

My name is Xuan Wang I am a native Chinese speaker born in Sichuan, China. I graduated as the top student and received my B.A. in Applied Linguistics and Translation from East China Normal University, considered the top school for foreign language pedagogy training in China. After graduation, I continued my studies in language and culture comparisons for another two years of post-graduate studies at ECNU. During those two years, I had many chances to teach college students in many programs, such as UVA-in-Shanghai Chinese language program and CIEE. Through these programs, I was exposed to systematic pedagogical training. These experiences also nurtured my passion and love for teaching. In 2008, I had the chance to study at New York University. After one year of intensive studies, with fieldwork, I received a M.A degree in Foreign Language Education at New York University. After graduating in 2009, I was offered a full-time teaching position at Ramapo Central School District, Rockland County, New York, to develop their Chinese program. Now the program is thriving, having expanded to include both middle and high school, with six different levels, with an enrollment of more than 100 students. I have been honored by my school district for my effort to successfully develop the program, and I received my tenure recognition. Teaching six levels per day made me a very flexible and effective teacher, but at the same time, I rarely had time to slow down and reflect about my own teaching. I considered participating UVA Startalk a great opportunity to think deeper about my teaching. I believe after this summer, I will grow more as a professional and will be able to give my students even better experience in learning Chinese. I am thankful for all the people who helped me to grow.