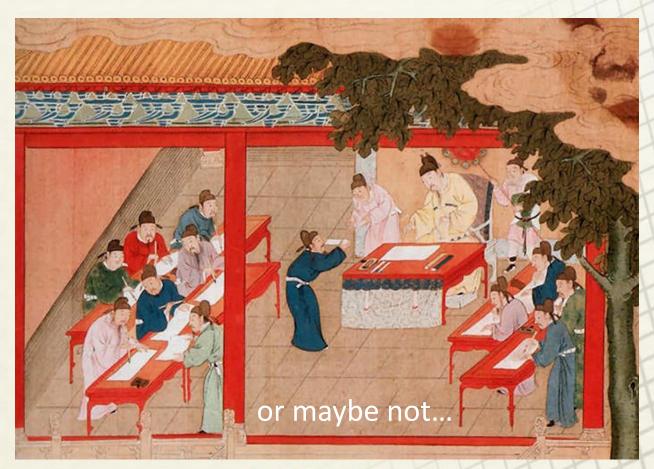
# Chinese Degrees and Certificates: Then and Now

A Detailed Review, 1981 - 2016 September, 2016

Jordan Bone, Credentials Analyst — Coordinator Foundation for International Services, Inc. jmbone@fis-web.com



# We could begin with the Civil Service Examination...





## Post Turbulence (1977-Present)



- Since 1977, following the cultural revolution, education focused on preparing for the growing economy.
- Graduate education was reintroduced in 1978.
- Regulations on Academic Degrees were introduced in 1981— the beginning of the dual degree system as we know it.
- Total enrollment: 1980 (1 million) -> Present (well over 20 million)



### Dates in Time

Pre-1981 – No longer an issue (probably)

1981 - 1992 - General standards and minor details

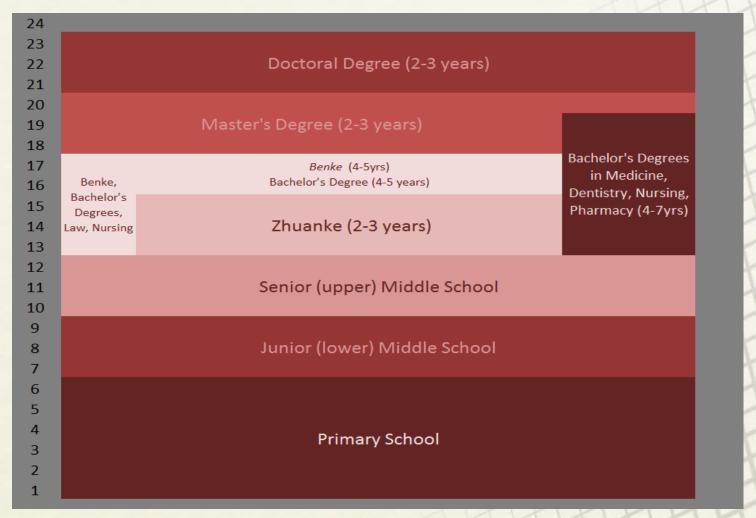
1993 - 2008 - Many changes and details

**2008 – 2015 – This is familiar** 

2016 onward – New standards



### CHINESE EDUCATION REVIEW





### **Dual Credential System**

#### Degree Certificates

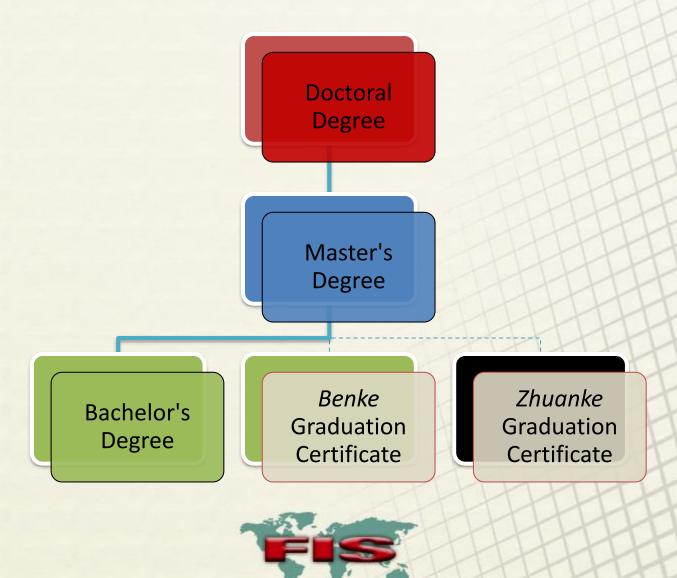
- Award of the degree/educational status
- Can be awarded without a traditional program of study
- Awarded upon completion of additional requirements beyond graduation (thesis score etc.)

#### Graduation Certificates

- Completion of a program/learning experience
- Grants access to employment and some further education
- Possibly only document awarded if degree requirements were not satisfied (e.g. thesis, foreign language proficiency, GPA)



## Degrees Pathway



### Chinese Certificates

- Degree Certificate 学位证书
  - academic standing
- Graduation Certificate 毕业证书
  - learning experience
- Completion Certificate 结业证书
  - learning experience <u>or</u> completion of study without graduation
- Attendance Certificate 肄业证书
  - incomplete learning

- Graduation Confirmation Certificate 毕业证明书
  - replacement document
- Degree Confirmation Certificate 学位证明书
  - replacement document
- Zhuanke (专科) & Benke (本科)
  - Specialist program and Undergraduate program



# FIRST DUAL DEGREES 1981 - 1984

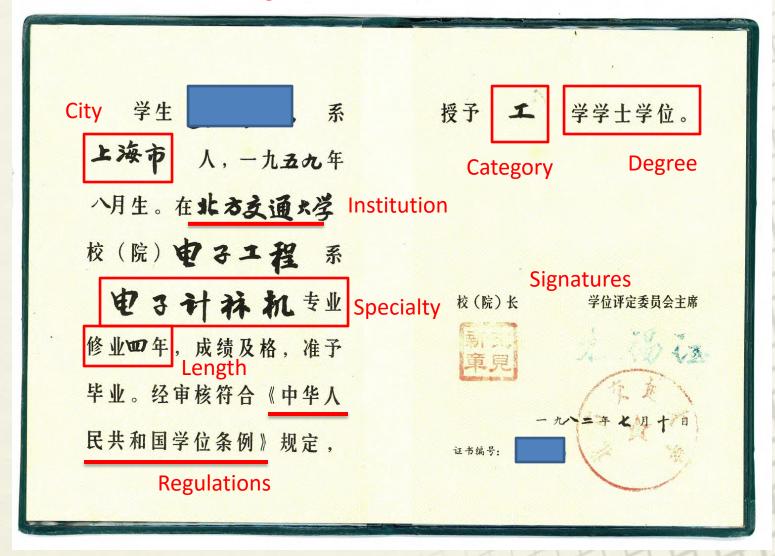


#### Degree Certificate Cover 1982





#### Degree Certificate from 1982





#### Translation of Degree Certificate

### CERTIFICATE OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE (TRANSLATION)

Student Name:

Native Place : Shanghai

Date of Birth: Aug. 25, 1959

Department : Electronics Engineering

Speciality : Computer Science

This student has completed the 4-year course with qualified marks leading to graduation and has hereby been conferred a Bachelor's Degree in Science in conformity with the provisions of the Regulations on Academic Degrees of the People's Republic of China.

Northern Jiaotong University

(Seal)

President: Wang Jiansin (Seal)

Chairman of the Degree Evaluation

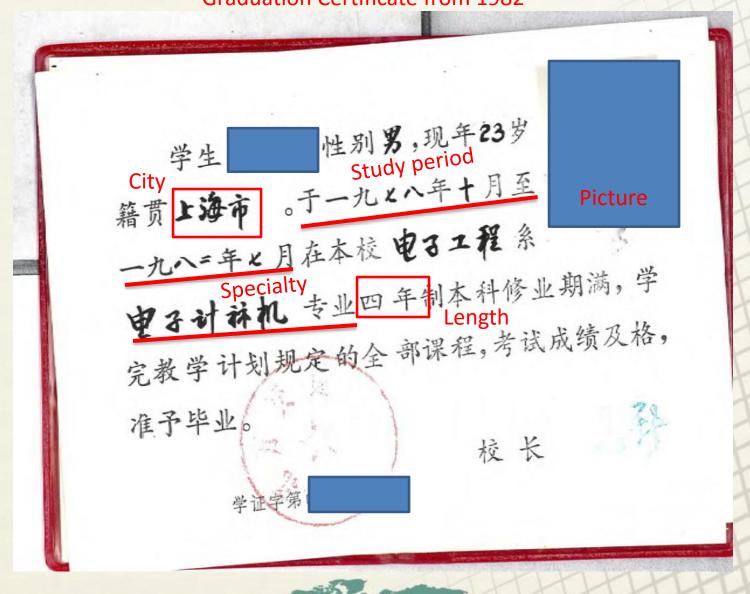
Committee: Du Xiyu (Seal)

Certificate No.

July 10, 1982









#### Translation of Graduation Certificate

#### **Diploma**

(TRANSLATION)

Student male, born in Aug. 1959, native of Shanghai, studied in this Department of Electronics Engineering in this university from Oct. 1978 to July 1982, majoring in Computer Science, he completed the 4-year courses stipulated by teaching plan with qualified marks leading to graduation.

Northern Jiaotong University

(Seal)

President: Wang Jiansin (Seal)

Certificate No.

July, 1982



## Additional firsts in the early 80s

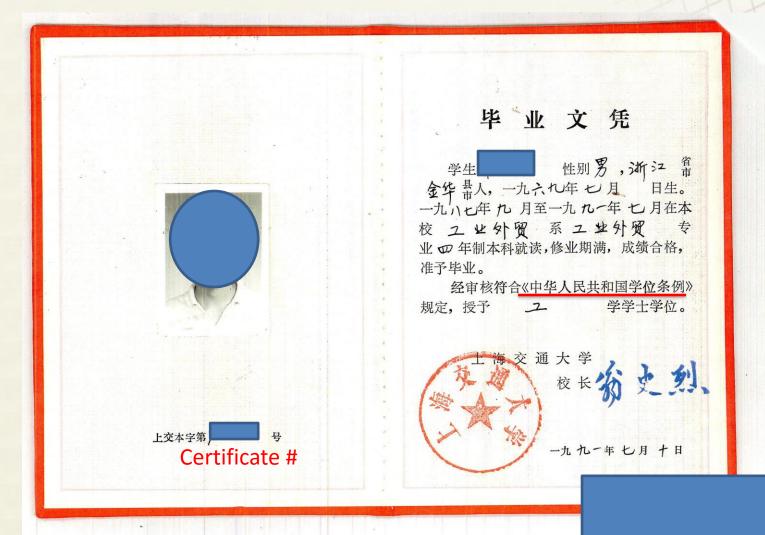
- **1981** 
  - Self Study Examinations are introduced
- **1**982
  - First Radio & TV Zhuanke graduates
- **1983** 
  - First doctoral degrees issued
  - Military Science added to degree categories



# CONSOLIDATED CERTIFICATES 1985 -1992



#### **Consolidated Graduation Certificate 1991**





#### Consolidated Graduation Certificate Translation 1991

Student

Photo

Shanghai Jiao Tong University (steel seal)

Shang Jiao Ben Zi Di No.

#### **Graduation Certificate**

This is to Certify that Student , Male, from Jinhua City of Zhejiang Province, born in July 1969. Majored in Industry Foreign Trade of Faculty Industry foreign trade in our university from September 1987 to July 1991 as an undergraduate student for four years, completed the plan provides for the teaching of all courses, the result is qualified, permits the graduation.

Upon verification, he conforms to the <u>Regulations of the People's</u> Republic of China on Academic Degrees and is hereby conferred upon the Degree of Bachelor of Engineering.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

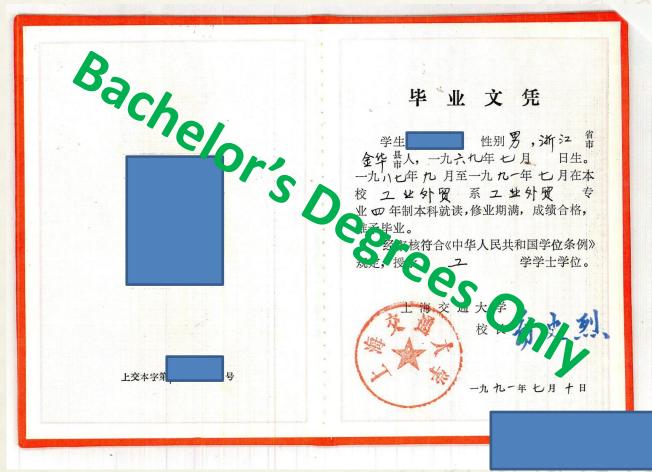
President: Weng Shilie

Shanghai Jiao Tong University (sealed)

July 10, 1991



#### Consolidated Degrees are...





#### Master Degree Certificate from 1993

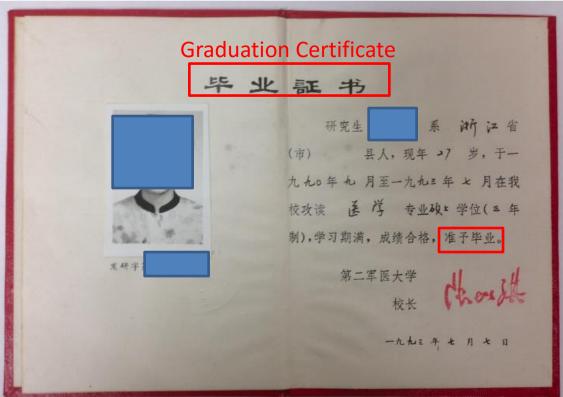






#### Master Graduation Certificate from 1993







### While this is happening...

- 1990 Professional degrees are introduced
  - Veterinary Medicine
  - Architecture
  - Clinical Medicine
  - Business Administration
  - Public Administration
  - Agriculture Extension



# UNIFIED CERTIFICATES 1994 - 2007



### Unified Graduation Certificates 1994 - 2001



### 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): 专科 (Zhuanke)

- 1994 1995
  - Pink, yellow
  - Landscape format
  - Corner may have Capital D in G
  - Certificate Number = NO: #
- 1996 1997
  - Pink, white
  - Landscape format
  - Certificate number = No. #

- **1998** 
  - Yellow, dark yellow
  - Landscape Format
  - Green background
  - Certificate number = No. #
- 1999 2001
  - Light blue, gray
  - Landscape format
  - White background
  - Certificate number = No. #



#### **Unified Graduation Certificate 1994**





#### **Zhuanke Graduation Certificate from 1997**

普通高等学校

### 毕业证书



Pink/White

七月 日生,于一九九四年 九月至一九九七年 六月在本校 英语教育 专业 三年制专科学习,修完教学计划规定的全部课程,成绩合格,准予毕业。

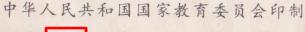
性别女,一九七五年

校(院)长:三十二

校 名: 怀化师范高等专科学校

一九九七年六年

学校编号:









## 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): 本科 (Benke)

- 1994 1995
  - Red, yellow
  - Landscape format
  - Corner with Capital D in G
  - Certificate Number = NO: #
  - Red border
- 1996 1997
  - Pink, white
  - Landscape format
  - Pink circles in background
  - Certificate number = No. #
  - Micro borders letters XIZS in pink

- **1998** 
  - Yellow
  - Landscape Format
  - Gold background
  - Certificate number = No. #
  - Micro border GAO DENG JIAO YU ZHENG SHU in yellow
- 1999 2001
  - Blue, gray
  - Landscape format
  - Blue background
  - Certificate number = No. #
  - Micro border GAO DENG JIAO YU ZHENG SHU in grey



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#### Benke Graduation Certificate from 1995





#### Benke Graduation Certificate from 1997

#### Pink/White

普通高等学校

### 毕业证书



中华人民共和国国家教育委员会印制

No.

学生 性别男,一九七五 年 二月 日生,于一九九三年 九月 至一九九七年 六月在本校 金属材料与工程 专业 四年制本科学习,修

全属材料与工程 专业 四年制本科学习,修 完教学计划规定的全部课程,成绩合格、准予毕业。

校 (院) 长: 大石 (连)

校 名:中南工业大学

一九九七 年 六月

学校编号:



### 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): 硕士 (Master)

- 1994 1995
  - Red, yellow
  - Landscape format
  - Corner with Capital D in G
  - Certificate Number = NO: #
  - Red border
- 1996 1997
  - Pink
  - Portrait format
  - Pink circles in background
  - Certificate number = No. # (upper right corner)
  - Micro borders letters XIZS in pink

#### **1998**

- Yellow, green
- Portrait Format
- Green background
- Certificate number = No. # (upper right corner)
- Micro border GAO DENG JIAO YU ZHENG SHU in yellow
- 1999 2001
  - Green
  - Landscape format
  - White background
  - Certificate number = No. #
  - Micro border GAO DENG JIAO YU ZHENG SHU in grey



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# 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): 博士 (Doctoral)

- 1994 1995
  - Blue, pink
  - Landscape format
  - Corner with Capital D in G
  - Certificate Number = NO. #
  - Black border
- 1996 1997
  - Pink, yellow
  - Portrait format
  - Green background
  - Certificate number = No. # (upper right corner)
  - Micro borders letters XIZS in pink

#### **1998**

- Yellow
- Portrait Format
- Yellow background
- Certificate number = No. # (upper right corner)
- Micro border GAO DENG JIAO YU ZHENG SHU in yellow
- 1999 2001
  - Grey, blue
  - Landscape format
  - Blue background
  - Certificate number = No. #
  - Micro border GAO DENG JIAO YU ZHENG SHU in grey



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### 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): TV, Radio, and Other

- 1994 1995
  - Green, yellow
  - Landscape format
  - Corner with Capital D in G
  - Certificate Number = NO: #
  - Black border
- 1996 1997
  - Pink, blue
  - Landscape format
  - Light blue squares in background
  - Certificate number = No. # Micro borders letters XIZS in pink

- **1998** 
  - Yellow
  - Landscape Format
  - Yellow background
  - Certificate number = No. #
  - Micro border GAO DENG JIAO YU ZHENG SHU in yellow
- 1999 2001
  - Yellow
  - Landscape format
  - Yellow background
  - Certificate number = No. #
  - Micro border GAO DENG JIAO YU ZHENG SHU in gold



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### 毕业证书 (Graduation Certificate): 成人 (Adult)

- 1994 1998
  - Grey, pink
  - Landscape Format
  - Pink background
  - Gray border
  - Stamp disclaimer under photo

- **1999 2001** 
  - Grey, green
  - Landscape format
  - Green background
  - Certificate number = No. #
  - Black border



### Unified Degree Certificates 1998 - 2007



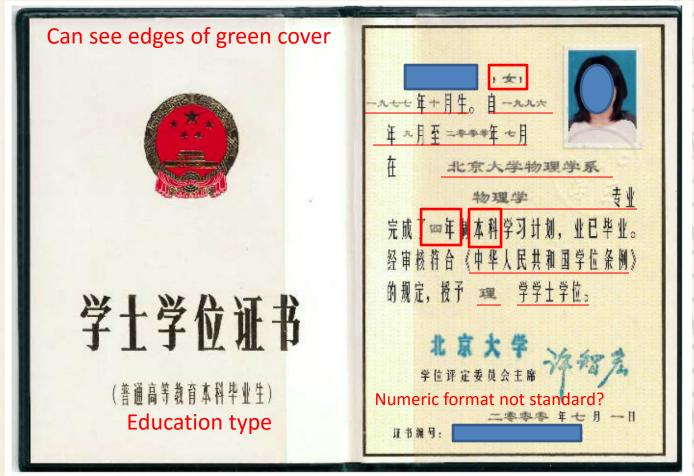
### Degree Certificates

- Before 1998
  - No student picture (typically)
  - Bachelor: green cover
  - Master: blue cover
  - Doctoral: navy cover

- **1**998-2007
  - Student picture
  - Bachelor: green cover
  - Master: navy cover
  - Doctoral: burgundy cover

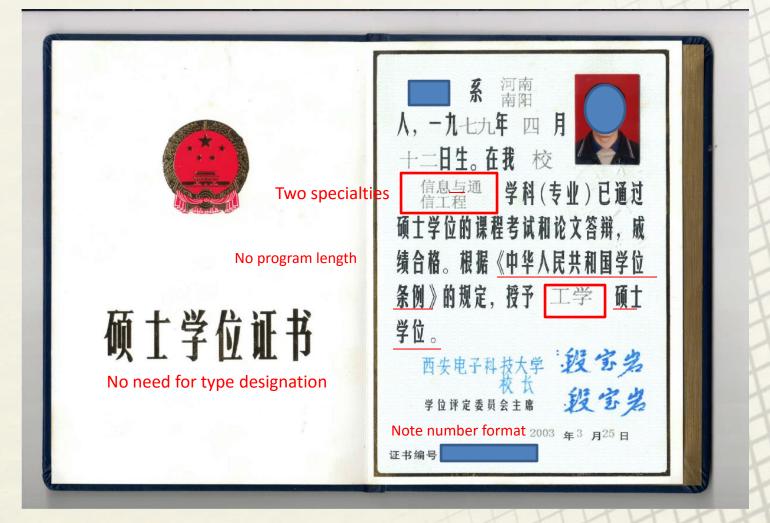


#### Unified Bachelor Degree Certificate 2000





#### Unified Master Degree Certificate 2003



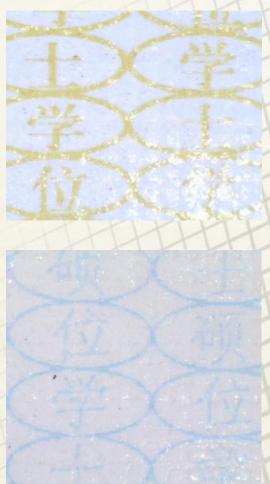


# Fine Details/Microprint

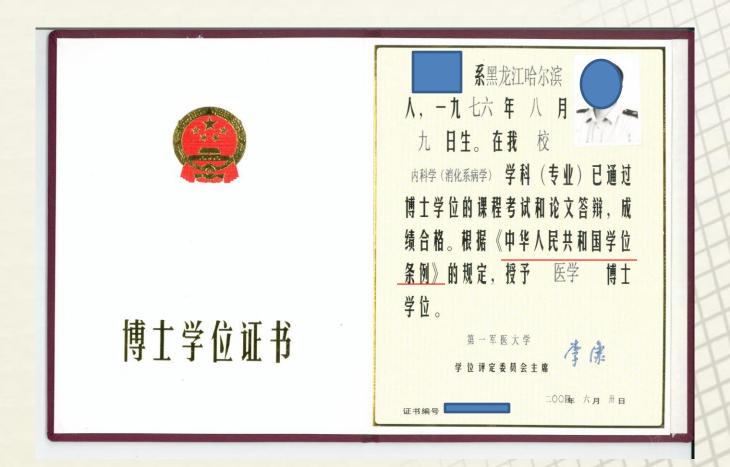
- Bachelor's Degree
  - Gold color
  - Vertically aligned

- Master's Degree
  - Blue color
  - Vertically aligned





#### **Unified Doctoral Certificate 2004**





### Fine Details

Doctoral Degree





# Also happening in this period...

- 1997 Management degree category added
- 1997 Master of Engineering professional degree added
- 1998 Comparative experience "T" degrees standardized
- 2001 Removal of age 25 limit for Regular HE



# RECENT FORMATS 2001 - 2015



### Graduation Certificates from 2001

- Non-Standard format
- Certificate number
  - 2001-2002 = 17 digit certificate number
  - 2003-2008 = 18 digit certificate number



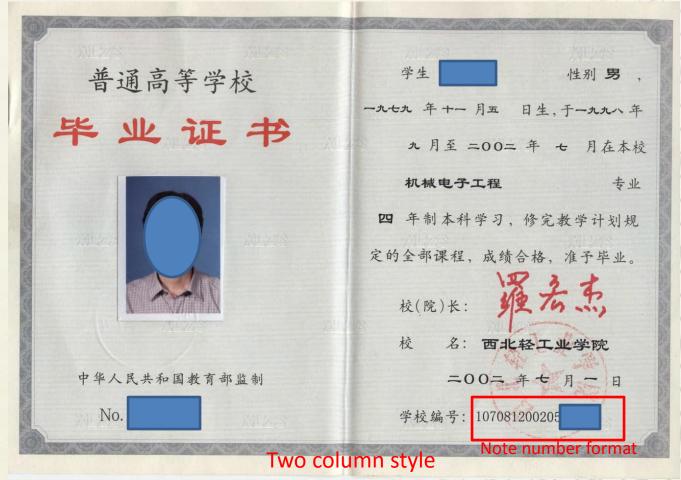
### **Graduation Certificate Number**

- Digits #1-5 = institution code
- Digit #6 = education deliverymethod
  - 1 = regular higher education
  - 5 = adult education
  - 6 = self study
  - 7 = online
- Digits #7-10 = graduation year

- Digits #11-12 = level of study
  - 01 = Doctoral
  - 02 = Master
  - 04 = Second Bachelor
  - 05 = Bachelor
  - 06 = Zhuanke
- Digits #13-17/18 = student identification number



#### **Graduation Certificate from 2002**





#### **Graduation Certificate from 2005**





#### **Graduation Certificate from 2008**



This is somewhat common for doctoral programs



Note horizontal alignment

# Reduction of Specialties - 2003

- Narrow specialties were phased out in 2003
  - E.g. Light Industry Machinery, Heavy Industry Machinery, Chemical Industry Machinery, Agricultural Machinery etc.

- Broader specialties are now more typical
  - E.g. Mechanical Engineering



### Degree Certificate Format 2008 – 2015

- Full Name
- Sex
- Date of Birth (Arabic numerals)
  - Nationality included for international students
- Institution of attendance
  - May be different than issuing institution at bachelor level
  - Mode of study included for Adult HE
- Major and/or field
- Degree category
- Color photo with dry seal of issuing institution
- Awarding institution
- President's name and signature/seal

- Signature/seal of Chairman of Degree
   Evaluation Committee
  - One signature suffices if the President and Chairman is one individual
- Certificate Number (16 digits)
  - Preceded by "T" if awarded for comparable educational competence
  - Preceded by "Z" for professional degree programs
- Date of approval

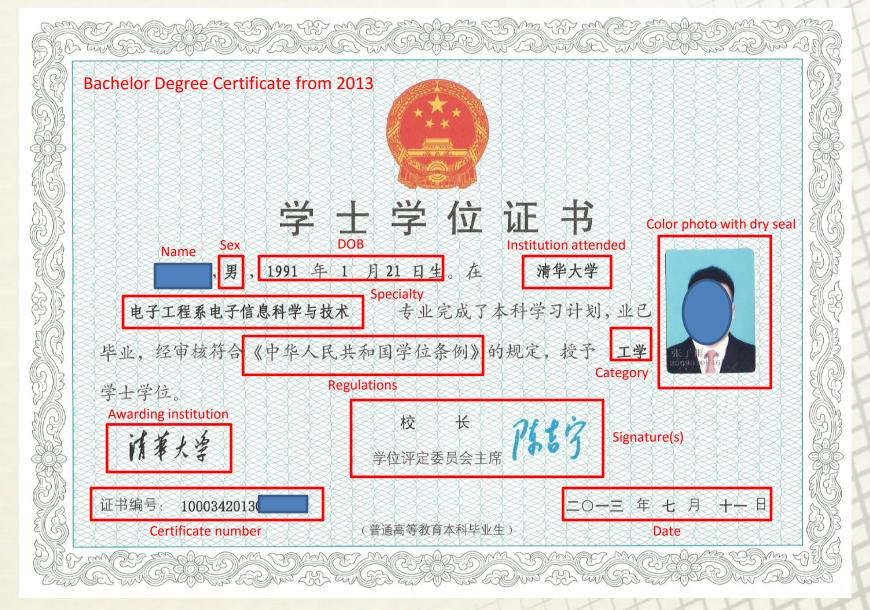


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### Degree Certificate Numbers

- Digits #1-5 = Institutional Code
- Digit #6 = Degree level
  - Doctoral = 2, Master = 3, Bachelor = 4
- Digits #7-10 = Year of degree
- Digits #11-16 = Graduate identifying number















DO THE SOUTH A THE STATE SECOND AND A SHARE SOUTH A SHARE





# A Sample of Fraud





# New Regulations 2016



http://www.moe.edu.cn/srcsite/A22/moe\_818/moe\_819/201507/t20150713\_193671.html



### **Important Points**

- 1. Degree-granting institutions will issue their own degree certificates
- 2. Degree-granting institutions will issue foreign language certificates at their own discretion



### **Practical Effects**

- State no longer mentioned on Degree
   Certificates, including official State Emblem
- Specific information is mandated
  - 1. Name, gender and DOB
  - 2. Color photo with embossed stamp of institution
  - 3. Field or professional category
  - 4. Institution name
  - 5. Certificate #: 16 digit
  - 6. Signature/Stamp of degree-granted committee Chairman



### **Practical Effects**

- No changes to dual credential system
- No changes to the # system
- No standardization of degree formats beyond individual institutions
  - Similarities exist, but these are cultural rather than mandated, so don't rely on them.



# **Zhejiang University**



(普通高等教育本科毕业生)



学士学位证书





# **Zhejiang University**







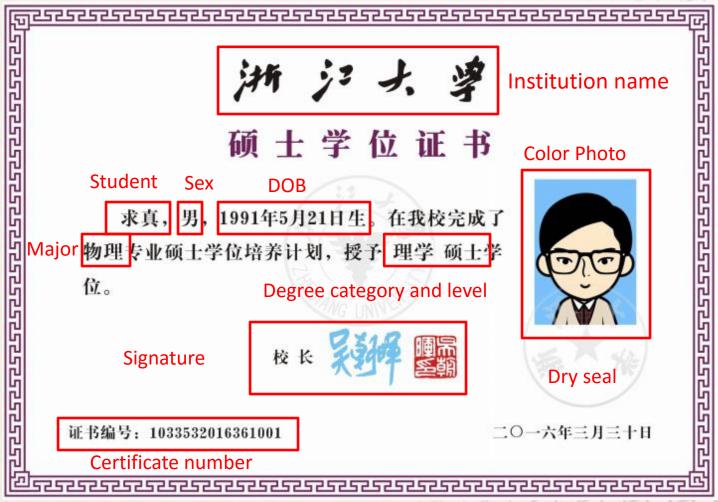








# Zhejiang template vs mandates





### Degree Certificate Numbers

- Same as previous:
- Digits 1-5 = Institutional Code
- Digit 6 = Degree level
  - Doctoral = 2, Master = 3, Bachelor = 4
- Digits 7-10 = Year of degree
- Digits 11-16 = Graduate identifying number

Can find institutional codes online (http://njc.chinacourt.org/article/detail/2010/05/id/1472219.shtml accessed Sept. 2016)



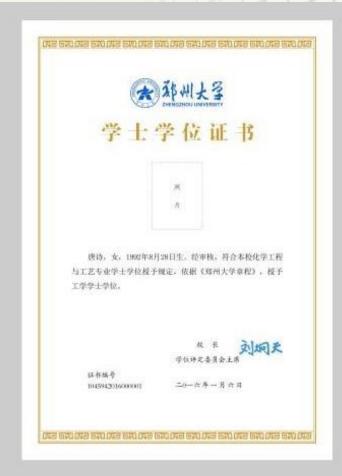
# Zhengzhou University





# **Zhengzhou University**







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# **Peking University**





## **Document Security Features**

#### 北京大学学位证书防伪技术展示



证书底纹以北大视觉形象识别系统辅助图形 云纹为主体,通过专业防伪软件生成浮雕效 果。



证书用纸为北大专用防伤水印纸,迎光透视,可见毛体"北京大学"校名。



证书底部装饰条纹采用先进的防复印技术,隐含英文校名。



# **Document Security Features**

- We may also start seeing...
  - Fluorescent UV markings
  - Color fibers
  - Watermarks
  - QR codes





#### DOCTOR'S DEGREE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that born on November 03,1988, having completed the program of study prescribed for the field(s) of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and, upon the recommendation of the Degree Awarding Committee, Peking University, has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Natural Science.

Certificate Number:100012201

Date: July 04,2016

Registrar

Registrar Zana Executive Dean Graduate School



Printing data: July 06, 2016

Scanned Image of the DEGREE CERTIFICATE as below: 中文证书扫描认证图像如下:







#### DOCTOR'S GRADUATE STUDENT DIPLOMA

It is hereby certified that born on November 03,198 8, having satisfactorily completed a postgraduate program in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Speciality of the College of Life Sciences from September 2010 to July 2016 and having succeeded in defending her degree thesis, is eligible for graduation.

Certificate Number:1000112016 Date:July 01,2016

Registrar Executive Dean Graduate School





Printing data: July 06, 2016

Scanned Image of the DIPLOMA as below: 中文证书扫描认证图像如下:









# Replacement Degree Certificates

- Institutions can issue a Degree Confirmation
   Certificate 学位证明书
  - Remember the Graduation Confirmation Certificate (毕业证明书). This is different.
- The 学位证明书 confirms award of an academic degree from the institution.





#### 学位证明

证书编号:1033522010 颁发时间:2010年06月30日 颁发人:杨卫 浙江大学校长

#### CERTIFICATE

Certificate No.: 1033522010 Issued on: June 30, 2010

Issued by: Yang Wei President of Zhejiang University





1/1





自助打印专用纸. 0012632

#### 学位证明

证书编号:1033522010

颁发时间:2010年06月30日

颁 发 人:杨卫 浙江大学校长

Information regarding original

certificate number and date of issue



#### CERTIFICATE

Certificate No.: 1033522010

Issued on: June 30, 2010

Issued by: Yang Wei President of Zhejiang University

#### Note QR code





Note current date of confirmation certificate

1/1



# Foreign Language Degree Certificates

#### SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY



This is to certify that



satisfied the Examiners in

Surgery

and, having fulfilled all other requirements, was on 17 June 2016 admitted to the Degree of

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE









#### SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY



#### No Picture

This is to certify that



satisfied the Examiners in

This field was actually slightly different in Chinese... Surgery



and, having fulfilled all other requirements,

was on 17 June 2016

admitted to the Degree of

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE









### Verification

- Chinese Universities and Colleges includes institutional contact information, but this will not always yield results.
- University online verification portals
  - Some are up and running, but reaching out to the institution has not been a productive route for verification, only establishing suspicion.



### Verification

China Higher Education Student
 Information website
 (www.chsi.com.cn)





 China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre (CDGDC) website (www.chinadegrees.cn)





# 谢谢! 再见! (Thank you! See you again!)

Jordan Bone, Credentials Analyst – Coordinator Foundation for International Services, Inc. jmbone@fis-web.com



#### RESOURCES

- the PIER (Projects for International Education Research) World Education Series Workshop Report titled <a href="The People's Republic of China">The People's Republic of China</a>
- ECE publication titled <u>A Guide to Evaluating Educational Credentials from China</u>
- Chinese Education Association for International Exchanges publication titled <u>Chinese Universities and Colleges</u>, <u>A Guide to Institutions of Higher Education in China</u> (5th edition)
- International Qualifications Assessment Service publication titled <u>International Education Guide for the Assessment of</u>
   Education from China
- The AACRAO Electronic Database for Global Education (EDGE)
- The Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (www.moe.edu.cn)
- China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Information (www.cdgdc.edu.cn)
- China Higher Education Student Information and Career Center (www.chsi.com.cn)
- The
- Information provided by and obtained through Chinese colleges and universities, the Alberta Ministry of Labour (work.alberta.ca) and NAFSA, NAGAP, and AACRAO conference presentations, workshops and lessons

