



# Parent's Guide to Studying in China

Clear Answers To Help You Understand If Chinese  
Universities Are Right For Your Child



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# Guide for Parents

Clear answers to help you understand if Chinese universities are right for your child

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## About This Guide

This guide is designed for parents who view their child's education as a strategic investment and want to ensure a safe, valuable experience abroad. Whether your son or daughter is aiming for a Bachelor's degree, a Medical program (MBBS), or a gap-year language course.

## Disclaimer

Admissions policies, visa regulations, and fee structures can change quickly. This guide reflects our best understanding at the time of writing; always confirm details with official university, embassy, and government sources. We welcome feedback from parents and students to keep this guide up to date - if you spot a change, let us know at [apply@china-admissions.com](mailto:apply@china-admissions.com).

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## I. Safety, Health, and Logistics

Your child's well-being is the priority. China is one of the safest study destinations in the world, with strict regulations that ensure a secure environment for students.

### Campus Safety and Discipline

Chinese universities maintain high standards for student conduct.

- **Zero Tolerance on Drugs:** China enforces very strict anti-drug laws. Possession or use of illegal drugs can lead to detention, criminal charges, and immediate deportation. This strictness contributes to a drug-free and safe campus environment.
- **Attendance Matters:** Unlike some western universities where attendance is optional, Chinese universities expect students to attend classes regularly. Repeated absences can affect grades and visa status.

### Guardianship for Minors

If your child will be under 18 on the day of enrollment, you legally must appoint a guardian in China.

- **Who can be a guardian?** A Chinese citizen or a foreigner with a valid work permit/residence who resides in China.
- **What do they do?** They act as the legal responsible party for your child's well-being until they turn 18.

#### Note

You must provide a signed guarantee/guardianship letter (often notarized) and proof of the guardian's residence.

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## Healthcare and Insurance

- **Mandatory Insurance:** Comprehensive medical insurance is required for international students. For scholarships like the Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC), this is typically covered (valued at approx. 800 CNY/year).
- **Medical Exams:** Before applying or upon arrival, students must complete the Foreigner Physical Examination Form to ensure they are physically and mentally fit to study. This includes checks for blood, lungs (X-ray), and other standard health indicators.

## II. Financial Overview (ROI)

Your child's well-being is the priority. China is one of the safest study destinations in the world, with strict regulations that ensure a secure environment for students.

### The Cost Advantage

Compared to the US (\$45,000+) or UK (\$35,000+), the average annual cost of living and tuition in China is approximately \$8,500 USD.

### Tuition Fees (Self-Funded)

If your child does not secure a full scholarship, the fees remain highly affordable:

- Bachelor's Degree (English-taught): ~\$2,500 – \$6,000 USD / year.
- Medicine (MBBS): ~\$3,200 – \$11,000 USD / year.
- Chinese Language Programs: ~\$2,000 – \$4,000 USD / year.

### Cost of Living Breakdown

- **Accommodation:** On-campus dormitories are the most popular and affordable option, ranging from \$200 – \$400 USD per month.

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- **Food:** University canteens are subsidized and inexpensive. A student can eat well for \$5–\$10 USD a day.
- **Total Monthly Budget:**
  - **Frugal Student** (e.g., Wuhan): ~\$740 USD/month (inclusive of tuition and living).
  - **Comfortable Student** (e.g., Shanghai): ~\$1,330 USD/month.

Sample Financial Estimate Breakdown:

Annual Fees		RMB	USD
Annual Tuition Fee		30,000	
Insurance		800	
Visa Fee		800	
Books		400	
1 Flights Home		9000	
3 Trips Within China		8000	
VPN		400	
<b>Annual Subtotal</b>		<b>49,400</b>	\$6,938
<b>Monthly Fees</b>			
Transport	stay more on uni	500	
Phone Bill		100	
Accommodation	shared in uni dorm	2500	
Eating Out	frugal / mid / tier	800	
Clothes		800	
Food		1500	
Other		500	
<b>Monthly Subtotal</b>		<b>6700</b>	
<b>Monthly Expenses for Year</b>		<b>80400</b>	\$11,292
<b>Application Fees</b>			
University Application Fee (800*3)		2400	
China Admissions Application service /		3500	
<b>App Fees Subtotal</b>		<b>5900</b>	\$828
<b>Cost Per Year</b>		<b>129,800</b>	
<b>Total Cost (2 years)</b>		<b>265500</b>	

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### III. Scholarships in China

Funding is available, but it is competitive. You must choose your strategy carefully.

#### Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC)

- **Best For:** Master's and PhD applicants (Type B) or those applying via Embassy (Type A).
- **Coverage:** Full tuition, free on-campus accommodation, medical insurance, and a monthly stipend (2,500 RMB for undergrads, 3,000 RMB for masters).
- **Limitation:** Generally does not cover English-taught undergraduate programs (like MBBS) or top MBA programs.

#### University & Local Government Scholarships

- **Best For:** English-taught Bachelor's degrees and students who want a higher chance of success.
- **Coverage:** Usually covers Tuition (Full or Partial). Some include accommodation.
- **Strategy:** Apply early! These are often awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

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## 2026 Guide to China Scholarships

We have created an in-depth guide to China Scholarships. You can access here: [2026 Guide to China Scholarships](#)



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## IV. The Parent's Role in Admissions

Your support is vital, but the application must reflect your child's own merit.

### The "Financial Guarantor"

- Students cannot list themselves as their own financial supporter. You (the parent) must usually act as the guarantor.
- You will need to provide a bank statement showing a balance sufficient to cover the first year of tuition and living expenses (approx. 50,000 RMB or equivalent).

### Document Validity (Timing is Key)

Two critical documents expire quickly. Do not prepare these too early:

- Foreigner Physical Examination Form: Valid for only 6 months.
- Non-Criminal Record (Police Clearance): Valid for only 6 months.

For a September intake, process these after November.

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## V. CSCA Exam: New Requirement for Undergraduate Applicants

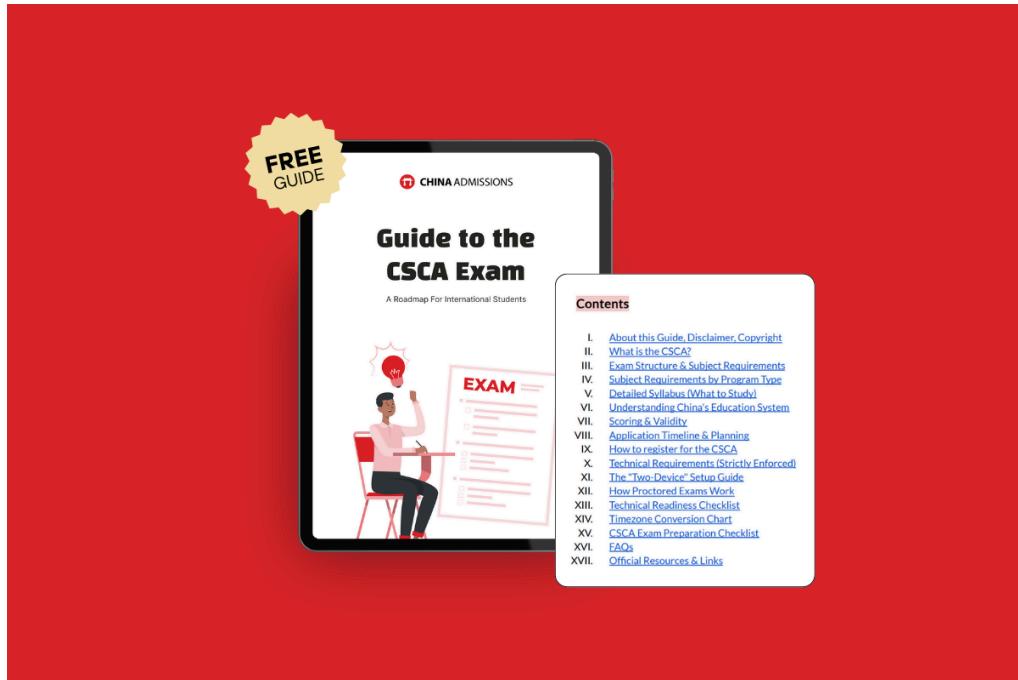
Starting from the 2026 intake, international students applying for undergraduate programs at Chinese Government Scholarship universities must take the CSCA Exam (China Scholastic Competency Assessment).

Subjects: Mathematics is compulsory; Physics/Chemistry are required for STEM majors.

Ensure your child prepares for this standardized test if applying for 2026.

### Guide to the CSCA Exam

We have created an in-depth guide to the CSCA Exam. You can also check more details in our guidebook: [Guide to the CSCA Exam](#).



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## VI. Your Child's Future in China

### Global Recognition

China is home to 6 universities in the global top 100, with Tsinghua and Peking University consistently ranking in the top 20. A degree from these institutions is recognized globally.

### Work and Internships

- **Part-Time Work:** International students generally cannot work part-time jobs outside campus.
- **Internships:** Students can participate in internships if they receive official approval from the university and update their residence permit.
- **Career:** Graduates are positioned in the world's second-largest economy, gaining experience in fields like AI, E-commerce, and Engineering that are highly valued by global employers

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## VII. Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Is it safe for my child to live alone in China?

China is considered one of the safest study destinations for international students. University campuses are typically closed environments with security, and the country enforces strict laws that contribute to a safe environment. For example, there is a zero-tolerance policy regarding drugs; possession or use can lead to detention, criminal charges, and deportation.

### 2. My child is under 18. Who looks after them?

If your child is under 18 on the day of enrollment, you are legally required to appoint a guardian living in China. This guardian must be a Chinese citizen or a foreigner with a valid residence permit who will sign a legal guarantee for your child's well-being until they turn 18.

### 3. What happens if my child gets sick?

Comprehensive medical insurance is mandatory for all international students. For students on a full Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC), this insurance is included and valued at approximately 800 CNY per year. Universities typically have campus clinics, and the insurance covers major medical needs.

### 4. Does my child need to speak Chinese to be accepted?

No. There are over 500 universities in China offering programs taught entirely in English. For these English-taught programs, Chinese language proficiency is not required for admission. However, students will often take basic Chinese culture or language classes as part of their curriculum to help with daily life.

### 5. Does the full scholarship cover everything?

The Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC) typically covers full tuition, free on-campus accommodation, comprehensive medical insurance, and a monthly living stipend (2,500-3,500 RMB depending on the degree). However, CSC generally does not cover English-taught undergraduate programs (like MBBS) or top MBA programs. For these, you should look at University or Local Government scholarships.

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## VIII. Official Resources & Links

- [Guide to Cities in China](#)
- [Eligibility and Entry Requirements in Chinese Universities](#)
- [More guides to understand what's it like to study in China](#)
- [Follow China Admissions YouTube channel for helpful videos](#)
- [Subscribe on China Admissions](#) for more updates and opportunities and check out our [online events](#) to meet universities directly.

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## What's Next for You?

We hope this has given you the clarity and confidence to support your child's next big step.

It is natural to still have questions: *Is this truly the safest option? How do the long-term career benefits compare to home? What is the exact timeline for my family?*

We understand these concerns deeply. Many of us at China Admissions were once international students in China ourselves, and many of us are now parents. **We can give you support to share opportunities and avoid common mistakes with:**

- Direct University Insights: We work closely with admissions offices and visit campuses regularly to stay updated on China's fast-changing landscape.
- Efficiency: We save you hundreds of hours of research by providing an objective evaluation of your son or daughter's likelihood of acceptance.
- A Clear Roadmap: We help you choose 3–5 strategic options and break down the process into manageable steps.
- Support and insights: We are not just providing application support but helping you and your son or daughter to navigate the process, understand China so you can get started and really confidently take advantage and make the most of the opportunity.

### Book a Parent Consultation Call

In this call, we will answer your specific questions about safety, budgets, and majors, check details directly with universities, and share a personalized roadmap for your son or daughter.

[Book a call >](#)

We have helped thousands of students study in China. You can learn more about our testimonials [here](#) and watch on [YouTube](#).