

## Connecting Alumni in China: Maysa Lin in Beijing



My earliest memories are engraved in the streets of Groningen. My first flat was in a decrepit building right next to the Groningen Hoofdstation. I would sit by my window, sipping Earl Grey tea, looking out over the railroad tracks and watch the constant stream of people coming and going. I never imagined I would be one of those people going and I would go this far away. That was 13 years ago when I was studying psychology at the University of Groningen.

In 2007, I arrived in Beijing to study Mandarin Chinese. The language is completely different than the local dialect I spoke with my family growing up in Groningen. I planned to stay in China for six months to study, travel and explore my cultural heritage. Six years later my definition of home has drastically changed. In that time, opportunities have been infinite and time has gone by in the blink of an eye. These opportunities jump-started my career. From working with Microsoft Research Asia to being selected for the EU-China Managers Exchange Training Program to becoming the Beijing General Manager of CRCC Asia.

When you live abroad, it can be a challenge to stay connected with the people you spent memorable times with during your studies. Likewise, to create and build new meaningful connections is not easy. But earlier this year, I got back in touch with a fellow Dutch, Rutger Brouwer, who I met during my studies in Beijing. Since moving back to Amsterdam from Beijing, he was looking for a link back to China. At the same time, I was looking for a link back to The Netherlands.

We founded [CHINA2025.nl](http://CHINA2025.nl), a crowdblog about China and The Netherlands, written by and for Dutch China professionals. [CHINA2025.nl](http://CHINA2025.nl) is a new platform in Dutch to share knowledge, experience and information about China. We do this through stories written by people with first-hand experience working in and with China. The blog was launched successfully in May this year.

Since our launch, we have attracted an enthusiastic audience, elicited positive and inspiring responses and created opportunities for people sharing the same interest to connect.

I'm reaching out to every Dutch-speaking alumnus of the University of Groningen in China to join us! You are very welcome to write along and read the stories on our [CHINA2025.nl](http://CHINA2025.nl) crowdblog!

Maysha Lin

