Getting to Know ERME’s New Students!
2015-2016
Tong Shen, M.S. Student  
shento@bc.edu

Hometown: Shanghai, China

Renmin University of China: Bachelor of Law  
Boston College: Med in ADEP

I chose ERME because it is part of an excellent school, has dedicated teachers., a diverse environment, and a social justice element. ERME at Boston College also maintains rich educational resources.

I am interested in assessment and psychometrics.

My personal hobbies and activities include swimming, yoga, hiking, cooking, reading, playing guitar & drum, photography.

Jessica Triant, M.Ed. Student  
triantj@bc.edu

Hometown: Ithaca, NY

The College At Brockport SUNY:  
B.S. in Interdisciplinary Arts for Children/ certification in Childhood Inclusive Education, B.S. in Dance

I chose ERME because I would like to continue my studies in the field of education but would like more skills and knowledge in regards to research and data analysis.

Although my interests are still developing, I am primarily interested in assessment and curriculum instruction.

My hobbies include dancing both around my apartment and in various technique classes and spending as much time outside before the harsh winter begins.
Sebastian Moncaleano, M.Ed. Student
moncalea@bc.edu
Hometown: Bogota, Colombia
University of the Andes: Mathematics Major, and Minor in Education

I chose ERME because I have had a general interest in assessment since my undergrad, and then my two years teaching high school math reinforced it. I enjoyed thinking about assessments and devoting time to them.

I like test construction and its alignment with curriculum. I kind of fought with the super abstract statistics of my major, so I really want to work with more applicable and visible statistics.

I love to bake—cookies are my specialty, cupcakes and cakes are my now exploration area. I have a YouTube Channel teaching some math concepts for my students. I enjoy watching football games, TV series, and classic movies.

Caroline Prendergast, M.Ed. Student
prenderc@bc.edu
Hometown: Penfield, NY
James Madison University: Psychology and Writing & Rhetoric

I was drawn to ERME because of the program’s balance of theoretical and technical training. Additionally, I was fortunate to obtain a graduate assistantship at the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center that allows me to apply my coursework to large-scale international assessment practices.

I am interested in nonprofit evaluation, specifically the ways in which organizations use findings to improve services and obtain funding. I am also interested in the assessment of writing.

I'm big into bread making. There's nothing quite like the tactile experience of making something as simple and useful as a good loaf of bread. I also love hiking!
Ryan (Yiran) Chen, Ph.D Student  
chenos@bc.edu  
Hometown: Jiujiang, China  
Shanghai University: Public Administration  
University of Michigan: Public Policy  
I chose ERME to learn to solve problems by identifying them, and because identifying problems starts from finding the facts. In quantitative educational research, the facts come from measurement. Thus I came to ERME to learn how to study that very foundation.  
My research and educational interests include evaluating educational quality, especially for technology-enhanced learning programs as well as measuring the impact of education policies.  
My personal hobbies include watching football games and classic movies, and sometimes watching them again and again!

Cormac Harkins, M.Ed. Student  
Cormac.harkins@bc.edu  
Hometown: Needham, Massachusetts  
University of Notre Dame  
After talking with some current students from Lynch and ERME, I was impressed with the focus and intentionality of the program. They all spoke highly of the faculty as well as the opportunities available for graduate students.  
My interests are primarily K-12 education, summer and out-of-school time learning, and nonprofit evaluation. Additionally, I am interested in college access and success and teacher preparation and development.  
My personal interests include playing pickup basketball, trivia, and board games.
Jackie (Jiaqi) Cai, M.S. Student  
caijf@bc.edu

Hometown: Xiamen, China

University of Georgia: TESOL – M.Ed

I chose ERME because the program is well designed and people in ERME are kind and supportive.

My research and educational interests include test design, computer-based testing, and language testing.

I like exploring the city, visiting good restaurants and bars, and watching games. I particularly like making new friends. So, let’s hang out sometime!

Aman (Amanullah) Amanullah, M.Ed. Student  
amanulam@bc.edu

Hometown: Charsadda (KP), Pakistan

Undergraduate: Evaluation and Research, Graduate: Research, Curriculum, Testing

I chose ERME because all the courses are according to my interest and aptitude.

I like research and testing. I want to work in the field with any researcher. I have some unpublished projects and a small thesis on English Language Fluency.

I enjoy reading books, attending conferences and seminars, visiting places of eminent importance.
Romita Mitra, PhD
romitam@bc.edu

Hometown: New Delhi, India

University of Delhi: BA Sociology
Jawaharlal Nehru University: MA Sociology
Brandeis University: MA Sustainable International Development

I chose ERME to gain skills in educational measurement and evaluation, with pioneers in the field.

I am interested in education program evaluation, international education, education in developing countries, access to education, IT and English language education.

My personal hobbies and activities include reading, painting and planning travel.

Andrea (Yanying) An, M.Ed.
anya@bc.edu

Hometown: China

Nanjing Agricultural University: Agriculture
University of California, Riverside: Plant Science

I chose ERME because I want to be an educational researcher in the future, perhaps a professor in the long term.

My educational interests include program evaluation, large test assessment, science education.

My personal hobbies and activities include playing the piano, watching detective movies and bible study.
Gulsah Gurkan, PhD Student
gurkan@bc.edu

Hometown: Istanbul, Turkey

Bogazici University: Integrated BS. and MS. Program in Teaching Physics
Bogazici University: MS. in Secondary School Science and Mathematics Education

I chose ERME to enhance my academic knowledge, technical skills in the research and evaluation area, and to gain global perspective to develop impact evaluation studies in the field of education by utilizing quantitative analyses methods and accordingly to propose impactful new education policies that will inspire people. After a detailed research and extensive interviews with my professors, colleagues, and friends who are studying in US in the field of education, I was certain that a PhD in Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation will provide me with the resources and opportunities that I need to reach my long-term goals and to achieve my aspirations.

My educational interests include impact evaluation, mixed method educational research, education policy, achievement data analysis, and large-scale assessment.

My personal hobbies include jogging, playing table tennis, yoga, singing, and puzzles.