominent institutions participating in Project 211 additional financial support from the government, with the aim of generating first-class research institutes able to compete worldwide in terms of knowledge and technology. The 39 institutions on the Project 211 list marked with a * are also part of Project 985.

Of the approximately 1000 private (民办 *minban*) Chinese higher education institutions, 388 are currently recognised (as of 23 May 2011). These institutions are allowed to award diplomas independently, whereas students of non-recognised private institutions must take part in the national independent learning examination at the end of their course in order to obtain an officially recognised state diploma. So far, 79 of these 388 private institutions are authorised to award their own bachelor's degrees recognised by the Chinese Ministry of Education at the end of a 4-year programme.

An overview of private institutions can be found at the website of the Ministry of Education. See under **Addresses**.

The Private Education Promotion Law of 28 December 2002 (which came into force on 1 September 2003) made it possible for foreign institutions to offer programmes in China through joint ventures with Chinese higher education institutions. The Ministry of Education publishes a list of recognised degree programmes offered through joint ventures with foreign partners. See under **Addresses**. This system has made it possible for Chinese students to obtain an foreign degree in their own country.

Higher education programmes are divided by the Chinese government into 12 programme categories (so-called first level programmes 一级学科): 01 philosophy, 02 economics, 03 law, 04 pedagogy, 05 humanities, 06 history, 07 natural sciences, 08 technology, 09 agriculture, 10 medical sciences, 11 military affairs, 12 management. Among these 12 categories there are several specialisations (second level programmes 二级学科), which in turn have their own subcategories.

Adult education (成人教育 *chengren jiaoyu*)

In 1949, a system for adult education was introduced. The programme is provided partly via radio and television by 'radio' and 'television' universities (广播电视大学 *guangbo dianshi daxue*), partly by regular institutions via evening classes or written correspondence, and partly by independent learning. Programmes are provided at the level of secondary vocational education, 2 or 3-year non-degree higher education (专科 *zhuanke*) and undergraduate (本科 *benke*) education. The 'spare time' (业余 *yeyu*) students have 10 years in which to complete their course. Non-degree programmes usually take 3 to 4 years to complete part-time, and bachelor's programmes 5 to 6 years. Admission to higher education for adults takes place via the National Adult Higher Education Entrance Examination. Adult education provided by regular higher education institutions is officially considered by the government to be at the same level as the regular programmes.

In 1981, independent learning (自学 *zixue*) was introduced as a means to study in China. Students can complete examinations in certain subjects twice a year, determining the order of subjects themselves. A partial certificate is issued for each subject completed, and there are no entrance requirements for participation in the examinations. Completing a non-degree (*zhuanke*) programme in this manner usually takes 3 to 4 years and a bachelor's programme 4 to 5 years. The level attained has been set officially at the corresponding diploma obtained through regular higher education. Once all course components have been completed, a graduation certificate is issued, stamped by the relevant provincial examination board for independent learning, and possibly also by the institution that administered the examinations.

■ University education

In 1980, the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Academic Degrees were passed by the Chinese government. These regulations distinguish between the three academic degrees of Bachelor, Master and Doctor. Students must complete entrance examinations for each level.

Bachelor

A bachelor's degree (学士学位 *xueshi xuewe*) is awarded at the conclusion of a 4-year undergraduate programme (*benke*) at a higher education institution; the nominal length of programmes in Medicine, traditional Chinese Medicine, Architecture and some Engineering and Music programmes is 5 years. Students who graduate receive two documents: a diploma, and a certificate of degree conferment, signed by the Committee for the Evaluation of Academic Titles. In some cases no degree certificate is awarded, for example because the student failed the Chinese College English Test (CET) (possibly more than once), did not finish his/her final paper or did not obtain the required CGPA. Another possible reason is that there is no bachelor's degree associated with the programme.

Since 1984, institutions have offered the possibility to complete a second bachelor's programme, which often takes 2 years. Students who already have a bachelor's degree are eligible to sit the entrance examination for these programmes.

In terms of level, the bachelor's degree is comparable to an HBO bachelor's degree or 2 years of university education (WO) in the Netherlands.

In terms of level, the bachelor's degree obtained at a key Project 211 institution is comparable to a WO or HBO bachelor's degree in the Netherlands, depending on the type of study.

Master

A master's degree (硕士学位 *shuoshi xuewe*) takes 2 to 3 years to complete, half of which is devoted to coursework (on which students are examined) and the other half to writing the final paper. Admission is granted based on a bachelor's degree and an entrance examination. Candidates may not be older than 35 years of age. Students who only successfully pass the coursework section receive a Certificate of Graduation (*biye zhengshu*), but no certificate of degree conferment. Master's degrees can be awarded by either higher education institutions or research institutes.

In terms of level, the master's degree is comparable to a WO master's degree in the Netherlands.

The Chinese-Foreign cooperation is also an important part of the Chinese education system, offering master's degrees of Chinese institutions in cooperation with a foreign institution.

In general, the Master of Science, Master of Arts, Master of Engineering and Master of Economics are conferred. A separate category of master's degrees is the professional Masters; examples are Master of Law, Master of Education, Master of Clinical Medicine, Master of Stomatology, Master of Public Health, Master of Fine Arts, Master of Social Work, Master of Translation, Master of Physical Education, Master of Business Administration, and Master of Accountancy.

Equivalent educational background (同等学力 *tongdeng xueli*)

Through an alternative pathway in the framework of lifelong learning, it is also possible to apply for a master's degree. The student must possess a bachelor's degree and at least 3 years of relevant work experience. Furthermore the student needs to submit published research articles. The student needs to pass a national examination in foreign language and in research methods and examinations in curricular subjects to be determined by the university itself. The student then receives exemptions based on skills already obtained in the field of education, research, and specific professional knowledge.

Finally the student must write a Master thesis. After passing all the examinations and successfully completing the thesis, the student obtains a master's degree certificate and a transcript with the completed examination subjects. A certificate of graduation is not issued in these cases. In these cases, the letter T is placed before the reference number on the degree certificate.

This procedure is – mutatis mutandis – also applicable for applying for a PhD degree.

PhD

Admission to a Doctorate (博士 *boshi*) programme requires a master's degree, an entrance examination and recommendations from at least two professors or (senior) lecturers in the field. Candidates should not be older than 40 years of age when commencing the programme. Candidates without a master's degree may still gain admission via an entrance examination. Doctorate programmes take 3 to 5 years to complete, including 1 year containing only coursework, as well as a doctoral thesis. There is an entrance examination comprising political theory (Marxism), the relevant subject area and two foreign languages.

Recently it has become possible to take a combined master's/PhD programme, in which students are neither awarded a separate master's degree nor required to sit an entrance examination to be admitted to the doctorate programme (硕博连读). At the end of the programme, the *boshi* degree is awarded with the accompanying diploma. Only outstanding students are eligible for this programme.

■ Higher professional education

As previously mentioned, there are also study programmes in Chinese higher education that do not culminate in an academic title. Such programmes usually take 2 to 3 years, and are offered by universities and other higher education institutions. These non-degree programmes, which are more practically-oriented than bachelor's degrees, are called *zhuanke* in Chinese. It is possible to continue on to a bachelor's degree after a *zhuanke* by completing an additional 2 to 3 years of study (after a 3 or 2-year *zhuanke*, respectively). This pathway is called 专升本 *zhuanshengben* in Chinese: upwards from a *zhuanke* programme to a *benke* programme.

In terms of level, the *zhuanke* diploma following a nominal 2-year programme is comparable to 2 years of higher professional education (HBO) in the Netherlands.

In terms of level, the *zhuanke* diploma following a nominal 3-year programme is comparable to 3 years of higher professional education (HBO) in the Netherlands.

■ Assessment systems

The following assessment scale is used for the results of the *huikao* and the general ability test:

Numerical grade	Letter grade	Description	Meaning
85-100	A	优 or 优秀	Excellent
75-84	B	良 or 良好	Very good
60-74	C	及格	Quite satisfactory
59-0	D	不及格	Unsatisfactory

The letter E can also be used instead of D. Subjects that have a practical test distinguish between Pass (P or 合格 *hege*) and Fail (F, or sometimes E when using the five-letter system).

Higher education institutions use a 100-point system.

China has no national credit system, meaning that the number of credits required for the completion of a bachelor's programme can vary greatly between institutions, from around 180 to 240. Independent learning programmes generally assign one credit for every 18 hours of study. Independent learning *zhuanke* programmes usually require a minimum of 70 credits, and 4-year independent learning bachelor's programmes 125-140 credits.

■ Qualification frameworks

China has not established a national qualification framework. Neither are national qualifications referenced to an overarching framework.

Quality assurance and accreditation

All higher-education institutions must be accredited by the Ministry of Education. The Academic Degree Committee of the China State Council (the chief administrative authority in China) accredits all higher-education programmes and determines whether they are of sufficient quality to be eligible to the right to award a Bachelor, Master or Doctorate, or no degree.

According to the Tentative Regulations on Education Evaluation in Institutions of General Higher Education of 1990, there were three types of quality assurance in Chinese higher education:

1. accreditation for newly established higher education institutions (since 1994); this applied for higher education institutions established after 1976. Purpose was to upgrade the quality of education towards the level of government standards. The evaluation of institutions was categorized into excellent, very good, sufficient and insufficient.
2. periodical assessment of institutional education quality (since 1996); this procedure applied for around 100 older higher education institutions of a higher level.
3. assessment on provincial and national level, in which a ranking of the most excellent institutions was made to encourage mutual competition since 1999): this procedure applied for other higher education institutions that fell in between the abovementioned categories.

Quality assurance in higher education is the responsibility of amongst others the Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education 教育部高等教育教学评估中心), established in August 2004. These three categories were merged in 2004 into one policy plan and with the establishment of the Higher Education Evaluation Center of the Ministry of Education 教育部高等教育教学评估中心, HEEC) in 2004 the quality assurance system was modeled in the following way:

1. Higher education institutions are assessed every 5 years in a standardized and systematic way.
2. A database is maintained in which the data of the higher Education institutions concerning infrastructure, facilities, etc. are publicly accessible.
3. Evaluation on programme level in cooperation with certain professional organisations, in order to set up an evaluation system and by doing so also creating a professional qualification system with recognition by professional bodies after completion of certain professional programmes.
4. A system with a combination of internal and external evaluation.
5. Creating a pool of experts carrying out the evaluations.

The HEEC is responsible for the evaluation of *zhuanke* and *benke* education and education offered by independent colleges, while the Academic Degree Committee of the Ministry of Education is responsible for Master and PhD degree education.

Diplomas obtained at accredited higher education institutions are included in the national database of the Chinese government. See under **Addresses**. Diplomas can be verified in this database upon payment. Diplomas obtained in the current year can be verified for free. Programmes offered by non-accredited institutions are not accredited. Therefore this kind of diplomas is not to be found in the database. Programmes offered by recognised institutions are normally accredited. Exceptions are the Sino-foreign cooperation programmes that have not (yet) been approved and programmes admitting students with low *gaokao* scores (the so-called *jihuawai* (*out of plan*) students).

■ International treaties

On 30 May 2005, a recognition agreement was signed between the Netherlands and China, called the 'Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the mutual recognition of degrees from higher education institutions and admission to higher education' (*Verdrag tussen de regering van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden en de regering van de Volksrepubliek China inzake de wederzijdse erkenning van graden van instellingen voor hoger onderwijs en de toegang tot hoger onderwijs*). It contains agreements regarding admission of Chinese students into Dutch higher education and their placement at various academic levels. The same applies to the placement of Dutch students in Chinese higher education.

■ Addresses

www.nesochina.org.

The Netherlands Education Support Office (NESO) in Beijing was officially opened in June 2001. NESO China serves the entire Dutch higher education system, and in particular those Dutch higher education institutions that have joined the NESO.

www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe_2792/index.html

Website of the Ministry of Education (in English).

www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe_2812/200906/48836.html

English website of the Ministry of Education, with a list of higher education institutions by province.

www.gov.cn/flfg/2008-03/07/content_912242.htm (Chinese only)

and www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe_2812/200906/48836.html

Websites of the Chinese government and of the Ministry of Education with official laws and regulations (Chinese version) and an overview of the independent colleges (English version).

www.crs.jsj.edu.cn/index.php/default/approval/orglists/2

Website of the Ministry of Education with an overview of recognised bachelor's degrees obtained through cooperation with foreign partners (Chinese only) .

www.crs.jsj.edu.cn/index.php/default/approval/orglists/1

Website of the Ministry of Education with an overview of recognised master's degrees obtained through cooperation with foreign partners (Chinese only).

<http://en.crtvu.edu.cn/about/structure>

Network of all radio and television universities for adult education and self study.

www.edu.cn/20050112/3126591.shtml

English translation of the Private Education Promotion Law of 28 December 2002 (in force since 1 September 2003).

www.chsi.com.cn/en/ Website of the national online database with diplomas of recognised higher education institutions (*degree* and *non-degree*).

www.s-bb.nl

Website of SBB, the foundation for Co-operation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market.

■ Composition of file

For senior middle school programmes, the following documents must be produced: the certificate (*biye zhengshu*), the official results of the provincial *huikao* examination issued by the Provincial Education Bureau, and the list of marks from the school (3 years of senior middle school) in the national language plus a sworn translation. The layout of the certificates varies from province to province.

Graduates of higher education programmes can be awarded a variety of different documents: a diploma (*biye zhengshu*) plus a certificate of degree conferment (*xuewei zhengshu*), or only a certificate of graduation (*结业证书 jiejie zhengshu*). The diploma is only issued if the entire study programme has been completed successfully. If the programme is associated with a bachelor's or master's degree, a separate certificate of degree conferment will be issued. A certificate of graduation will be issued if the student has completed all of the subjects in the programme but has failed several important compulsory subjects (such as English), or has not completed the final paper or project.

Authenticity

In China, civil-law notary firms make copies of the original documents and attach a declaration from the firm (in Chinese and English) stating that the attached document is a true copy of the original, and including information on the general content of the original document. This notarial deed does not replace the original document, and should be regarded as a certified copy.

■ **List of higher education institutions**

www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/moe_2812/200906/48836.html (English version)

www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/s245/201106/120640.html (Chinese version)

Websites of the Ministry of Education, including an overview of higher education institutions by province.

Appendix: 'Project 211' universities

1. 北京大学	Peking University *
2. 中国人民大学	Renmin University of China *
3. 清华大学	Tsinghua University *
4. 北京交通大学	Beijing Jiaotong University
5. 北京工业大学	Beijing University of Technology
6. 北京航空航天大学	Beihang University *
7. 北京理工大学	Beijing Institute of Technology *
8. 北京科技大学	University of Science and Technology Beijing
9. 北京化工大学	Beijing University of Chemical Technology
10. 北京邮电大学	Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications
11. 中国农业大学	China Agricultural University *
12. 北京林业大学	Beijing Forestry University
13. 北京中医药大学	Beijing University of Chinese Medicine
14. 北京师范大学	Beijing Normal University *
15. 北京外国语大学	Beijing Foreign Studies University
16. 中国传媒大学	Communication University of China
17. 中央财经大学	Central University of Finance and Economics
18. 对外经济贸易大学	University of International Business and Economics
19. 北京体育大学	Beijing Sport University
20. 中央音乐学院	Central Conservatory of Music
21. 中央民族大学	Central University for Nationalities *
22. 中国政法大学	China University of Political Science and Law
23. 华北电力大学	North China Electric Power University
24. 南开大学	Nankai University *
25. 天津大学	Tianjin University *
26. 天津医科大学	Tianjin Medical University
27. 河北工业大学	Hebei University of Technology
28. 太原理工大学	Taiyuan University of Technology
29. 内蒙古大学	Inner Mongolia University
30. 辽宁大学	Liaoning University
31. 大连理工大学	Dalian University of Technology *
32. 东北大学	Northeastern University *
33. 大连海事大学	Dalian Maritime University
34. 吉林大学	Jilin University *
35. 延边大学	Yanbian University
36. 东北师范大学	Northeast Normal University
37. 哈尔滨工业大学	Harbin Institute of Technology *
38. 哈尔滨工程大学	Harbin Engineering University
39. 东北农业大学	Northeast Agricultural University
40. 东北林业大学	Northeast Forestry University
41. 复旦大学	Fudan University *
42. 同济大学	Tongji University *

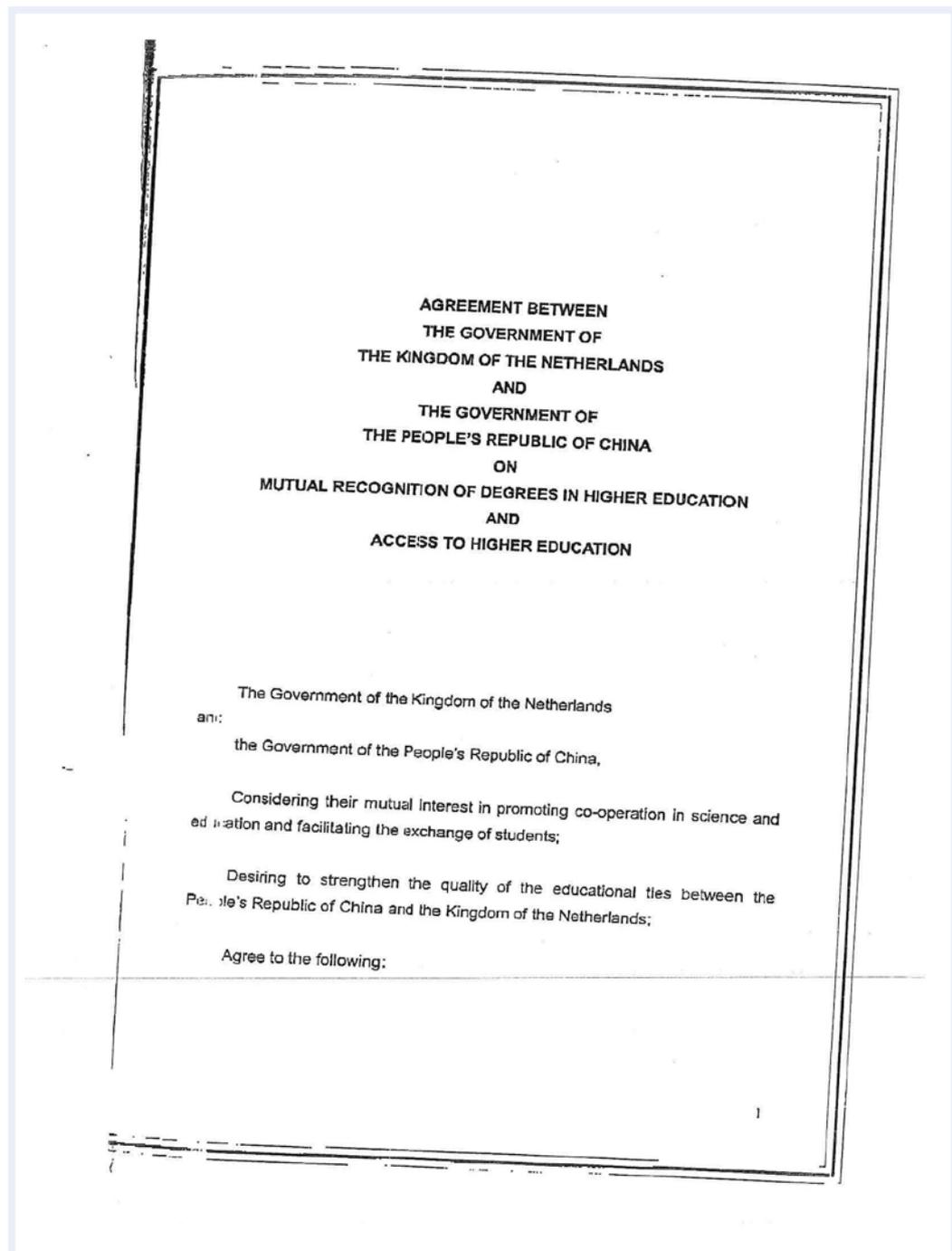
43. 上海交通大学	Shanghai Jiao Tong University *
44. 华东理工大学	East China University of Science and Technology
45. 东华大学	Donghua University
46. 华东师范大学	East China Normal University *
47. 上海外国语大学	Shanghai International Studies University
48. 上海财经大学	Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
49. 上海大学	Shanghai University
50. 第二军医大学	Second Military Medical University
51. 南京大学	Nanjing University *
52. 苏州大学	Suzhou University
53. 东南大学	Southeast University *
54. 南京航空航天大学	Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics
55. 南京理工大学	Nanjing University of Science and Technology
56. 中国矿业大学	China University of Mining and Technology
57. 河海大学	Hohai University
58. 江南大学	Southern Yangtze University
59. 南京农业大学	Nanjing Agricultural University
60. 中国药科大学	China Pharmaceutical University
61. 南京师范大学	Nanjing Normal University
62. 浙江大学	Zhejiang University *
63. 安徽大学	Anhui University
64. 中国科学技术大学	University of Science and Technology of China *
65. 合肥工业大学	Hefei University of Technology
66. 厦门大学	Xiamen University *
67. 福州大学	Fuzhou University
68. 南昌大学	Nanchang University
69. 山东大学	Shandong University *
70. 中国海洋大学	Ocean University of China *
71. 中国石油大学	Petroleum University of China
72. 郑州大学	Zhengzhou University
73. 武汉大学	Wuhan University *
74. 华中科技大学	Huazhong University of Science and Technology *
75. 中国地质大学	China University of Geosciences
76. 武汉理工大学	Wuhan University of Technology
77. 华中农业大学	Huazhong Agricultural University
78. 华中师范大学	Huazhong Normal University
79. 中南财经政法大学	Zhongnan University of Economics and Law
80. 湖南大学	Hunan University *
81. 中南大学	Central South University *
82. 湖南师范大学	Hunan Normal University
83. 国防科技大学	National University of Defense Technology *
84. 中山大学	Sun Yat-Sen University *
85. 暨南大学	Jinan University
86. 华南理工大学	South China University of Technology *

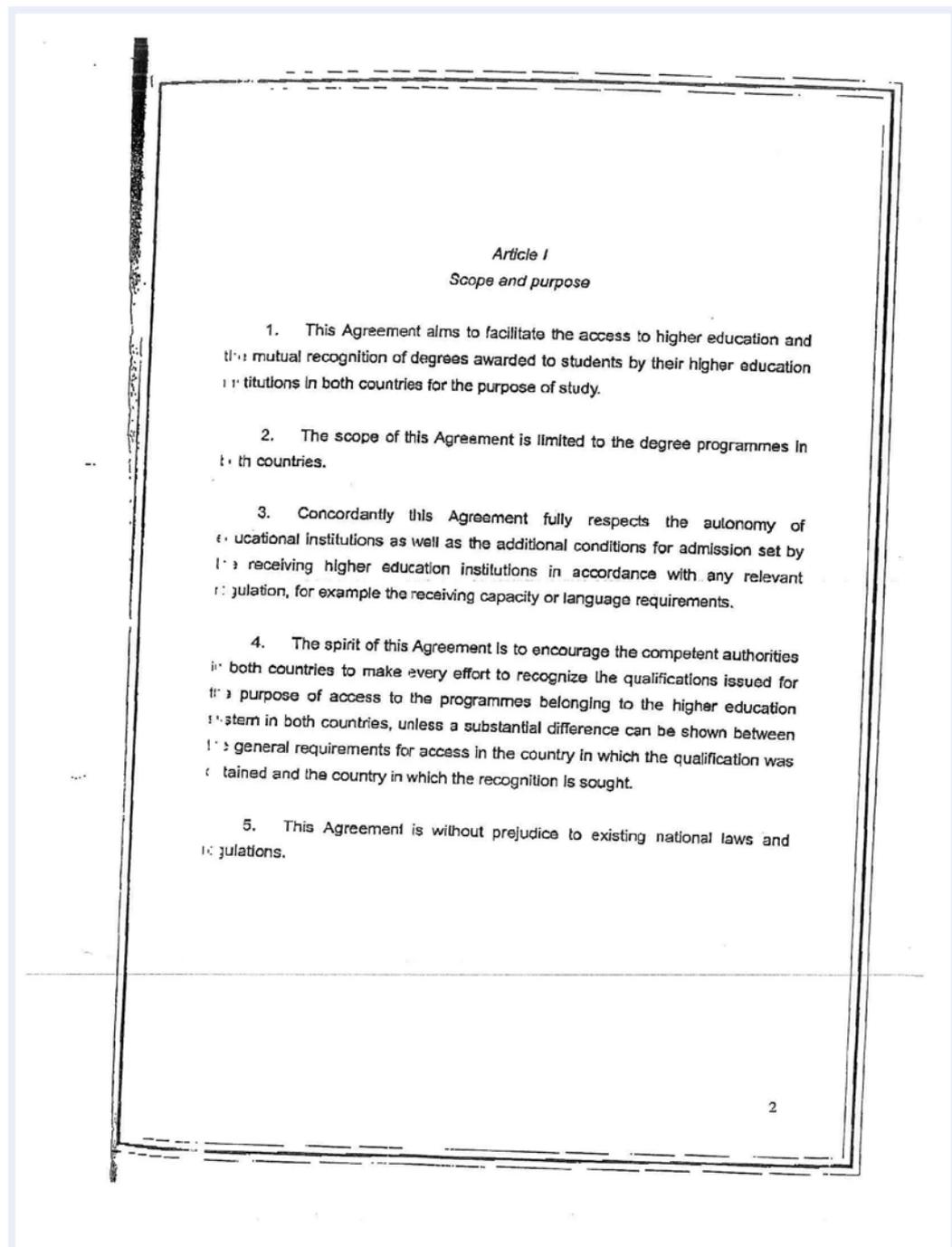
87. 华南师范大学	South China Normal University
88. 广西大学	Guangxi University
89. 海南大学	Hainan University
90. 四川大学	Sichuan University *
91. 重庆大学	Chongqing University *
92. 西南交通大学	Southwest Jiaotong University
93. 电子科技大学	University of Electronic Science and Technology of China *
94. 四川农业大学	Sichuan Agricultural University
95. 西南大学	Southwest University
96. 西南财经大学	Southwest University of Finance and Economics
97. 贵州大学	Guizhou University
98. 云南大学	Yunnan University
99. 西藏大学	Xizang University
100. 西北大学	Northwest University
101. 西安交通大学	Xi'an Jiaotong University *
102. 西北工业大学	Northwestern Polytechnical University *
103. 西安电子科技大学	Xidian University
104. 长安大学	Chang'an University
105. 西北农林科技大学	Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University *
106. 陕西师范大学	Shaanxi Normal University
107. 第四军医大学	Fourth Military Medical University
108. 兰州大学	Lanzhou University *
109. 青海大学	Qinghai University
110. 宁夏大学	Ningxia University
111. 新疆大学	Xinjiang University
112. 石河子大学	Shihezi University

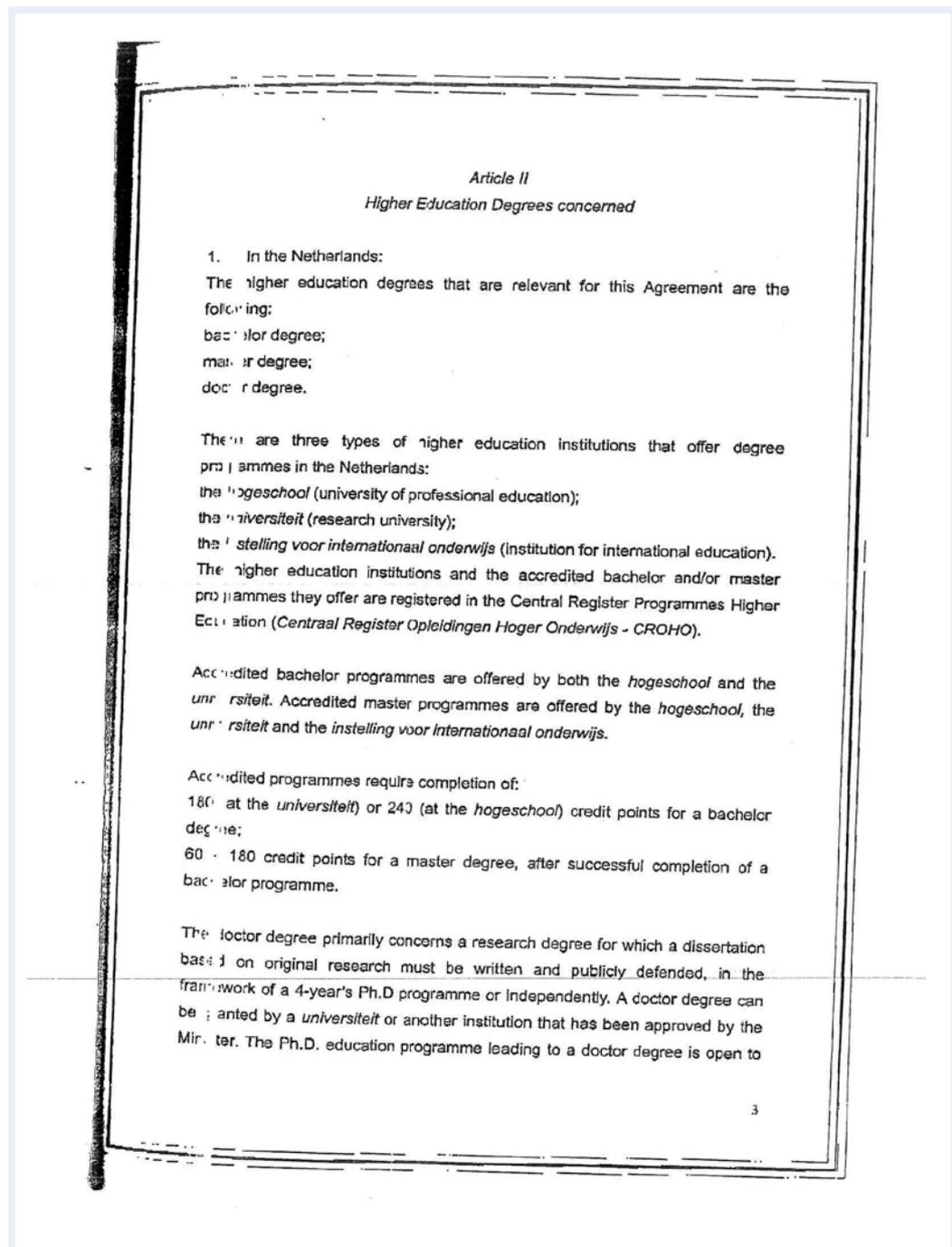
Source: Chinese MOE, update December 2005,

www.moe.edu.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/moe/s238/201002/xxgk_82762.html

Names in bold are new additions to the list. Institutions marked with a * are also part of Project 985.







holders of a master degree, exemption of which can be granted by the *College of Promotions* (doctorate board) in particular cases.

2. In China:

The higher education degrees that are relevant for this Agreement are the following:

- a. *bashi* (bachelor degree): four years of full-time study;
- b. *shushi* (master degree): *xueshi* and two to three years of *shuoshi* study;
- c. *shishi* (doctor degree): *xueshi* and two to three years of *shuoshi* study and three to four years of *boshi* study; or *xueshi* and five to six years *boshi* study.

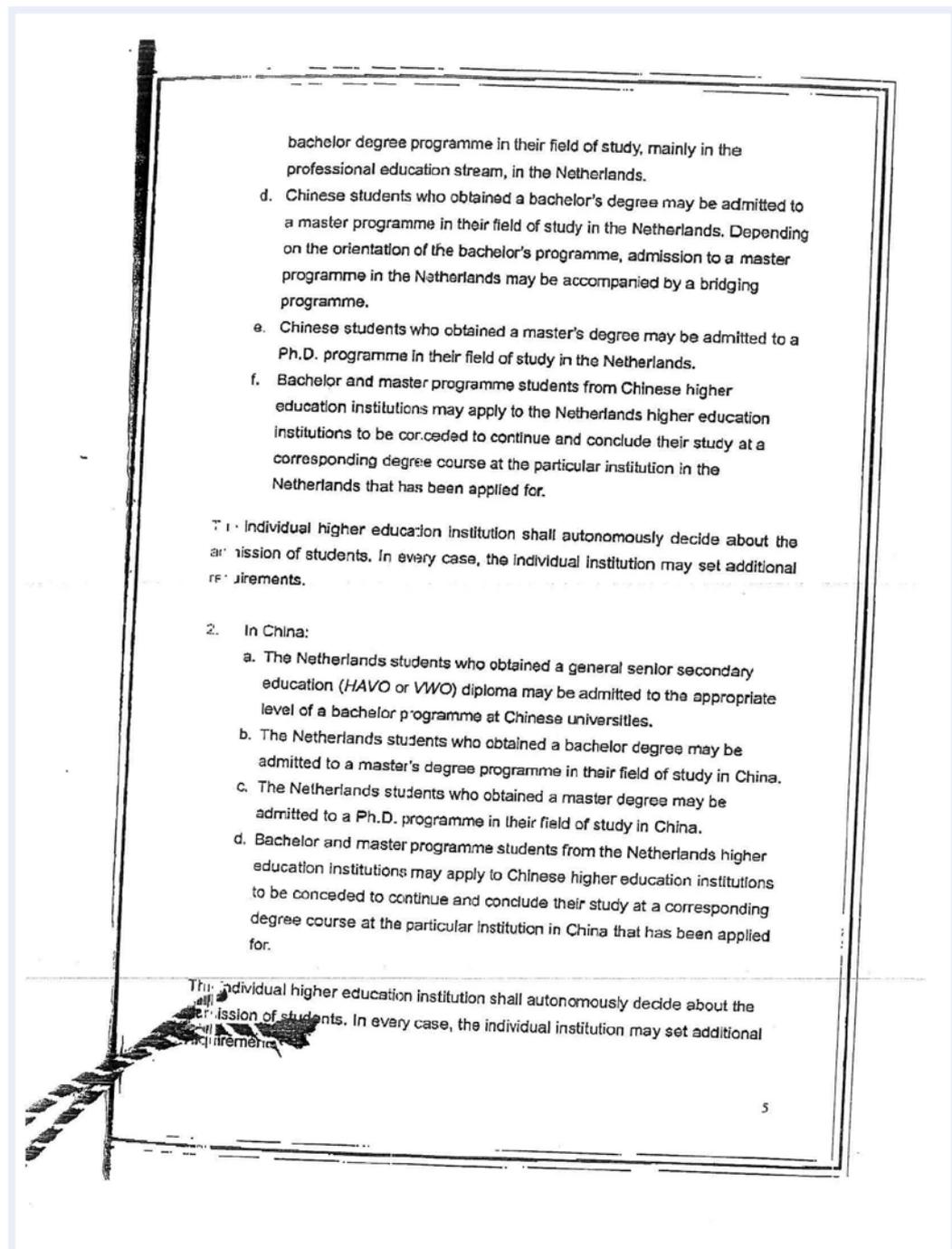
The *boshi* primarily concerns a research degree for which a dissertation based on original research must be written and publicly defended. The *boshi* can be granted by a university or by research institutions approved by the state authorities.

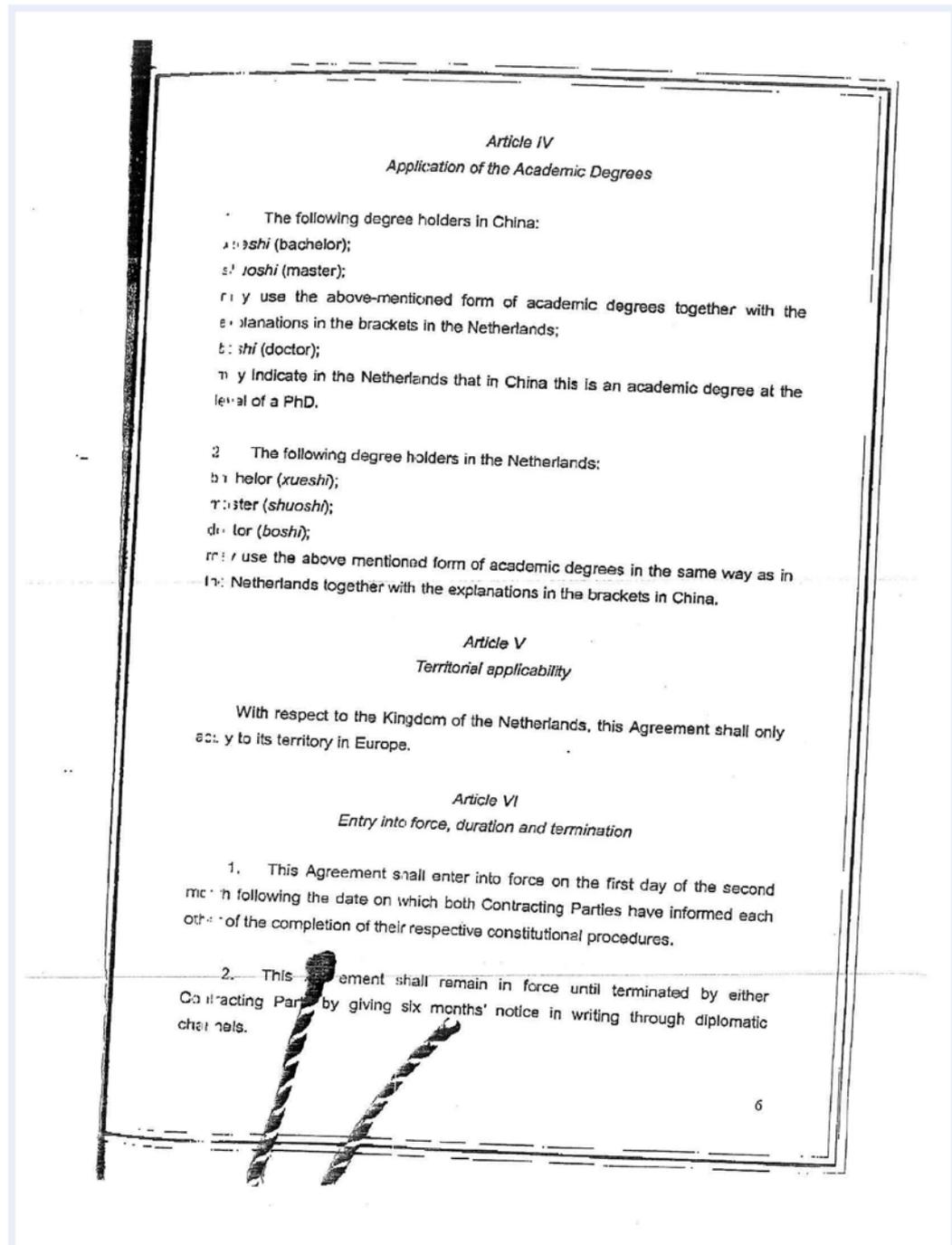
Article III

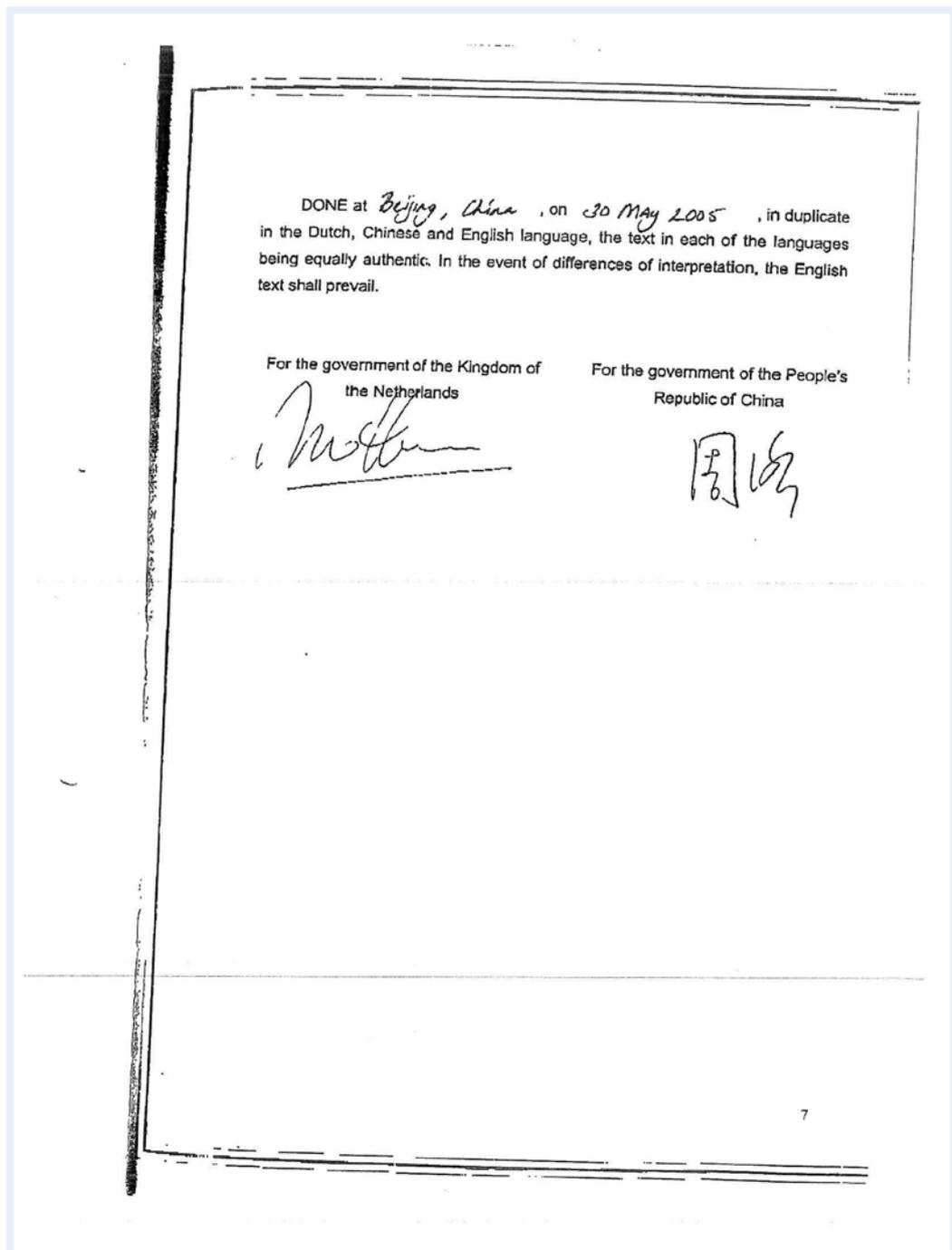
Mode of Access into the Higher Education Institutions

1. In the Netherlands:

- a. Chinese students applying for admission to the first year of professionally oriented bachelor courses in the Netherlands must prove that they have passed the provincial comprehensive examination (*hukao*) and the national college entrance examinations (*gaokao*), or a comparable entrance examination as determined by the *hogeschool*, and have been admitted to the first year of the selected programme.
- b. Chinese students applying for admission to the first year of bachelor courses at the *universiteit* in the Netherlands must prove that they have passed the provincial comprehensive examination (*hukao*) and the national college entrance examinations (*gaokao*) and have been admitted to the first year of the selected programme. On a case-by-case basis additional requirements may be set.
- c. Chinese students who completed sub-degree courses of a duration of two or three years may be admitted to the third or fourth year of the



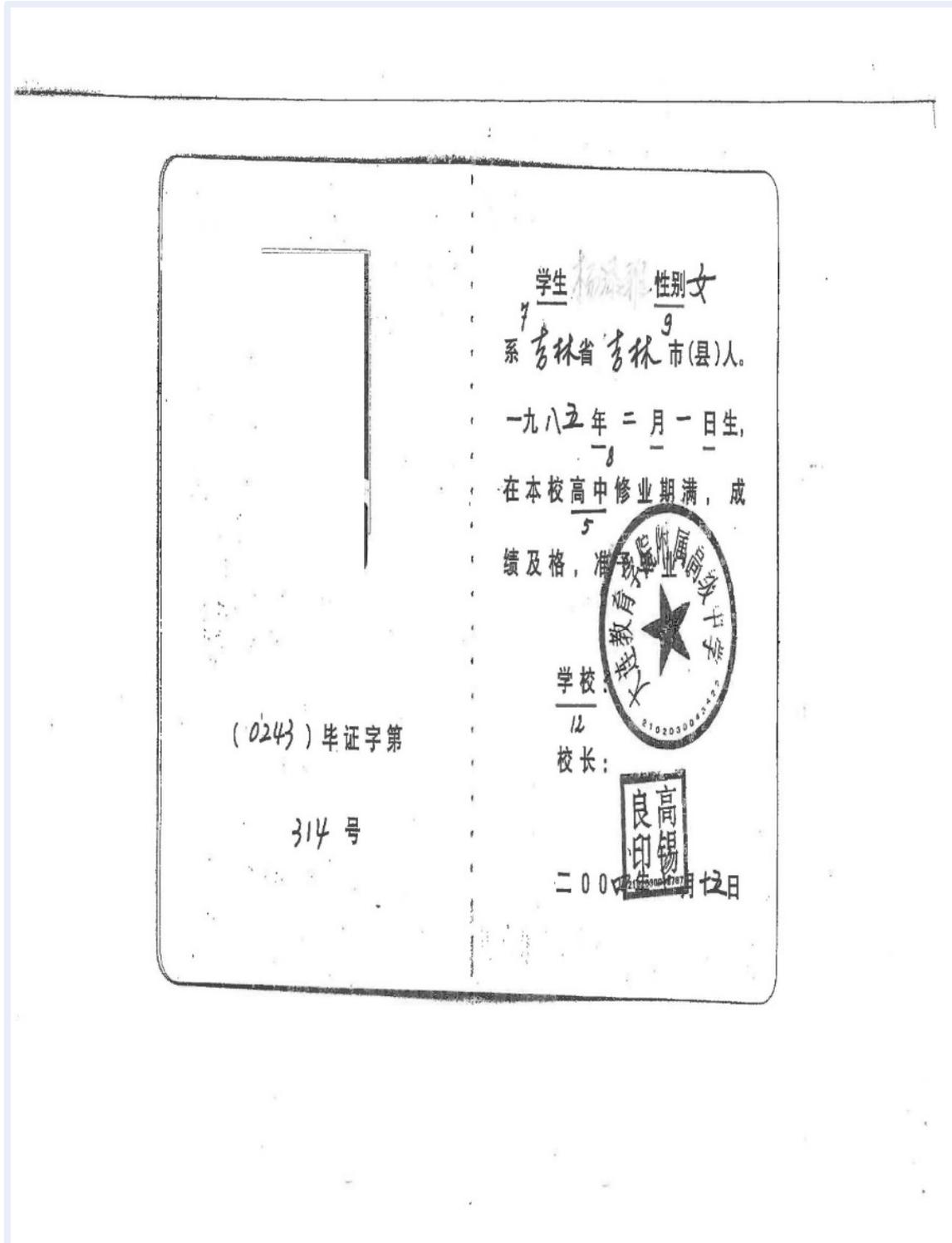




■ Senior middle school diploma (cover), Liaoning province (old system)



■ Senior middle school diploma, Liaoning province (old system)



Senior middle school huikao results, Liaoning province (old system)

2 毕业成绩 ²¹

13

普通高中毕业会考成绩

14
16

考试科目	分数	等级	考查科目	成绩
语文		B	信息技术	合格
数学		A	体育	合格
外语		A	艺术	合格
政治		A	研究性学习	合格
历史		C	综合实践	合格
地理		B	社区服务	合格
物理		A	社会实践	合格
化学		B	物理实验	合格
生物		B	化学实验	合格
文综合		/	生物实验	合格
理综合		/	银行评定	优秀

福姚
印长

教导主任(印)

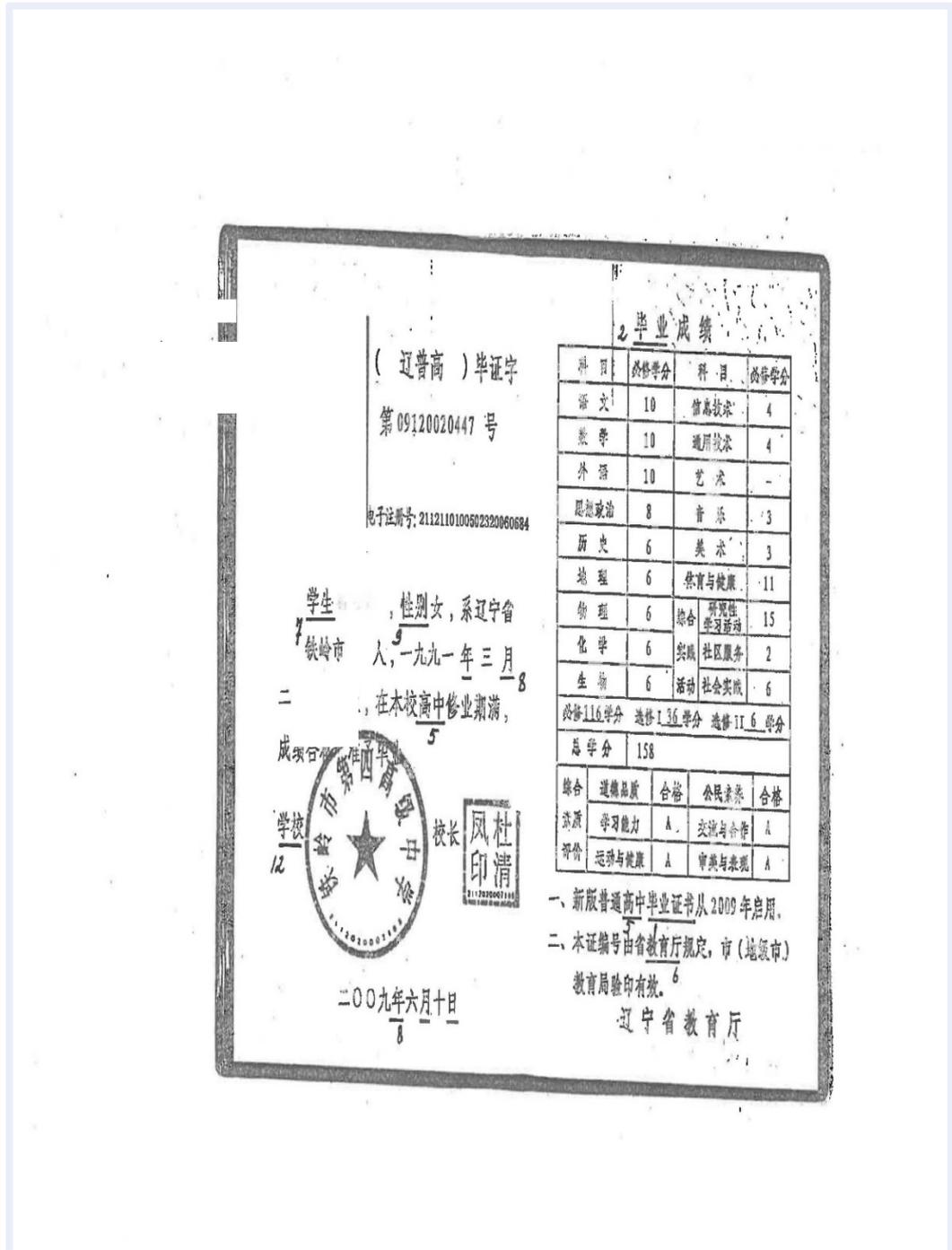
5 1

一、普通高中毕业证书从1993年起全省统一样式。

6

二、本证编号由省教育厅规定，市(地级市)教委验印有效。

Senior middle school diploma, Liaoning province (new system)



Senior middle school diploma, Tianjin



天津市普通高中毕业证书
Graduation Certificate of Tianjin Senior Middle School

姓名 Name [REDACTED]
性别 Sex 男
学 籍 号 Registered No. 061405698
证书编号 Certificate No. 200906140569854217

高中修习期满，达到天津
标准，准予毕业。
特发此证。

On accomplishment of senior middle school, reaching the graduation standard of Tianjin senior middle school, the graduation certificate is hereby issued.



天津市教育委员会
Tianjin Municipal Educational Committee

校长 亮赵
Principal [REDACTED]

校名 天津市宝坻区大口屯高级中学
School [REDACTED]

日期 2009年6月
Date

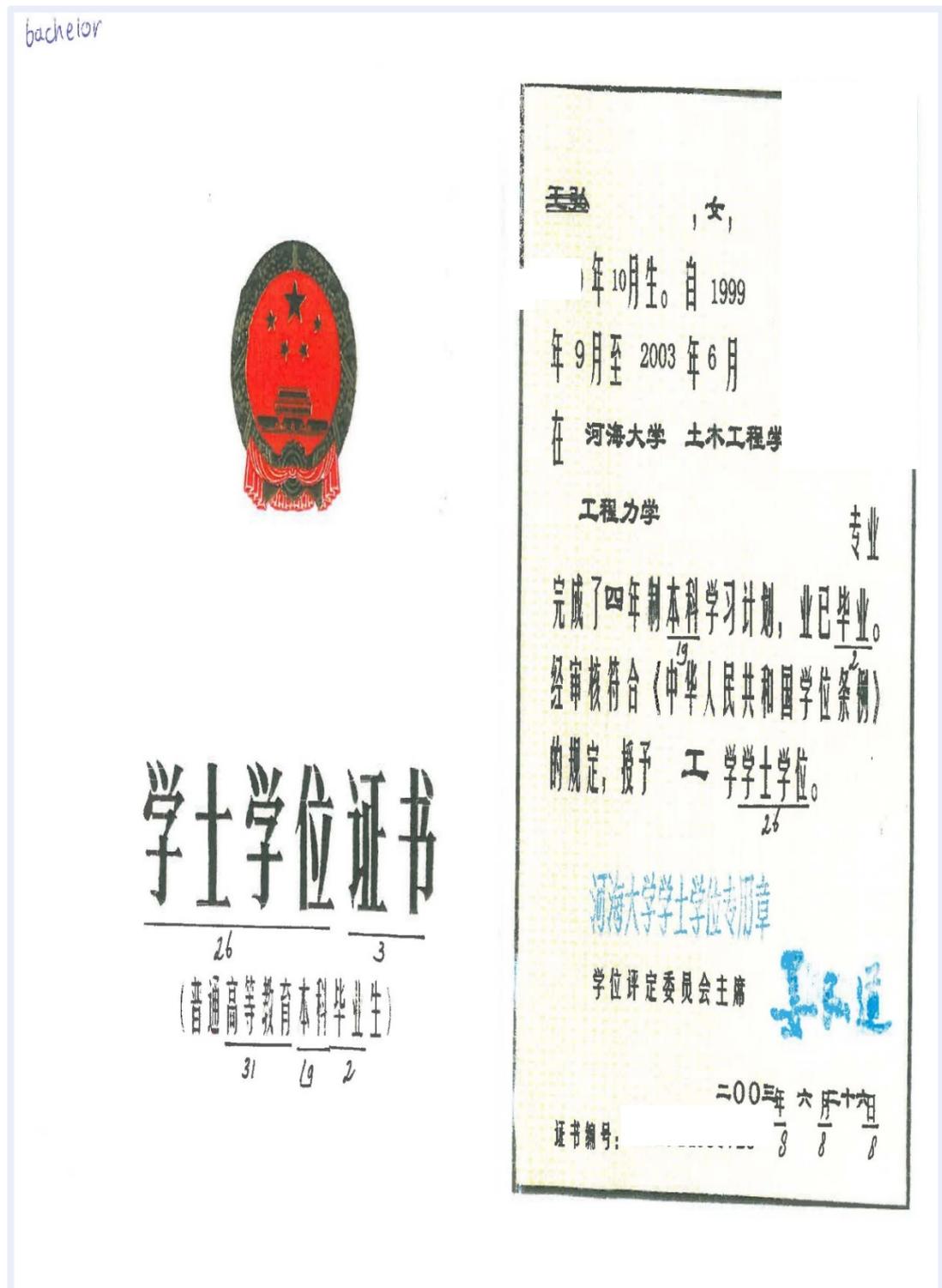
General Ability Test, Tianjin



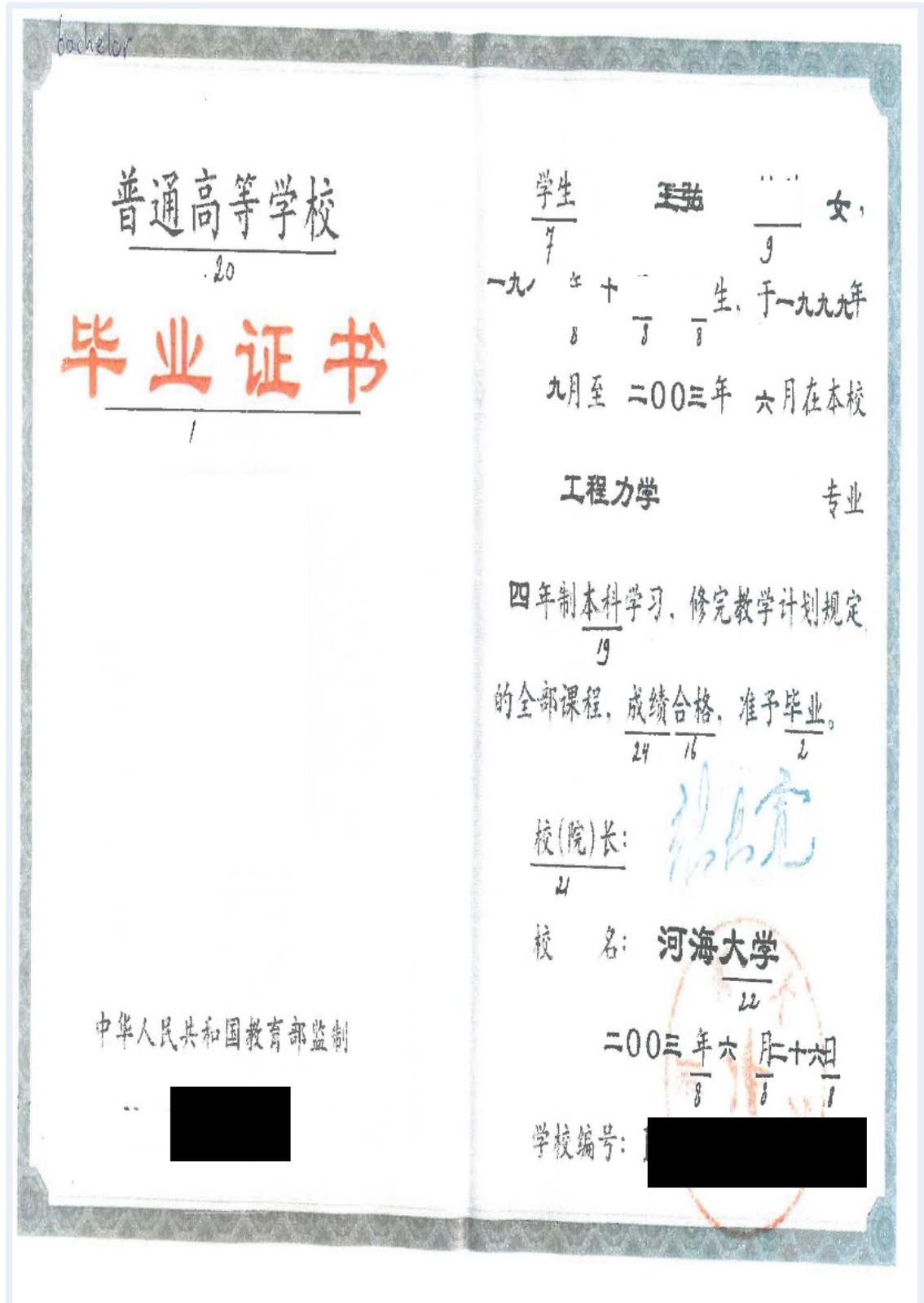
Diploma of a 3 year Zhuanke program



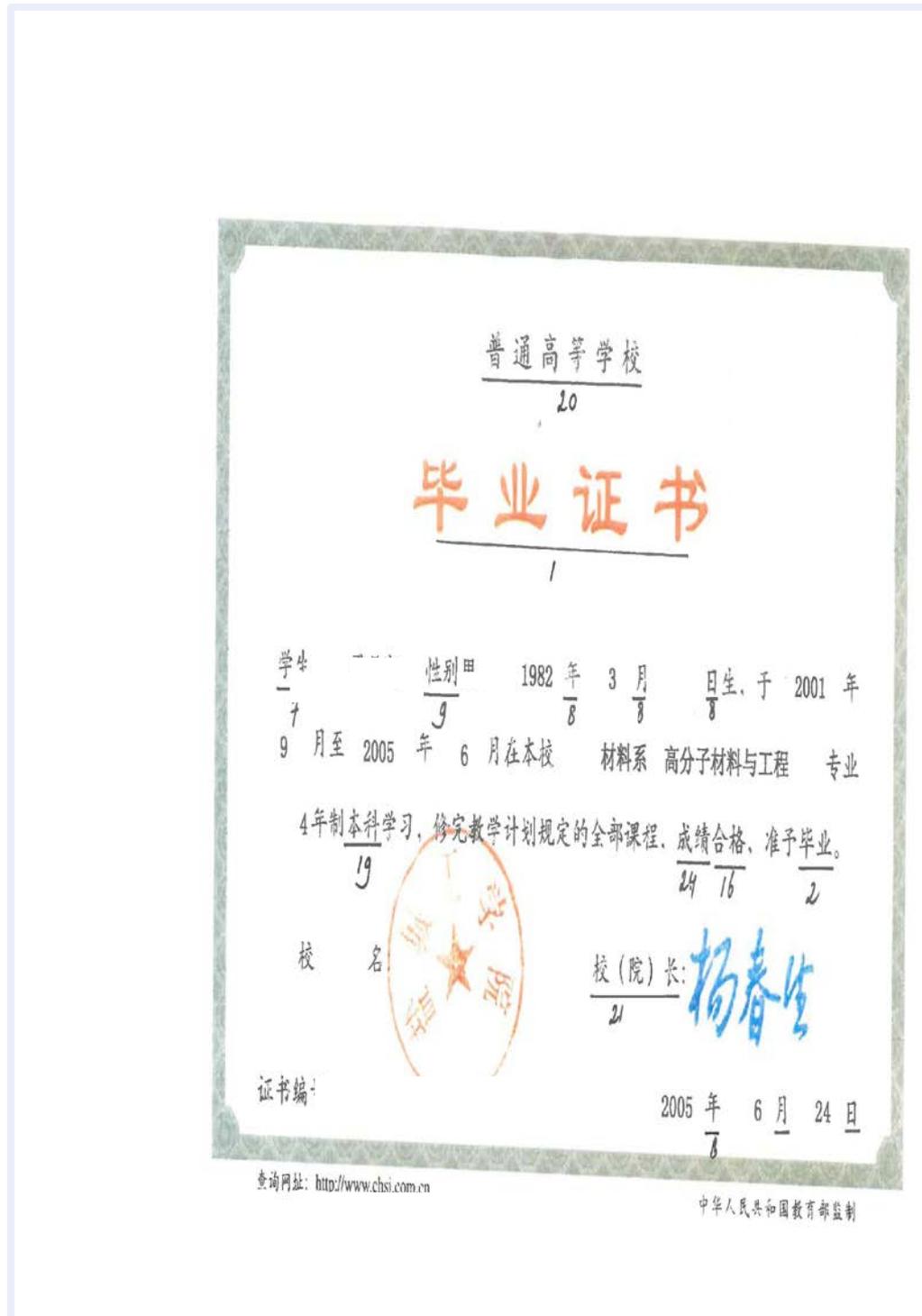
Bachelor degree certificate (old layout)



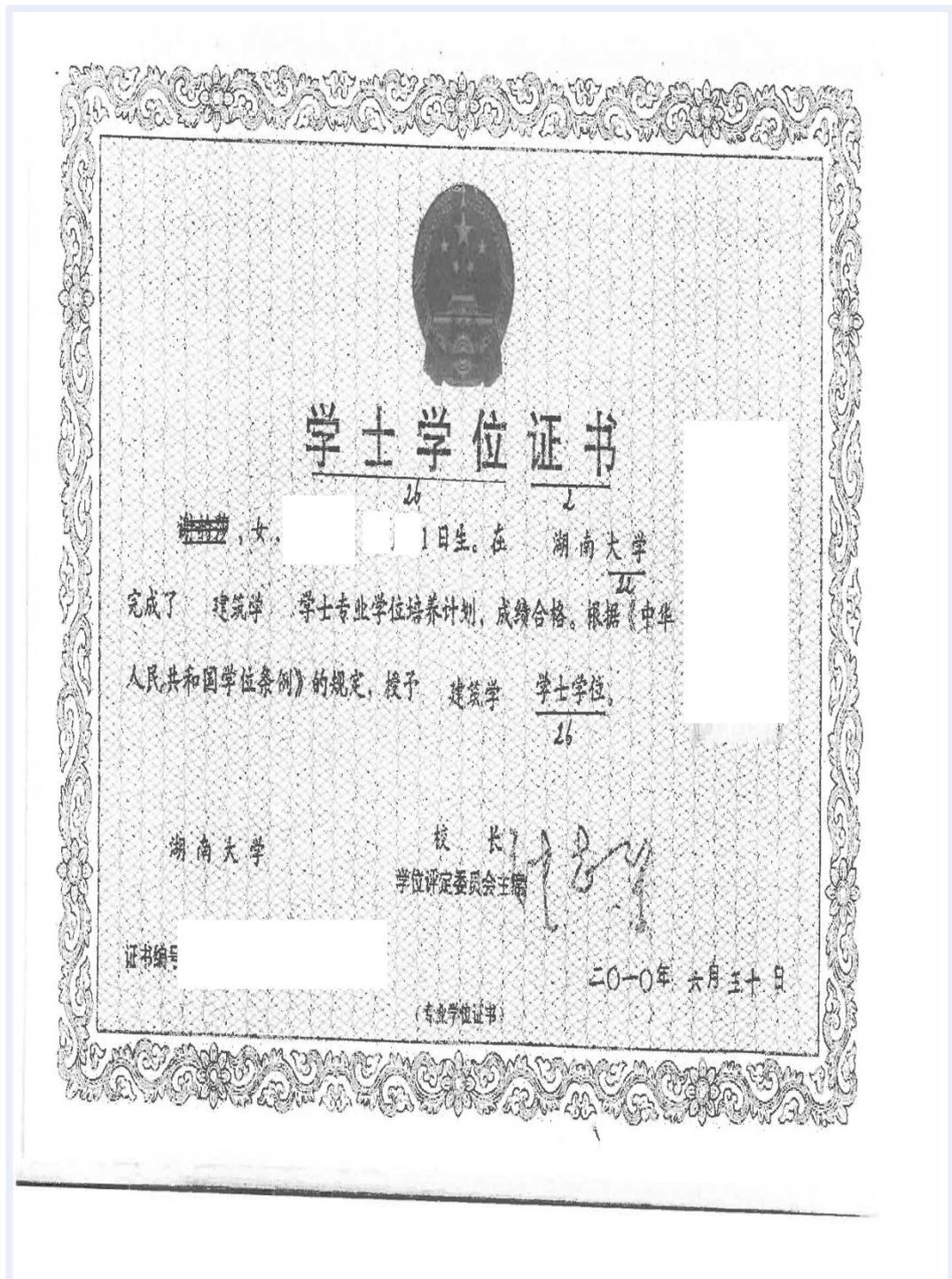
Bachelor diploma (old layout)



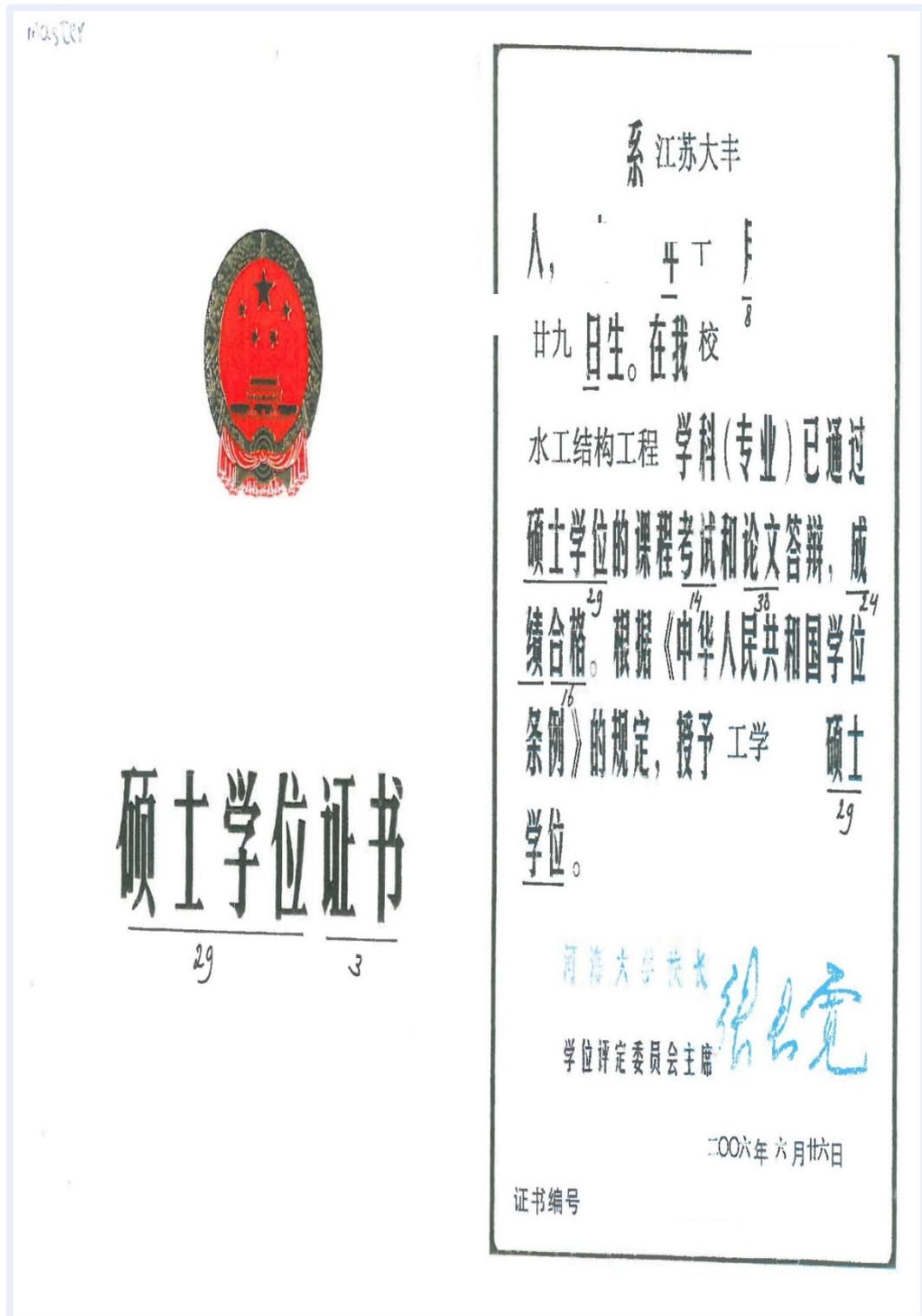
Bachelor diploma (new layout)



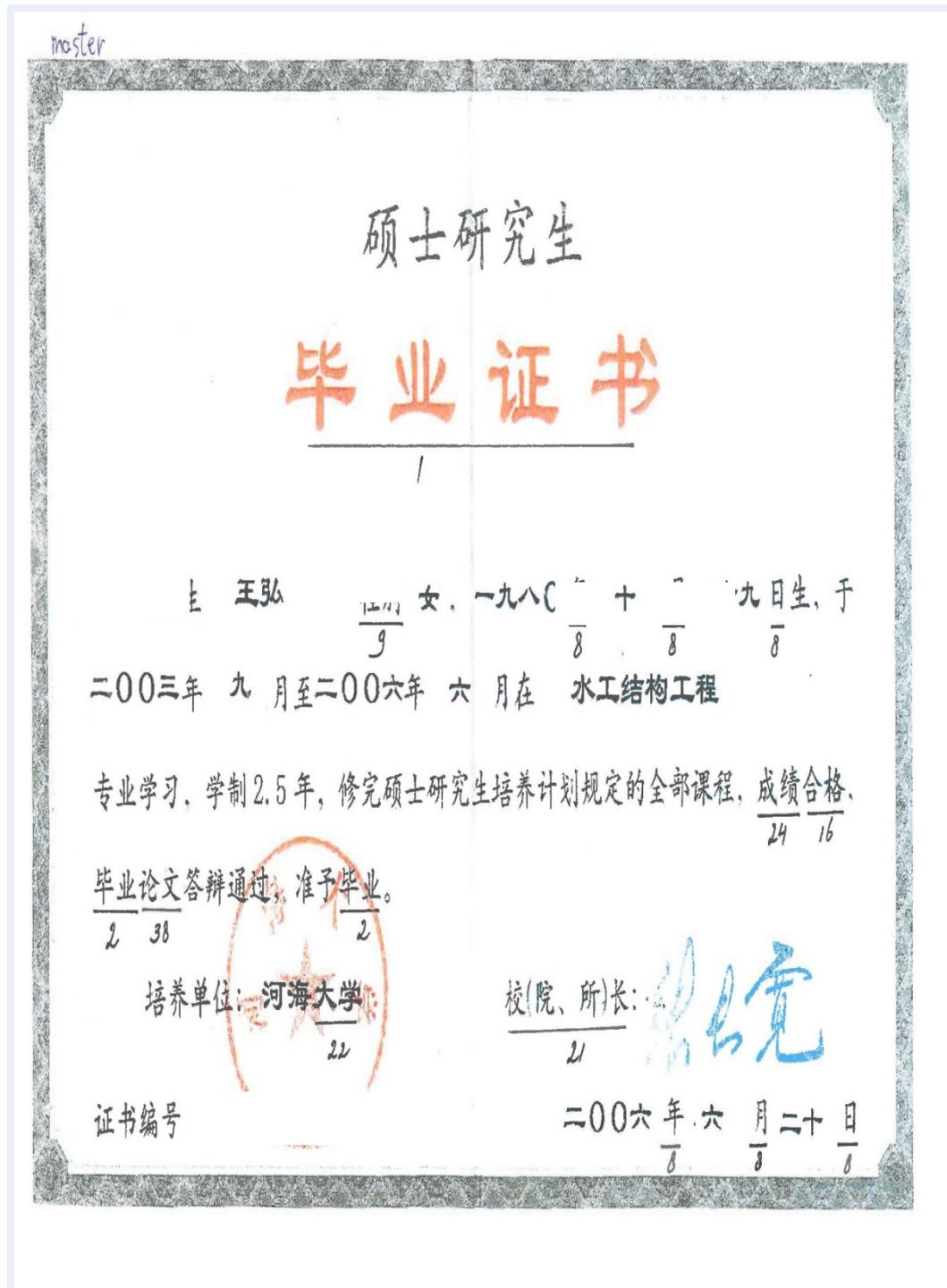
Bachelor degree certificate (new layout)



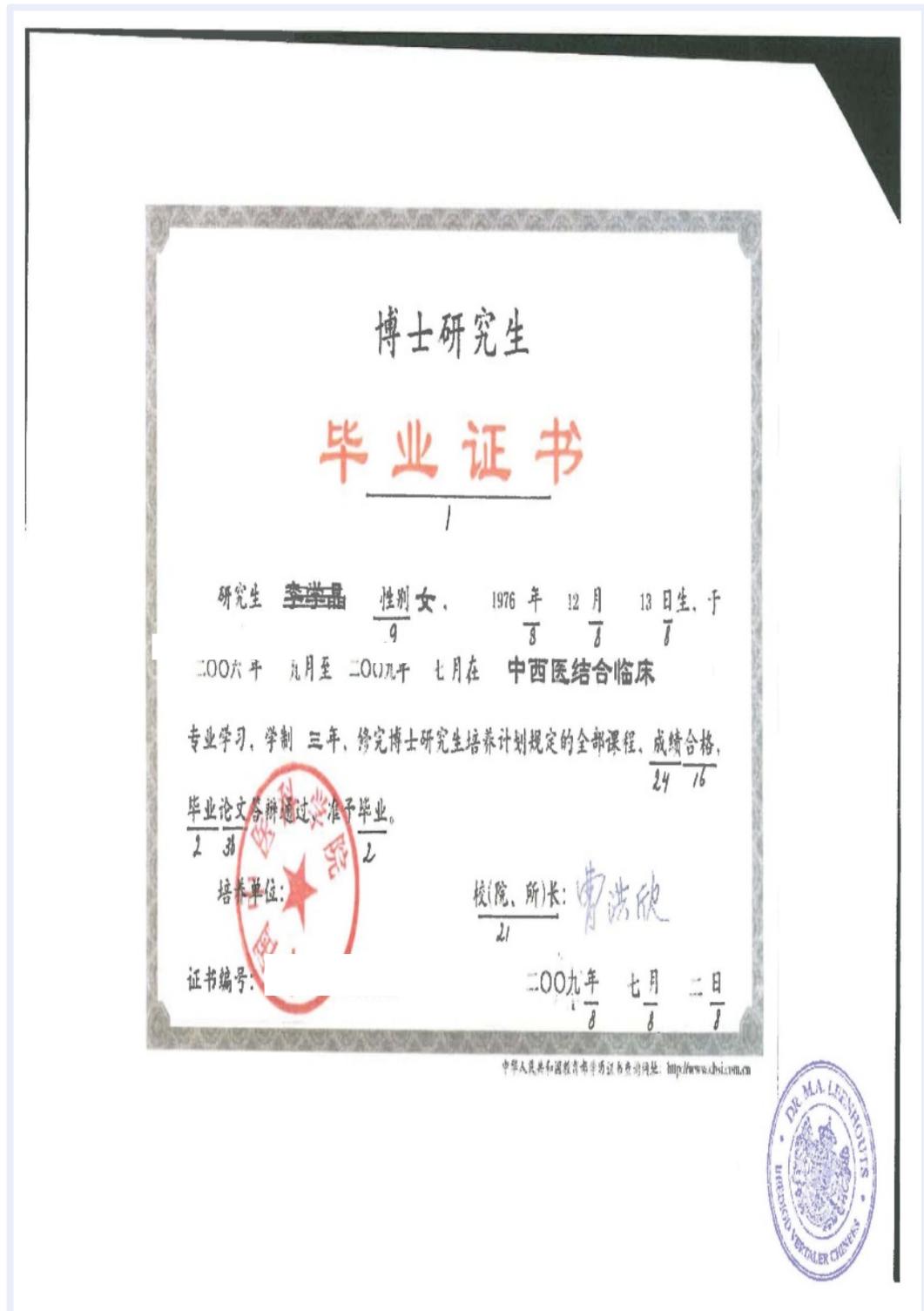
Master degree certificate (old layout)



Master diploma (new layout)



Ph.D. diploma



■ Qualification China

Gaozhong – Senior middle school graduation certificate

- diploma upper secondary education
- grants access in China to all higher education programmes upon completion of entrance examinations

This qualification is comparable to a HAVO diploma in the Netherlands.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.

■ Qualification China

学士学位 xueshi xuewei - Bachelor degree

- first cycle higher education diploma
- grants access in China to master's programmes upon completion of entrance examinations
- usually has a nominal duration of 4 years
- in addition to the academic degree certificate, the biye zhengshu (certificate of graduation/diploma) should also be submitted

This qualification is comparable to an HBO bachelor's degree or to 2 years of university education (WO) in the Netherlands.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.

■ Qualification China

学士学位 xueshi xuewei - Bachelor degree Project 211 institution

- first cycle higher education diploma
- grants access in China to master's programmes upon completion of entrance examinations
- usually has a nominal duration of 4 years
- in addition to the academic degree certificate, the biye zhengshu (certificate of graduation/diploma) should also be submitted

This qualification is comparable to a WO or HBO bachelor's degree in the Netherlands, depending on the type of study.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.

■ Qualification China

硕士学位 **shuoshi xuewei** – Master's degree

- second cycle higher education qualification
- grants access in China to PhD programmes upon completion of entrance examinations
- has a nominal duration of 2 to 3 years

This qualification is comparable to a WO master's degree in the Netherlands.

NB: This information is a general recommendation from which no rights may be derived.