



MOVING TO CHINA

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S GUIDEBOOK

DEPARTURE, ARRIVAL, & SETTLING IN



CHINA ADMISSIONS

INTRODUCTION

A Message from the Founder

Dear Students,

Congratulations as you embark on your exciting journey of studying abroad in China. Just a few years ago, I stood in your shoes ready to set out on this life-changing adventure. Starting out as a university student in the UK, I repeatedly heard stories about China in the news and from professors and felt the urge to go there to experience it for myself.



Richard Coward
CEO of China Admissions

It was the best decision I ever made, and one that completely transformed my life. I learnt Chinese, experienced one of the most remarkable periods of growth in human history, connected with incredible people from China and around the world, and developed a deep admiration and respect for China, its people, and its culture. It helped me grow rapidly as a person, broadened my mind, and expanded my worldview, and belief in what is possible.

Today, I'm pleased to share that China Admissions has helped thousands of students from all over the world pursue their education in China and undergo their own transformative experience. Our mission is to empower students to realise their potential in an ever changing world. We achieve this by sharing valuable insights, delivering the highest quality guidance and providing exceptional admissions support for studying in China.

Studying abroad is one of the most effective paths for personal growth. As the world's second largest economy, China is an excellent study destination.

I'd like to leave you with a quote:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover."

— Mark Twain.

We hope this guidebook becomes an indispensable resource as you commence this next phase in your life. Wishing you an unforgettable journey of discovery and growth ahead.

Warm regards,
Richard Coward



About China Admissions

At China Admissions, our mission is to make it easy for international students like you to apply and study at Chinese universities. Founded in 2015 and headquartered in Beijing, we're an investor-backed online platform dedicated to helping you achieve your academic dreams in China.

We recognize the challenges students face in finding accurate information about courses, communicating effectively with universities, and completing online applications. We solve this problem by:

- 1) **Inspiring and educating:** we publish content that inspires and educates students.
- 2) **Easy application:** we offer a free, easy-to-use online platform to apply to Chinese universities
- 3) **Efficient communication:** we provide fast and thorough communication support to ensure your needs are met promptly.



GLOBAL ADMISSIONS

Want to pursue your education beyond China? Our sister company Global Admissions helps students apply to universities worldwide.



180,000

International
Students



200+

Chinese
Universities



5,000+

Programs

Award Winning Platform



China Edtech 100

Our Values



We Care

We are all genuinely nice people who care about students and each other



Always Learning

We are always learning and growing



Focus & Simplify

We keep things concise and focus on the most important things



Excellence

We set and expect excellence in our work



Fast

It is important to have a sense of urgency and do things fast

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USING THIS GUIDEBOOK

This guidebook is an interactive PDF, filled with links to other great content on the web.

Click on these to read, watch, or learn more:

- Article cards
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Note: This guidebook contains information that was accurate at the time of publication (Aug 21 2023). Keep in mind that policies, regulations, and local conditions can quickly change. We encourage you to double-check the information with your university or official sources to ensure you have the most current information at the time you set off to study in China.



PART 1

DEPARTURE

PREPARING FOR THE MOVE



CHINA ADMISSIONS

IMMIGRATION & VISAS

Steps to Apply for a Chinese Visa

Step 1: Select a visa category (X1 for long-term studies or X2 for less than 180 days)

Step 2: Complete the visa application form

Step 3: Submit your application to the Visa Office of your local Chinese Embassy/ Consulate General

Step 4: Pay the visa application fee at the Visa Office.

The Visa Application Form

- Note that all fields are mandatory. If some sections don't apply to you, type in "None" or "N/A".
- Check the form again before printing for any errors. Changes or corrections are not allowed on the printed form.
- Print out single-sided pages of the application form and use a paper clip to hold (don't staple it!).

Required Documents

Guidelines only. Check the specific documents required by the Chinese Embassy in your home country.

- Completed visa application form (printed out and signed)
- A valid physical passport (must have at least six months of remaining validity and a blank visa page)
- 2×2 inches recent photo with white background
- Original & a copy of Visa Form (JW201 or JW202)
- Original & a copy of admission notice from your University



ARTICLE

Visas For Chinese Language Programs

These universities have been authorized to provide visa papers for students of Chinese Language Programs.



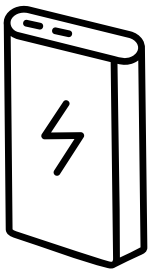
VIDEO

3 Steps to Apply for the Chinese Student Visa

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

Packing Tips

- 1) Check your baggage allowance
- 2) Don't overpack, you don't need to bring that many things with you. Ask yourself: "Do I really *need* to take this?". Remember that clothes are very cheap in China.
- 3) Get a good quality, soft-case suitcase that won't break easily.
- 4) Pack for the weather, depending on where you will go.
- 5) Take a high-quality pair of walking shoes - you'll need them!



Charging Your Devices

Check to see if you will need an adapter for your electronics. International adapters are easily available worldwide. It is also recommended to carry a battery pack so you can charge your devices while traveling, and in case of emergencies when you arrive.



VIDEO

What to Pack as an International Student Travelling to China   

BOOKING A FLIGHT & HOTEL

Checklist for Buying Flight Tickets

- **Research:** Compare flight options from different airlines and travel agencies to find the best deals and convenient routes.
- **Book in Advance:** Plan your travel early to secure better prices and availability.
- **Consider Layovers:** Decide between direct flights or layovers based on convenience and cost.
- **Check Visa and Entry Requirements:** Ensure you have the necessary visa and meet entry requirements for your destination.
- **Inform the University:** Share your travel details with your university, including arrival date and flight information.
- **Prepare Travel Documents:** Organize essential travel documents, including passport, visa, and flight itinerary
- **Health and Safety Measures:** Be aware of any health or safety measures required for international travel.
- **Notify Family and Friends:** Keep your loved ones informed about your travel plans and provide contact details.



TOP TIPS



VIDEO

Booking Short-Term Accommodation For Your First Few Days 🏠❤️

HEALTH INSURANCE

Compulsory Health Insurance Requirement

The Chinese Ministry of Education requires international students to get private health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their program. This ensures access to essential medical services, providing you with peace of mind that you'll be protected in case of injuries or illnesses during your stay.

2 Ways to Obtain Insurance

Purchase your insurance in your own country and bring it to China. It must cover accidental injury medical treatment and hospitalization medical treatment and with a coverage of more than 400 Thousand RMB, for the highest single item reimbursed.

The other option is to **get it from your university admission office during registration**. Once you arrive in China, go to your university admissions office, submit the paperwork and required documents and purchase a local health insurance card.

Insurance Providers in China

The main providers of health insurance are China Taiping Insurance, China Life Insurance, China Pacific Insurance, People's Insurance Company of China and Ping An Insurance.

Ping An Insurance Company, one of the major insurance companies in China, offers one of the most comprehensive insurance and protection schemes for foreigners staying in China. It covers hospital fees for clinic emergency treatment, clinic operation, hospitalization expenses as well as other accidental injuries, etc. Check out more details about Ping An Insurance here.



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How to Get Insurance in China as a Foreign Student

Cost of Health Insurance

For international students, an insurance for half a year will cost 300 RMB, and for the whole year will cost 600 RMB.

Compared to the fees most hospitals charge per session, 600 RMB is a reasonable amount.

Important reminder: Don't throw away your medical receipts!

UNDERSTAND THE CULTURE & ETIQUETTE

Cultural Differences Between East & West

One of the biggest challenges that international students are often faced with is the large differences between Eastern and Western cultures. Understanding the local culture will help you successfully adapt to a new environment, build stronger connections with others, communicate more effectively, and see things from different perspectives. Here's a quick summary of how Asian cultures such as China's can be different to those arriving from the Western world.

Communication Style



- Indirect communication is considered to be polite and respectful.
- Meanings are conveyed subtly and indirectly through the use of nonverbal cues (e.g. facial expressions, tone of voice, and body language).
- Politeness and formality are important in social interactions, as well as "saving face", maintaining harmony and showing regard for authority.

Time Orientation



- Time is often viewed as cyclical and flexible.
- There is less emphasis on punctuality and strict schedules, and more emphasis on the present moment.

Relationships



- Collectivism is prioritized over individualism, with a focus on group harmony and interdependence.
- Groups are considered more important than the individual. Family and community ties are highly valued.
- Hierarchical structures are common in social and professional settings. It is important to have respect for elders and authority figures.

Dining & Cuisine

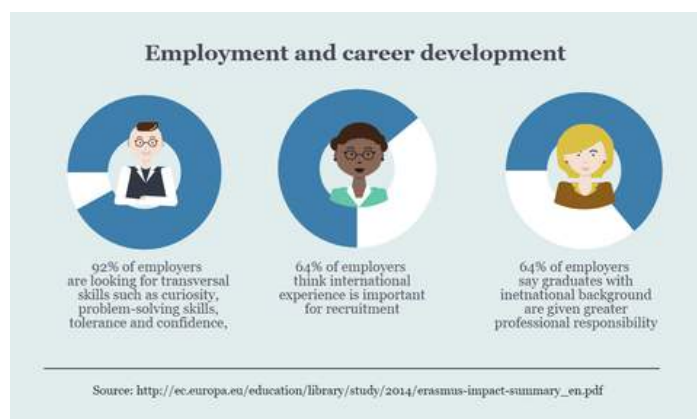


- Meals are enjoyed communally, with shared dishes laid out at the center of the table for everyone to serve themselves.
- The cuisine is focused on the balance and harmony of flavors, with a preference for fresh ingredients.
- Asian countries often eat rice as a staple food, as well as noodles, tofu, and a variety of vegetables and spices.



Cultural Immersion: The Career Advantage

By studying abroad in China, you can gain a significant asset for your future career. Many employers value candidates who have cross-cultural competency and can work effectively with people from different backgrounds. By demonstrating your time at university studying in a diverse environment in your resume, you will have an advantage over competing job candidates and increase your chances of success in a wide range of industries.



Chinese Culture Programs



Introduction to Chinese Culture Online Course

Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU)

Online Chinese

Next Start Date: Anytime
Tuition: RMB 700
Duration: 12 Classes



Online Chinese Language

Free Trial Class Available

Culture Yard Language School

Online Chinese

Next Start Date: Now
Tuition: From RMB 150 Personalized Per Class
Duration: Personalized



Chinese Language and Culture Program

Chengdu University (CDU)

Chengdu Mandarin Chinese

Next Start Date: Sep 2024
Tuition: 14,000 CNY per semester
Duration: 2 semesters



Chinese Language and Culture Program

Jilin University (JLU)

Changchun Chinese

Next Start Date: Mar 2024
Tuition: 9,000 CNY per semester
Duration: 1-2 semesters



ARTICLE

East Meets West: Cultural Differences International Students Should Know

TIPS TO HELP YOU ADAPT

- Read books or watch films that explore Chinese culture, such as "Wild Swans" by Jung Chang or "The Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan.
- Speak with locals to get a firsthand understanding of what it's like to live in China.
- Read the news (in China!), and visit websites such as [China Culture](#) or [China Daily](#) to learn more about Chinese culture and customs.



Photo: ChinaDaily.com.cn

PART 2

ARRIVAL

FIRST THINGS FIRST

CHINESE LANGUAGE BASICS



Greetings

你好 (nǐ hǎo) - Hello

再见 (zài jiàn) - Goodbye

10 Numbers

一 (yī) - One

二 (èr) - Two

十 (shí) - Ten

百 (bǎi) - Hundred

千 (qiān) - Thousand

我 wǒ I; me	的 de possessive p.	你 nǐ you	是 shì to be; is	了 le completed	不 bù no; not	们 men plural p.	这 zhè this	一 yī one; a	他 tā he; him	么 me interrogative p.
子 zǐ child	生 shēng life; raw	时 shí time	样 yàng manner	也 yě also; too	和 hé and	下 xià below; down	真 zhēn really; truly	现 xiàn present	做 zuò to do	大 dà big
觉 jué to feel	太 tài too (much)	该 gāi should	当 dāng to be; just at	经 jīng pass through	妈 mā mum	用 yòng to use	打 dǎ to hit	地 de -ly structural p.	再 zài again; then	因 yīn reason
法 fǎ law	电 diàn electric	间 jiān between; room	哪 nǎ which	西 xī West	己 jǐ oneself	候 hòu to wait; season	次 cì me; for time	信 xìn letter; to trust	欢 huān joyous	正 zhèng just (right); correct
工 gōng work	许 xǔ to permit	东 dōng East	名 míng name	同 tóng same; similar	长 cháng long; length	亲 qīn parent; relative	种 zhǒng kind	者 zhě one who (is)	嘿 hēi hey	白 bái white; pure
更 gēng more	钱 qián money	马 mǎ horse	思 sī to think; to consider	部 bù section; part	场 chǎng open area	嗯 en approval interjection	计 jì to plan	任 rèn to appoint; office	确 què solid; real	吃 chī to eat
少 shǎo few; little	切 qiē to cut; to slice	失 shī to lose	算 suàn to calculate	性 xìng nature; gender	此 cǐ this; these	必 bì must; will	备 bèi get ready	合 hé to close; together	德 dé virtue; ethics	队 duì team; group

source: www.lingofacts.com



Polite Expressions

谢谢 (xiè xiè) - Thank you

不客气 (bù kè qì) - You're welcome

对不起 (duì bù qǐ) - Sorry/Excuse me

没关系 (méi guān xi) - It's okay



Ordering Food

一碗面 (yī wǎn miàn) - One bowl of noodles

我要一个咖啡 (wǒ yào yī gè kāfēi) - I'd like one coffee

不要辣 (bù yào là) - Not spicy, please

SOS Asking for Help

请问 (qǐng wèn) - Excuse me/ May I ask...

帮帮我 (bāng bāng wǒ) - Help me, please

? Basic Questions

你叫什么名字? (Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?) - What's your name?

我不懂 (wǒ bù dǒng) - I don't understand

你会说英文吗? (Nǐ huì shuō Yīngwén ma?) - Do you speak English?



Directions

左转 (zuǒ zhuǎn) - Turn left

右转 (yòu zhuǎn) - Turn right

前面 (qián miàn) - Straight ahead

地铁站在哪里? (Dìtiě zhàn zài nǎlǐ?) - Where is the subway station?

Jump to Part 3:
Language Learning
Resources

Take some time to learn a few essential phrases in Mandarin, the most widely spoken language in China. While many people in urban areas might understand English, knowing basic phrases can go a long way in making connections and showing respect for the local culture.



REGISTRATION

Police Registration



This is required within your first 24 hours in China.

You can skip this step if you are staying on-campus or in a hotel.

All foreigners must announce their presence at the police station within 24 hours of their arrival in China, including international students.

If you're staying on-campus or at the hotel, the reception will register you in the police system when you checked in. There's no need to go to the police station after, so skip this step!

However, if you're renting a place or staying at a friend's house, then you must go to the nearest police station to register within 24 hours of your flight's arrival time.

After registering, you will get a copy of the **'Temporary Residence Registration Form' (TRRF) 住宿登记表** to take home and fill out.

No. 16 临时住宿登记表
REGISTRATION FORM OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

英文姓名 Surname	英文名 First Name	性别 Sex	男
中文姓名 Name in Chinese	国籍 Nationality	出生日期 Date of Birth	加拿大
证件类型 Type of Certificate	证件号码 Certificate No.	签证类别 Type of Visa	普通护照 居留许可
签证有效期 Valid Visa	抵达时间 Date of Arrival	离开时间 Date of Departure	20150317 20140805 20150317
住房种类 Housing Status	住址 Address		租赁 1861

University Registration

Check the information your university has provided you about on-campus registration requirements when you arrive.

At registration, you'll enroll in your courses, get your student ID, and receive important information. You should take the TRRF you obtained at the police station with you, so that your university can issue an Introduction Letter for Visa Application (which you will need to apply for your Residence Permit - see below).

Residence Permit

If you are holding an X1 visa, you must apply for a residence permit within your first 30 days in China (as the X1 visa is only valid for 30 days).

You will need the original copies of the following documents for your application:

- 1) Passport
- 2) Your university Admission Notice
- 3) Visa Application Form for Study in China (JW201 or JW202)
- 4) Introduction Letter for Visa Application (issued by your university at registration)
- 5) Physical Examination Report
- 6) Temporary Residence Registration Form (TRRF)



Keep this form safe! You will need the Temporary Residence Registration Form (TRRF) for university registration, residence permit registration, and for many other legal processes in China.

FINDING LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION

Student Dorms vs Private Housing

If you have the opportunity to live in your university's student dorms, it is a good idea to consider this first. Student dorms are subsidized by the government so the cost is typically much cheaper than private rentals. It's also a great way to meet other students, especially in your first year.

However, many university dorms have limited space and there's no guarantee you will get a room. But don't worry! There are plenty of benefits to finding your own accommodation, including having more space, privacy and options. Check out our guides to help you find a place to live.



Student dorms at United International College (UIC).
Image: [IDO, UIC](#)

A YouTube video thumbnail featuring a woman's face on the left. The background is blue with the text 'How to Choose the Perfect Dorm as an International...' at the top. Below this, the word 'CHOOSING THE RIGHT' is in white, followed by 'DORM' in large white letters. A red banner at the bottom says 'FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS'. There are icons of a house and a bed. A red play button is in the center. A 'Share' icon is in the top right. A 'Watch on YouTube' button is in the bottom left.

VIDEO

On-Campus Accommodation: How to Choose the Perfect Dorm

If you're a degree student, on-campus housing could be the best choice for your first year abroad. Here's what you should know.



VIDEO

Discover Housing in China for International Students with Wellcee Platform

A recap of the China Admissions x Wellcee online event.

[Click here to see all our upcoming events.](#)



THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER

Wellcee Platform



ARTICLE

Rent an Apartment: Wellcee's Solution for International Students

Learn how Wellcee caters to international students as the preferred housing platform.

SETTING UP THE ESSENTIALS

Open a Bank Account

You will need your passport and student ID to open a bank account.

You can open a bank account at most major banks in China, such as Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, or Agricultural Bank of China.

It's worth noting that some banks may have different requirements or processes for opening an account, so it's best to do some research and compare options before making a decision.

Some banks do have English services if they are more international or located close to an international university. We advise you to go with some friends together and/ or ask a Chinese friend to help you set up the account.

Get a Local Phone Number

You will need your passport and a Chinese bank card to purchase a SIM card.

You can purchase SIM cards at the airport, at authorized telecom shops, or online through the websites of major telecom providers such as China Mobile (<https://www.chinamobileltd.com/>), China Unicom (<https://www.chinaunicom.com.cn/>) or China Telecom (<https://www.chinatelecom.com.cn/>).

It's also worth noting that some universities have partnerships with specific telecom providers, so it's worth checking with your school to see if they have any special deals or discounts. You can sometimes see these companies advertising with a stall at the first day of university and sign up there.

PHONE DIALING CODES

- International Dialing Code: (+86)
- Mobile numbers have 11 digits in the format 1xx-XXXX-XXXX, starting with 13, 15, or 18.
- Landline numbers consist of a 2- or 3-digit area code and an 7- or 8-digit local number.



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13 Apps and Sites You Need in China

Check out these recommended apps and sites to help you make an easy transition to Chinese life.

WECHAT & OTHER APPS

WeChat: China's Super App

WeChat can be described as a multi-purpose messaging, social media, and mobile payment application. But the truth is - people in China rely on WeChat for nearly everything. It's like the swiss army knife of apps, with multiple features and mini-apps all rolled into one platform. You can chat, make calls, share pics and videos, pay for stuff... and so much more!

Some of WeChat's Features:

Chat Like a Pro: Send voice messages, cool stickers, and even doodles.

Moments: Share your pics and updates with your buddies in this mini social feed.

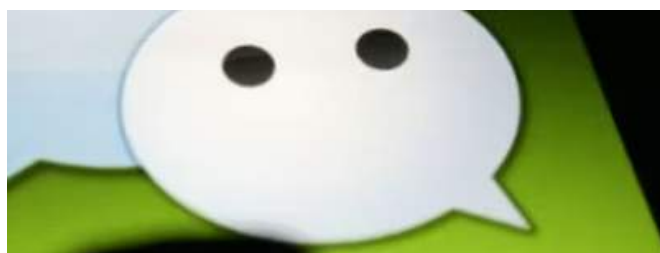
Pay with Ease: WeChat Pay lets you pay for groceries, meals, and more by just scanning the QR code.

Friend Radar: Friend Radar helps you find friends around you.

Translate Feature: Chat away with folks who speak a different language.

WeChat Wallet: Load it up to buy stuff online, book cabs, and even transfer money to friends.

Mini Programs: Like mini-apps within WeChat. Order food, buy movie tickets, and do lots more without leaving the app.



ARTICLE

WeChat Tips for Power Users

3 quick tips to help you get the most out of China's most popular communication channel.

Unavailable Apps

Due to China's strict internet censorship laws, accessing some of your favourite apps might be challenging. Apps that are not allowed include WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Instagram, Twitter and all Google services.



More Useful Apps

Alipay: Mobile payments, transfers, and train tickets in one.

Taobao: Mega online marketplace for all your shopping needs.

Didi: Get rides anywhere with China's Uber.

Pleco: Dictionary app for understanding Chinese.

Meituan: Order food or book a restaurant table.

VPN Apps: Access blocked websites with ease.

Ctrip: Book flights, hotels, and trains for your travels.



ARTICLE

How to Adapt to life in China as an International Student

Here's how to navigate the unique set of challenges in China and make the most of the experience.



ARTICLE

Susan's Insights & Tips About China & Chinese Culture

An international student shares her experiences and takeaways about adapting to the student life in China.

ARRIVAL ADVICE

- Have a small amount of local currency on hand for immediate expenses.
- Prepare a card with your accommodation address written down in Chinese to help communicate with taxi drivers and locals.
- Keep local emergency numbers and your university's contact details saved in your phone.
- Download translation apps to assist with communication and understanding signs.
- Be aware that China has a strict zero-tolerance policy towards drugs. It's essential to abide by the local laws and regulations.



VIDEO

10 Tips to Know Before You Depart for China

Richard offers some essential tips and practical information to help you smoothly transition into life in China.



Photo: United International College (UIC)

PART 3

SETTLING IN

ESSENTIALS TO KNOW

Average Costs for International Students

Please note that all costs are subject to change and may vary based on individual choices, location, and circumstances.

1 RMB = US\$0.14

as of Aug 16, 2023.

	Price in RMB	Price in USD
Application Fee and Tuition Fee:		
Application Fee (varies)	¥600 - ¥1,330	\$84 - \$186
Tuition Fee (per year)	¥20,000 - ¥60,000	\$2,800 - \$8,400
Other Essential Costs for Study:		
Medical Examination (varies)	Varies	Varies
Student Visa (X-Visa)	¥524	\$73
Student Visa (F-Visa)	¥331	\$46
Semester Books and Course Materials	¥200 - ¥330	\$28 - \$46
Internet (monthly)	¥95	\$13
Mobile Phone Plan (monthly)	¥100	\$14
Transportation:		
Public Transit (single metro journey)	¥3.32	\$0.46
Public Transit (bus trip)	¥1.99	\$0.28
Student Transit Pass (monthly)	¥99	\$13.86
Taxi (20 min ride)	¥26	3.64
1 Liter of Petrol	¥6.15	\$0.86
Accommodation:		
Student Residence Halls (per month)	¥995 - ¥2,655	\$139 - \$371
Renting a Flat (per month)	¥1,660 - ¥6,637	\$232 - \$931
Homestay (per month)	¥2,320 - ¥3,650	\$325 - \$511
Hostel (per night)	¥119	\$16.66
Security Deposit for Accommodations	¥331	\$46.34
Utility Bills (monthly)	¥350	\$49
Cost of Living:		
Beijing (per month)	¥6,337 - ¥7,605	\$887 - \$1,065
Shanghai/Shenzhen (per month)	¥5,695 - ¥7,605	\$797 - \$1,065
Other Cities (per month, including residence hall)	¥4,260 - ¥7,050	\$597 - \$987
Food Costs:		
University Canteen or Local Restaurants (per meal)	¥7 - ¥28	\$0.98 - \$3.92
Mid-Range Dining (per meal)	¥28 - ¥49	\$3.92 - \$6.86
Street food (per meal)	¥7 - ¥398	\$0.98 - \$55.72
Fast Food (KFC, McDonald's) (per meal)	¥28 - ¥35	\$3.92 - \$4.90



VIDEO

The Cost of Living in China: How Much Money Do You Need?



ARTICLE

Budgeting 101: Tips to Save Money as a Student in China



ARTICLE

Student Benefits in China

Some great deals from our partners exclusively for students.

Chinese Cuisine: Quick Facts

1. Chinese food is one of the healthiest in the world.
2. There are eight culinary cuisines in China.
3. Noodles, rice, and soup are staples.
4. Traditional Chinese food is almost completely dairy-free.
5. Food is prepared very soft or bite-sized for using chopsticks.
6. Every food has a superstitious symbol.
7. Traditional Chinese meals are shared communally.



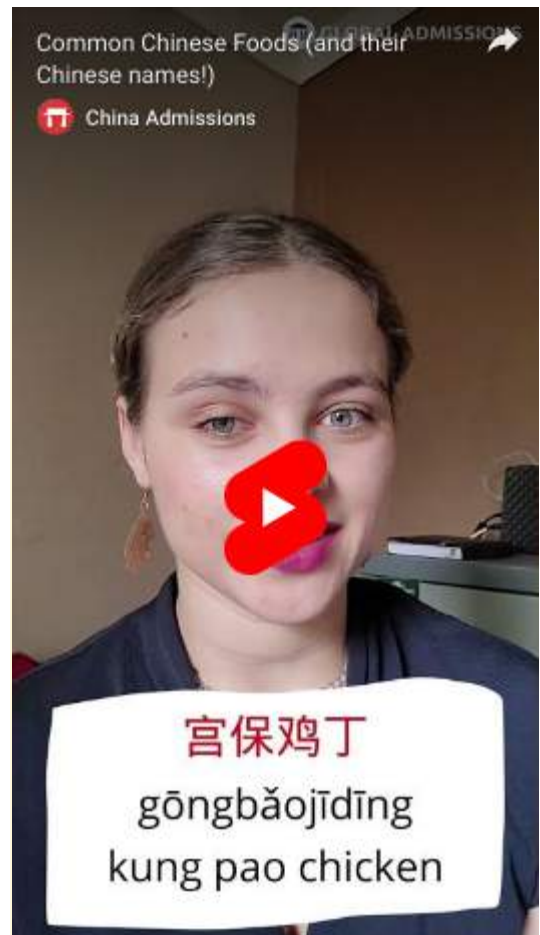
ARTICLE

12 Unique Facts About Chinese Food That Will Surprise You



ARTICLE

Snack Across China: Delicacies from the Middle Kingdom



VIDEO

Common Chinese Foods (and their Chinese names!)

6 Chinese Dishes to Try



TRANSPORTATION

China has some well-developed transport systems which are efficient in catering to the needs of its vast population.

High-Speed Trains

High-speed trains in China, often referred to as "Gao Tie" (高铁), are an essential part of the country's transportation infrastructure. China's high-speed rail network is the most extensive in the world, covering thousands of kilometers and connecting major cities and regions across the country.

Intercity Trains

Intercity trains in China offer a balance between speed and affordability when traveling between cities. While not as fast as high-speed trains, they are comfortable for medium to long distances, connecting various urban and rural areas across the country.

Buses

Buses are cheap and affordable option for short distances within cities and longer intercity routes. In major metropolitan areas, they complement the metro system by providing last-mile connectivity. Inter-city buses can be a cost-effective way to explore regions around the country.

Bicycles

Bicycles are popular as an eco-friendly and affordable mode of transportation. There are many bike-sharing programs where you can rent bicycles for short-term journeys and return them to designated docking stations. Biking is a great way to explore a city at a leisurely pace, avoid traffic congestion and enjoy scenic routes. Make sure you adhere to traffic rules and wear appropriate safety gear.



VIDEO

Using Transportation in Chinese Cities

Metro

Known for their modern infrastructure and cutting-edge technology, the metro systems are vital modes of transportation in major cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Chengdu. Stations are often strategically located near landmarks, universities, shopping districts, and business centers. Trains typically run with high frequency, especially during peak hours. Ticketing options include single-journey tickets, rechargeable cards or contactless payment systems like apps or bank cards.

Taxis and Ride-Hailing

In urban centers, traditional taxis are widely available and easily recognizable by their distinct colors and signage. Ride-hailing services, such as Didi Chuxing, have gained immense popularity and provide a convenient way to book rides through mobile apps. Both options are safe and reliable for getting around cities. Ride-hailing services provide additional features like cashless payments, real-time tracking, and driver ratings.



Public Safety

China's criminal index in 2023 is 25.76%, a significant drop from 31.28% in 2020. Although some foreigners have reported being victims of petty crimes like pickpocketing, the rate is relatively low. Violent crimes such as homicide, burglary, and robbery are quite rare.



Traffic And Road Safety

Physical road conditions in metropolitan areas such as Beijing and Shanghai are excellent. Like most developed countries, traffic congestions and delays are quite common anywhere in China. One of the greatest road hazards are from local drivers who have very limited driving experience. It is important to be careful when crossing the road, or using e-bikes because of China's different road and driving culture and fast pace.



Public Transportation Safety

Always take official, colored taxis, only accept fares that have meters, write down your destination's address in Chinese characters and ask for a receipt at the end of your trip. The most common crime on public transport, especially taxis, is scams—unregulated drivers will overcharge you or take you on ridiculously long routes to increase the fare. Be alert when taking public transport late at night or at rush hour (pickpockets). If you are in a taxi, have the map pulled up on your phone so you can be aware if the driver deviates from the route.

♀ Gender-Based Violence

In general, China is an extraordinarily safe country for women. Walking alone at night and traveling solo are far safer in China than anywhere else, even for foreign women. The high frequency of security cameras and police presence in many Chinese cities means women are safe when they travel or walk alone.



ARTICLE

How Safe is China?

With modern technology used in policing and strict law enforcement, China meets high international standards of safety.



Environmental And Weather Safety

it is common to have typhoons and monsoons between April and October especially in the south and southeast areas of China. Low-lying regions in the Yangzi and Li rivers can flood during this time. Stay safe by preparing for the local conditions. A smog mask or air purifier are must-haves in dusty cities. Umbrellas and sturdy, slip-proof rain boots will help you in rainy area. When in doubt, see how the locals are dressing and imitate them!



Food Safety

Tap water in China is not safe to drink. However, in Chinese restaurants where you get water with your meal, water is boiled and safe to drink. You can also order bottled water anywhere that is very safe.

Many foreigners worry about the quality of food in China, but people take pride in their food preparation. Food regulations at restaurants and cafes are strict so it is safe to eat in many places.

Among the street food and snack stalls, vendors usually use seasonal and fresh ingredients that are cooked right in front of you. However, some vendors (especially in less regulated areas) may have questionable food standards. Avoid eating street food until you have adjusted to the Chinese cuisines. If food appears moldy, rotted, or wilted, don't eat it.



STUDY TIPS

1. **Create a Study Schedule:** Allocate sufficient time for coursework, assignments, and exam preparation. Stick to the schedule to stay organized and on track with your studies.
2. **Engage in Active Learning:** Instead of passively reading or listening to lectures, actively engage with the material. Take notes, ask questions, participate in discussions, and seek clarification when needed.
3. **Stay Consistent:** Regularly review your notes, read course materials, and keep up with assignments to avoid falling behind.
4. **Utilize Campus Resources:** Take advantage of your university's academic resources, such as libraries, study centers, tutoring services, and academic advisors.
5. **Form Study Groups:** This can be beneficial for understanding complex topics, sharing perspectives, and reinforcing learning.
6. **Practice Time Management:** Develop good time management skills to help balance academics, social activities, and personal time.
7. **Take Care of Your Health:** Maintain a healthy lifestyle by getting enough sleep, eating nutritious meals, and exercising regularly.
8. **Seek Language Support:** Improve your Chinese proficiency using the resources we have suggested.
9. **Ask for Help:** Reach out to professors, teaching assistants, or classmates if you encounter challenges or have questions about the course material.
10. **Stay Motivated:** Set realistic goals and celebrate your achievements along the way.



VIDEO

Top Study Tips For International Students

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

"Work-Study" Jobs for International Students

As of January 2022, international students currently studying a course are allowed to hold "work-study" jobs. These come with several regulations, outlined below.

Working Hours:

During the semester, you can work no more than 8 hours per week, up to 40 hours per month. During summer and winter vacations, you can work up to 16 hours per week, 80 hours per month.

Type of Work:

On-campus jobs are typically limited to teaching assistants, scientific research assistants, administrative management assistants, and school public services.

Off-campus jobs are only for students who have been studying for at least one year. Other conditions which must be met include having satisfactory academic progress and attendance rate, and having more than six months remaining on your residence permit. Refer to the policy for other conditions.

Location and Duration of Work:

The work must be located within the same district as your university. The duration for a work contract cannot exceed the period of your residence permit validity, or the maximum period of one year.

Payment for Work:

For on-campus jobs, fixed positions are paid on a monthly basis and with the same minimum living standard as local residents. Temporary positions on campus are paid hourly, at a reasonable rate depending on the minimum hourly wage in the region where the university is located.

For off-campus jobs, the pay should meet the minimum wage for the local region and should be clearly stated in the employment agreement.

Registration of Work-Study:

You must notify your school and your local Exit and Entry Bureau according to the rules set out in the policy.

**Disclaimer: This information is based on the most recent policy of January 2022. You should double-check with your university for the latest rules.*



ARTICLE

Policy for Foreign Students Working in China

New guidelines were released on January 12, 2022 to allow foreign students to work in China.



FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS

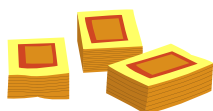
Annual Dates and Celebrations



Chinese New Year (Spring Festival): The most important festival, it marks the beginning of the lunar new year. Families gather for feasting, cultural activities, and to welcome a new year with hopes of luck and prosperity.



Lantern Festival: Occurring on the 15th day of the 1st lunar month (around February or March), it marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations with colorful lantern displays.



Qingming Festival (Tomb-Sweeping Day): Families visit the graves of ancestors to pay respects, clean the tomb sites, and remember their loved ones.



Labor Day: Celebrated on May 1st, it honors workers and their contributions to society. It's a public holiday with various events and festivities.



Dragon Boat Festival: On the 5th day of the 5th lunar month (usually June), dragon boat races are held to commemorate the legendary poet Qu Yuan. Zongzi (sticky rice dumplings) are a traditional food.



Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival): Celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month (around September or October), families gather to admire the full moon, enjoy mooncakes, and celebrate the harvest season.



National Day (Golden Week): From October 1st to 7th, it marks the founding of the People's Republic of China. It's a time for celebrations, parades, and a popular travel period.



Double Ninth Festival: On the 9th day of the 9th lunar month (usually October), this traditional holiday is dedicated to honoring and showing care for the elderly.



ARTICLE

Spring Festival: China's Biggest Holiday

Also known as Chinese New Year, this 15-day festival is the most important traditional holiday in China.



ARTICLE

5 Chinese Dragon Boat Festival Traditions

Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional Chinese holiday celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. Here's how it's done.



ARTICLE

The Story of China's May 1 Labor Day

Workers of the world, unite! May 1 in China is Labor Day, or International Worker's Day.



ARTICLE

The Romantic Story Behind China's Day of Hearts

One of China's six Valentine's days, Qixi's day of love is traditionally rooted in Chinese folklore.

Popular Locations to Visit Between Your Studies



Sanya, Hainan Island

Known as the “Hawaii of China,” Sanya is the most popular destination for travelers who want a beachy destination!



Dali, Yunnan Province

With a peaceful vibe, historic buildings, and a diverse population, Dali is a colorful place to enjoy a holiday in warm weather.



Guilin, Guangxi Province

Featured on the 20 RMB dollar bill, Guilin is famous across China for its magical mountains, rural lifestyle, and stunning natural vistas.



Xilin Gol, Inner Mongolia Province

Head into the wild to meet the Mongol minority who live here. It's worth a visit for the plethora of winter festivals, amazing scenery and unique culture.



Harbin, Heilongjiang Province

No winter trip in China is complete without a visit to the majestic, frozen, and historic city of Harbin, with its strong Russian flavour.



Changbaishan, Jilin Province

This truly stunning mountainous vista in Jilin Province has plenty of ski resorts and natural views to tempt you onto the ski slopes.

Tips to Help You Maintain Your Well-Being as a Student



Medical Insurance: Make sure you have comprehensive medical insurance that covers your health needs while you are in China. Familiarize yourself with the coverage and how to access medical services if needed.



Health Check-ups: Before departing for China, consider getting a thorough health check-up to ensure you start your journey in good health.



Adapt to the Climate: China has diverse climates, so dress appropriately and take measures to protect yourself from extreme weather conditions.



Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water, especially during hot and humid days.



Balanced Diet: Embrace the local cuisine, but also make an effort to maintain a balanced diet with fruits, vegetables, and other nutritious foods.



Exercise Regularly: Find opportunities to stay active, whether it's joining sports clubs, going for walks, or utilizing campus fitness facilities.



Get Enough Sleep: Adequate rest is crucial for academic performance and overall well-being. Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep each night.



Practice Good Hygiene: Wash your hands regularly, especially before eating, and carry hand sanitizer for when soap and water are not available.



Manage Stress: Adjusting to a new environment can be stressful. Find healthy ways to manage stress, such as meditation, hobbies, or talking to friends and family.



Seek Support: Don't hesitate to reach out to university health services or counseling centers if you need assistance or guidance.

CHINESE LANGUAGE LEARNING

5 Reasons to Learn Chinese

1. Give your CV a power boost

Chinese is the most commonly spoken language in the world. It could place you in demand by employers who do business with Chinese corporations. Being proficient in a foreign language also proves that you're a committed learner with immense intellectual capacity.

2. It's simpler than you think

Chinese has its own unique set of grammar rules, but it's relatively simple compared to English. We call it the "minimalist language" because of its strikingly simple use. For instance, there are no tenses, conjugations, no differences between nouns and pronounce and no plural forms.

3. Travel and live in other places

A fifth of the world's population speaks Chinese. You can live in Malaysia, Taiwan, and Singapore with ease. Many people in Western countries also speak Chinese.

4. Appreciate the local culture

Understanding Chinese is key to truly enjoying and immersing yourself in the culture. Once you understand all the twists and turns of the language, you can appreciate Chinese opera, poetry, novels, literature, and more.

4. Scientifically proven to make you smarter

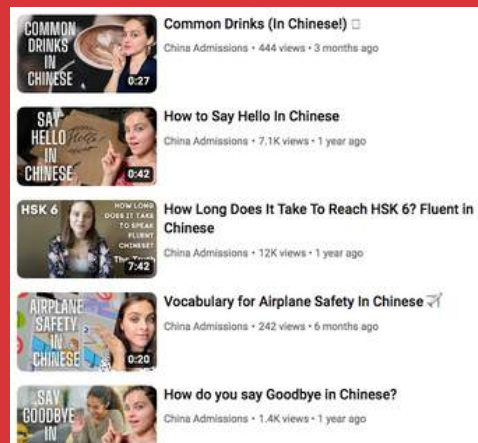
Researchers found that learning Chinese exercises your brain more than any other language. Mastering the tones and characters in Chinese utilizes many parts of the brain. Writing in Chinese also improves your motor skills and visual recognition.

LEARN ON YOUTUBE WITH @CHINAADMISSIONS



Learn Chinese Language

China Admissions



[PLAYLIST]

DID YOU KNOW?

Chinese language is a tonal language. This means that the meaning of a word can change based on the tone in which it is spoken. Mandarin Chinese, for example, has four main tones (flat, rising, falling then rising, and falling), and a fifth neutral tone. Each tone represents a different pitch contour, and changing the tone can completely alter the word's meaning.



VIDEO

Should you learn Simplified or Traditional Chinese?



ARTICLE

FREE Ways to Self-Study Chinese Online

The best online resources and tools to practice your speaking, listening, writing, and reading.

LEARN CHINESE ONLINE WITH BLCU

Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) is one of the top Chinese language universities in China. It offers a range of online programs catering to everyone

Here are three distinct features of BLCU:

- **High-quality classes:** structured classes with professional BLCU teachers with over 7 years of training
- **Affordability:** just US\$210 per student for a 12-week program
- **Flexibility:** take Chinese classes wherever it suits you - all you need is an internet connection.
- **Qualification:** at completion, you will receive an official certificate from BLCU, which is an internationally-recognized qualification..



1 on 1 Online Chinese Classes

Popular **Free Trial Class Available**

Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU)

Online Chinese

Next Start Date	Yearly Tuition	Duration
Mar 2024	Starts at \$17 USD Per Class	From 30 Classes



Online Group Chinese Classes (0 to HSK5)

Popular

Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU)

Online Chinese

Next Start Date	Yearly Tuition	Duration
Custom	1680 RMB	12 Weeks

USEFUL LINKS

CHINA ADMISSIONS

Your path to studying in China. Browse and apply to universities and programs across China and Hong Kong, plus other essential resources and services for international students.



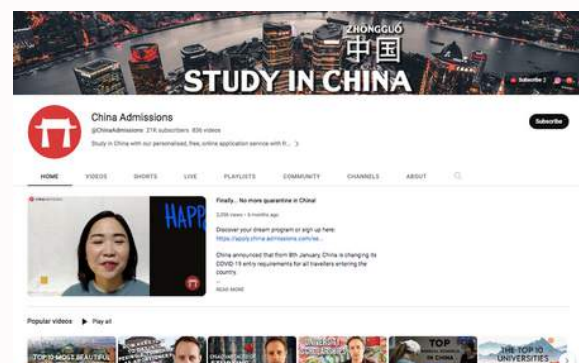
BLOG

Insightful articles and resources for international students in China, including university and program information, student interviews, Chinese language resources, news & updates, and much more.



YOUTUBE COMMUNITY

Immerse yourself in the world of studying in China through engaging videos that offer valuable insights and firsthand experiences for international students. Subscribe and join the @ChinaAdmissions community of 20k+.





SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

Help us to help students like you navigate the path to studying abroad through an exchange of stories, tips and experiences.

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Thank you for sharing your moments with us!