China
Beijing Normal University & Peking University
Summer, Fall, and Academic Year
2011-12 Program Guide
YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

EAP Online
Bookmark your Participants program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad, Program Calendar, EAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Local EAP Support

Campus EAP Office
The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientation, and academic advising, and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office
The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates EAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

Program Advisors communicate program information, both academic and operational, to students and campuses, and coordinate and provide academic and administrative support in all aspects of your participation.

Operations Specialists coordinate the logistics of the program. Document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, placement and acceptance by the host institution, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements are examples of program details the Operations Specialists coordinate.

Academic Specialists advise on academic policies; review and record courses taken abroad for UC credit; process student registrations, petitions, and grades; and document and maintain students’ academic records.

Student Finance Accountants assist primarily with EAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

Program Advisor
Michelle Hertig
Phone: (805) 893-2831; E-mail: mhertig@eap.ucop.edu

Operations Specialist
May Pothongsunun
Phone: (805) 893-6152; E-mail: mpothongsunun@eap.ucop.edu

Academic Specialist
Eva Bilandzia
Phone: (805) 893-2598; E-mail: ebilandzia@eap.ucop.edu

Student Finance Accountant
Linda Francis
Phone: (805) 893-5928; E-mail: studentfinance@eap.ucop.edu

UCEAP Systemwide Office
6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117-5823
Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583

To get this guide on your smartphone, scan the QR code above.
Study Center Abroad

EAP programs in Beijing are administered by a Resident Director and Study Center administrative staff. Together they advise students on academic matters, assist with housing, and arrange periodic group travel.

Beijing Study Center

University of California Center in China
John Thomson, Resident Director
126 Zhongguancun Beidajie
Haidian District
Beijing 100871, CHINA

Phone (calling from the U.S.): (011-86-10) 6275-2489
Phone (calling from Beijing): 6275-2489
Fax: (011-86-10) 6275-7774
Emergency cell phone: (011-86) 135-2026-5802
E-mail: beijingeap@gmail.com

Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code ............... 011
(dial this to call from the U.S.)
China country code ................. 86
Beijing city code ................. 10

Approximate Time Difference

16 hours; 15 hours during daylight saving time
Your program calendar is subject to change. The Chinese government sometimes makes last minute pronouncements forcing schools to adjust their semester dates on account of special events, natural disasters, terrorist threats, or the redistribution of public holidays.

“EAP Students Say...”
Expect some teachers to treat you differently than the other students, namely the Japanese and Korean students. Some teachers reacted differently to us because our reading and writing skills were not always at the same level as the other students’ skills.

Teacher-student relationships are key. When you don’t prepare, instructors take it personally; when you do, they go out of their way to help.

When taking a regular course at one of the host universities, try to find a teacher who writes legibly on the board and learn the Chinese vocabulary of the subject. It may not be easy to find a good class, but you will be happy if you do.

Academic Information

Academic Culture

The Chinese University Structure
Each Chinese university is considered a community that also operates as a social unit. The university administration takes an active role in employee and family life and faculty, staff, and their families work together as part of the larger extended family.

Admission to Chinese universities is a rare privilege. Access to Chinese universities is highly competitive and limited. Only about 30 percent of Chinese youth complete high school and only 18 percent of these pass the national entrance exam for admission to institutions of higher education. A smaller fraction of this number is accepted into institutions as prestigious as Peking University and Beijing Normal University.

Relationship with Faculty
Relationships between students and teachers in China are quite different from those at UC. According to Confucian traditions, teachers in China are revered and respected by all and take great responsibility for the care of their students. Generally, Chinese instructors expect students to be deferential and appreciative; never confrontational, excessively argumentative, or demanding.

Chinese teachers consider their students’ success or failure a measure of personal success or failure on their part, so students try to succeed for their teacher’s sake as well as their own. The relationship between students and professors can become close and personal, but must be carefully developed over time. Past EAP students have reported closer relationships with summer language instructors, where the class sizes are usually smaller.

If you have a difference of opinion with an instructor, express it at a time during class designated by the instructor or privately after class, but always with the utmost tact and respect for the teacher.

Address an instructor as laoshi, which means teacher: “[Last Name] laoshi.” The use of first names is particularly unacceptable in Asia.

Host University vs. UC Courses
Make a special effort to adapt to the teaching style and requirements of your classes and do not assume that they will be the same as they are at UC. Approaches vary from teacher to teacher. The most common difference is that students have fewer opportunities for classroom participation; however, this is changing as increasing numbers of the faculty have spent periods of study or research abroad. Teachers generally assume that American students will raise issues; in some cases instructors even require student participation. Be sensitive to the cultural norms of Chinese teaching and the individual attitudes of instructors.

Even if you have a high level of Chinese language ability, expect to have some difficulty understanding Chinese university instructors, some of whom have regional accents, speak rapidly, or use specialized terminology. Approaching this situation as a challenge rather than a frustration will enhance your success and enjoyment in China.
In the language courses, you may find the Chinese teaching methodology different from UC. In some courses, there is less focus on memorizing conversations and reading drills than there is on freestyle speaking and conversations. The majority of the courses are also heavily focused on learning characters.

Exercise self-discipline and initiative, and organize your time and activities to give priority to your academic work. Your academic experience will depend on the interest and diligence you put into it. Be prepared to independently invest time and thought in each class. The course materials are likely to be less structured and less clearly outlined than in UC courses. Week-by-week syllabi with specific reading assignments are rare.

Program Descriptions

The fall semester program in Beijing begins with a summer intensive language program (ILP) in Chinese at Beijing Normal University (BNU).

The year program at Peking University also begins with a summer ILP at BNU. There are several tiers of study depending on your language ability.

The Language & Culture summer program at Beijing Normal University (BNU) is held concurrently and shares classes with the ILP.

The International Summer School program at Peking University (PKU) offers course work taught in English for international students.

Graduate students in the summer Chinese language programs should focus on language acquisition and understand that individual research goals are very difficult to pursue during the summer.

Intensive Language Program (ILP)

BNU fall and Peking year students participate in the same ILP. The purpose of the ILP is to raise your language skills to a level at which you can best take advantage of the fall semester language instruction and, for full-year students, successfully undertake at least one regular university class during the spring at Peking University. Writing and conversational courses are offered at several levels of elementary, intermediate, and advanced Chinese language. You will take a language proficiency test at the beginning of the ILP administered by BNU’s College of Chinese Language and Culture. The test will assess listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and determine placement in one of three to four intermediate and advanced levels of instruction.

Language classes meet for four hours per day. Classes focus on conversation, listening, reading, and writing. Tutors provide individual or group tutoring in the afternoons or evenings. Course work is normally recorded as two EAP courses worth 6 UC quarter units each.

Required:
- Language placement exam
- Attendance at all on-site orientation sessions
- 12 UC quarter units, which may be reduced (with no reduction in course load) to no fewer than 3 UC quarter units using the variable unit option
- Letter grades are earned for all courses; the pass/no pass option is not permitted
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

There are no course catalogs; the schools in China just don’t have them. The Web pages have no class lists either, so it is rather difficult to find out which regular classes are available.

Speak—don’t be surprised if your teacher and classmates are the only people who understand your Chinese. It’s the same with Chinese people learning English. Speaking to native speakers was the most intimidating but beneficial aspect of EAP.

Academic support in China is not the same as in the States. Advising comes as a result of a good relationship with a teacher, in which case the teacher practically adopts the student.

Even if you only understand a small part of the lecture, try to attend at least one regular host university class during your second semester.

Cultural activities and excursions may supplement the classes. In addition, several non-credit elective courses may be available in such areas as calligraphy, Wushu (martial arts), and Chinese cooking. Weekend excursions scheduled by the Study Center may include a weekend trip outside Beijing and various cultural activities around Beijing.

Following the ILP, BNU fall and Peking year students have a one- to two-week break.

Registration

- You will register for your courses after arrival at your host institution and online through MyEAP.

The courses offered at the host institution vary from term to term and year to year. Online preregistration for classes in China is not possible for international (non-degree) students. There are limited published course catalogs, but university departments increasingly have listings of their courses online. There is no universal standard of accuracy or thoroughness in this regard, and it is rare to find published schedules of classes much in advance of any given term.

At the beginning of each term, lists of courses are available in the individual departments; the lists must be consulted in the department itself and cannot be duplicated or purchased unless you are registered in that department.

Detailed host university course information is not available in advance; therefore, if you want to take regular host university courses during, you will need to wait until after arrival to get approval for your UC major or other requirements. Be patient and flexible with your course choices.

Tutors

The Study Center can arrange for Chinese student tutors to provide assistance with homework. The tutor can answer questions, correct your writing, and serve as a general resource. The tutor is usually an advanced undergraduate or graduate student. You must be proactive when working with a tutor; tutors are prepared to help explain what you do not understand, but they are not responsible for re-teaching course material. Past students have found their tutors to be helpful both with academic work and as a point of contact with Chinese society.

Exams and Grading

At Beijing Normal University, if you miss one-third of the classes for a course, you will not receive credit and will thereby receive an “F” grade.

At Peking University, if you miss more than 25 percent of a language course, you will not be permitted to take the final exam and will not receive credit for the course, thereby receiving an “F” grade.

Although practice varies widely, regular university courses usually have one midterm exam and one final exam or written report. Most instructors do not give frequent short quizzes, although some do. Homework may or may not be graded, but you will be penalized if you miss assignments or submit poor or incomplete homework.
Attendance is taken in Chinese language classes, and absences may quickly result in a lower or failing grade. Attendance policies are determined by the school as well as the instructor; it is your responsibility to know the policy for each course.

Exams in the language curriculum often are made up by staff, not necessarily in close consultation with the teacher. Tests are standardized for each grade level and may not always cover material exactly as it was provided in class.

In regular university courses outside the language curriculum, the tests are made up by the instructor. The instructor may permit an international student to do a term paper in lieu of the final exam or allow a longer period for writing the exam. Inform your instructors about your status as an exchange student. In general, tests require more rote memorization than UC exams.

Exam dates are not negotiable; they cannot be changed.

Questioning an instructor about your test scores or grades in China must be done very delicately if at all. It is recommended that you first discuss your concerns and questions with the Study Center Director. The final UC grade for a course is assigned by the EAP Study Center Director. The Study Center provides each student with a form each term titled “Things You Want the Director to Know,” on which you may record information about the courses. The form is later used to notify the Study Center Director about special circumstances that may affect your performance and grade. If there is a problem, you may need to show the Study Center Director your tests, homework, textbooks, and other evidence.

Grades for fall are usually reported in mid- to late January.

Grades for the spring semester at Peking University are not reported until September.
Beijing Normal University (BNU)
The College of Chinese Language and Culture (Chinese Language College) at BNU is a teaching and research institute established especially for international students studying Chinese. It employs more than 40 professional teachers and includes a cognitive lab for teaching Chinese as a second language. For students with different levels of language skills, the Chinese Language College also offers a range of elective courses, such as business Chinese, Chinese characters, Chinese culture, ancient and modern literature, and Chinese and foreign education, theory, and methodology.

Elementary Chinese Program
This beginning standard Chinese language summer program is for students with no prior exposure to Chinese language. It is intensive and intends to provide the first year of Chinese language study; however, students progress at different rates and have tested into various levels upon return to UC ranging from second semester or third quarter to second year. In the nine-week program from mid-June to mid-August, you will spend approximately 24 hours a week in lectures, oral practice, and tests, focusing on Chinese conversation, listening, reading, and writing. You may also participate in excursions and non-credit courses in Chinese culture.

Required:
• Attendance at all on-site orientation sessions
• 15 UC quarter units
• Courses must be taken for the full approved units (the variable unit option is not available)
• Letter grades are given for all courses (the pass/no pass option is not permitted)

Language & Culture Program
In this summer program, you will study written and conversational standard Chinese (Putonghua, also called Mandarin) at several levels from low elementary to advanced. You will take a language proficiency test at the beginning of the program to determine your placement. The language classes are the same as those of the ILP, which BNU fall and Peking year students attend, and meet for four hours per day. Classes focus on conversation, listening, reading, and writing. Tutors provide individual or group tutoring in the afternoons or evenings. Course work is normally recorded as two EAP courses worth 6 UC quarter units each.

Required:
• Language placement test
• Attendance at all on-site orientation sessions
• 12 UC quarter units
• Courses must be taken for the full approved units; the variable unit option is not available. If you extend, this program then becomes your ILP and the variable unit option may be used at the time the extension is approved.
• Letter grades are given for all courses; the pass/no pass option is not permitted

Summer program students participate in the orientation, activities, excursions, and elective courses of the ILP at BNU.
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

The most remarkable part of my academic experience was getting to know my classmates, who came from all parts of the world, all to study the same language.

Fall Program

- You must enroll in a minimum of 18 UC quarter units.

Following the ILP and prior to the fall term, you will take another language test through the Chinese Language College to determine your fall curriculum. Language instruction is provided through the Chinese Language College with an emphasis on reading and speaking. Classes generally have 12 to 15 students, including students from other countries. Those who get lower scores on the language test primarily take language study, normally a minimum of three Chinese language courses each term for about four hours per day.

You may also register for one elective in the Chinese Language College. If you have adequate language skills (determined by the language test), you may register for one elective in a regular university department. Recent Chinese Language College electives taught in Chinese include Business Chinese, Chinese Social Conventions, Modern Chinese Literature, Classic Novels, Confucius’ Analects, Modern Chinese Economy, and Current Events.

If you have advanced language ability (usually three years or more), you are encouraged to enroll in BNU’s regular university classes taught in Chinese. History, biology, Chinese culture and society, and economics are popular choices.

You must score at a certain level on the language test to take regular university courses. Those with fewer than three years of university-level Chinese language instruction will probably not score high enough to take regular courses.
Peking University (‘‘Beida’’)

International Summer School Program

This program offers a limited number of courses taught in English in areas of Chinese culture, history, philosophy, music, and politics. Chinese language study is available at beginning and intermediate levels. If you choose to take Chinese language, you will take a pretest and get placed according to your scores.

Required:
- Attendance at all on-site orientation sessions
- Minimum of 10 UC quarter units; 12 units are possible with the optional Chinese language course
- Three courses: a two-week pre-course for UC students and two subject area courses during a four-week session. You may not take a third subject area course.
- Chinese language may be taken as the fourth course only

Year Program

You must enroll in a minimum of 18 UC quarter units each semester.

The following tiers of language course work are offered. Placement is based on the results of a test administered at the beginning of the semester.

Tier 1

If you have limited Chinese, you will take standard Chinese language classes through the International College for Chinese Language Studies (Hanyu Xueyuan). Classes are designed to improve spoken and written Chinese and teach Chinese culture and society. You have the option of taking only two courses, one in written Chinese (hanyu ke), and one in oral-aural Chinese (kouyu ke), for a variable number of hours per week depending on the level. You may also enroll in Hanyu Xueyuan elective courses. In consultation with the Study Center Director or assistant, and with the assistance of the Foreign Student Office, EAP students studying in the Hanyu Xueyuan second term may be allowed to take up to three courses in other departments, centers, or colleges. Exercise caution if your level of Chinese is not advanced. Placement in regular courses depends on the willingness of the department, center, or college to accept you, and on the availability of space in the desired courses.

The following courses are usually offered at various levels (through the Hanyu Xueyuan or the Chinese Department’s special courses for foreign students):

- **Spoken Chinese**: numerous levels from beginning to advanced; stresses practical and elevated fluency; classroom teaching is supplemented by experiential learning assignments

- **Written Chinese**: numerous levels from beginning to advanced; emphasis on fluency in reading contemporary materials

- **Newspaper Chinese**: selected readings on contemporary issues; intermediate and advanced levels

- **Modern Literature (1911 to 1949)**: surveys and select readings

- **Contemporary Literature (1949 to present)**: emphasis on short stories

- **Classical Chinese**: selected readings in literature from the pre-Qin period (about 200 BCE) to the 19th century, as well as the study of phonological and grammatical systems of classical and literary Chinese
• **History of Chinese Literature**: for students majoring in literature; course divided into ancient, modern, and contemporary periods

• **Selected Readings in Chinese Literature**: parallel course to the History of Chinese Literature; includes important literary works; emphasis on comprehension of texts with a brief account of authorship, as well as the historical and social background of the works

Additional courses on a variety of subjects may be available.

**Tier 2**

If you have Chinese language skills above the level offered by the International College for Chinese Language Studies (Hanyu Xueyuan) you can take courses through Peking University’s Chinese Department. Some courses are designed for foreigners and are taught in Chinese at a level more easily understood than regular university offerings.

Once your language ability is adequate (particularly by the second semester), you are encouraged to take regular university classes and conduct independent study projects.

**Tier 3**

If you have native or near-native Chinese ability or have approximately four years of university-level language study and high achievement scores on the language test, you are encouraged to take courses from the university’s regular offerings. (EAP requires only one year of Chinese because most students will be studying Chinese.) Past students have taken courses in the departments of Art, Biology, Chinese, Economics, History, Law, Literature, Philosophy, and Political Science. All courses are taught in standard Chinese. The Study Center hires local students as tutors to help with regular university courses.

By the end of each semester, the course list and information for the following term will be posted online by departments. You can register for regular courses only after you pass the language placement test at the beginning of the semester. If you pass this test, you can obtain an introduction letter from the Foreign Students Office to the department or college to which you apply. You can then get course information from the department or college to which you are accepted. In general, you can take courses in only one department or one college, plus some “public” electives open to all PKU students. Those who study in regular departments or colleges may enroll in one or two courses offered by the International College for Chinese Language Studies (Hanyu Xueyuan), space permitting.

There are a limited number of courses taught in English that you may take with the instructor’s permission.
Internships for Fall and Year Students

Internships for academic credit, called EAP Special Study Projects, require a substantial academic component in addition to the work with the sponsoring organization. See the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad for additional details on academic internships.

Volunteer, non-credit (and usually non-paid) internships may be arranged by enterprising students. If you are interested in seeking an internship, set aside time to research the Internet on possible options before leaving the U.S., and be sure to bring your résumé to distribute. Many organizations (with the possible exception of those with English-teaching positions) are looking for students with Chinese language ability who will be in Beijing more than a few months. Thus, students on the year programs may have an easier time finding internships.

EAP students have worked at such high-profile Beijing organizations as CNN, the U.S. Embassy, Disney, and Beijing Television, or with such non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as UNESCO and the United Nations World Food Program. In the past, the U.S. Commercial Service office in Beijing has sought interns to conduct market research reports, to research specific industries, and to work on other projects as needed. Some students find opportunities to teach English at various schools and professional language training centers. The EAP Study Center may be able to suggest appropriate possibilities based on previous internships held by UC students and a list of American firms operating in Beijing.
**EXTENDING EAP PARTICIPATION**

**Plan Ahead to Extend**

You can extend your participation from a summer or semester program at Beijing Normal University (BNU) to a fall option at BNU or a spring or year option at Peking University (PKU). If you are considering extending your EAP participation, submit an approved Departmental and College Pre-Approval to Extend (DPA) form prior to departure. Your Campus EAP Office and the EAP Systemwide Office can provide additional information.

**Extension Options:**
- BNU summer to BNU fall
- BNU summer to PKU year (except sophomores)
- BNU fall to PKU spring (except sophomores)

The EAP Systemwide Office and the Study Center must approve your extension request. Approval is based on a number of factors including program criteria, academic performance, the support of your UC campus department, and available space.

To initiate the extension process once abroad, make an appointment with the Study Center. The Study Center submits a Request for Final Approval (RFA) form to the EAP Systemwide Office to activate the DPA. UCEAP must receive the request by the deadline indicated on the form. If you do not submit an approved DPA before departure, then you must submit a Petition to Extend form, which requires campus and department approval, and can take up to eight weeks to process.

- Once your extension has been approved, notification will be sent to your UC campus registrar, Financial Aid Office, and Campus EAP Office. For information about the steps you need to take with regard to finances, see the Extension of Participation chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
CULTURAL AWARENESS

Educate Yourself

Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as *Lonely Planet* or *Rough Guide*, are excellent resources. You will also need to understand the local culture and history and keep up with current events. These sources should help you prepare before departure.

Recommended Reading

Online Sources and Periodicals

- **The China Daily**: The official Chinese newspaper for foreign readers.
- **China Digital Times**: A nice aggregator of China-related news produced at Berkeley. Requires a VPN from China.
- **The China Beat**: A blog from UCI. Contemporary affairs with a popular approach to history. Requires a VPN from China.
- *Caijing* magazine, English: An excellent Chinese source of investigative reporting.

Books

The following are listed in order of priority—beginning with a text all students should read, then some general readable accounts, and finally readable, accessible books on specific aspects of contemporary China.

- Hessler, Peter *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*, New York: Harper Perennial edition, 2006. The author (later a *New Yorker* writer) was a Peace Corps volunteer in the town of Fuling where his students “taught him about the complex processes of understanding that take place when one is immersed in a radically different society…”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Esherick, Joseph W.</td>
<td>Ancestral Leaves: A Family Journey through Chinese History</td>
<td>Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011. The author, currently director of the Beijing Study Center, relates the turbulent history of late imperial, republican, and contemporary China through the lives of several generations of one Chinese family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakeman, Carolyn</td>
<td>To the Storm: The Odyssey of a Revolutionary Chinese Woman</td>
<td>Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985. Autobiography of a PKU Chinese literature professor and her husband, a well known philosophy professor, spanning three decades from her student activist days at Beida in the late 1940s through the Cultural Revolution and the post-Mao period in the 1970s. Good background on PKU’s history in the Mao years.</td>
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EAP STUDENTS SAY...

As a Chinese-American, the biggest problem was that the locals didn’t understand that I am American because I don’t have blonde hair and blue eyes and I don’t speak Chinese well.

If you are not Asian, expect to be stared at. Many Chinese (of both sexes) find Westerners very interesting to look at, especially in smaller cities with fewer tourists. Don’t let it bother you. It will happen a lot. You don’t have to tell people your name or give them any information if you don’t want to.

Don’t be frustrated by the fact that everyone wants to practice their English with you. Be understanding.

Social Conduct

Drugs and Alcohol

Never feel pressured to drink. The Study Center can help you to devise polite and friendly ways to avoid drinking without avoiding the camaraderie associated with drinking.

While the use of drugs is strictly forbidden by law, Chinese laws are not as strict for consumption of alcohol. Unfortunately, there is often a danger to public safety or unruly behavior when people drink. It is best for foreigners to walk away from such scenes; it is much worse when foreigners are involved.

If you are of legal age and choose to drink, you are advised to use good judgment; do not display any intoxicated behavior in public places. If you abuse drinking, behave in a disorderly manner, or cause problems for your housing or host university, you will face disciplinary action by EAP.

Illicit drug use is strictly prohibited in China and violators face serious consequences including significant jail time.

Respect

China is a country with a high population density. To function well in this society, Chinese people show great respect for others. In practice this means that they do not speak loudly or play radios, stereos, TV, or musical instruments so loud as to disturb neighbors. A useful rule of thumb to follow is that if noise can be heard outside of the walls of your room, it is too loud.
**EAP STUDENTS SAY...**

Switching from complex characters to simplified characters took time and effort. But once I made the effort, it all fell into place and I now think the simplified characters are easier to read and write. Try to avoid looking up a character twice. When you learn something new, concentrate on it, repeat it, and practice.

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**Improve Your Language Skills**

The more standard Chinese (Putonghua) you know before departure for China, the more rewarding your time abroad will be. Before departure:

- Be sure you are completely familiar with pinyin Romanization and simplified characters.
- Look at one of the textbooks used in China, such as *Elementary Chinese Reader* or *Intermediate Hanyu Duben*, to gain greater ease with simplified characters.
- Spend 45 minutes a day or at least five sessions a week working to improve your written and spoken Chinese.
- Read aloud anything in Chinese for 20 minutes at a time. Read progressively faster, striving for correct pronunciation.
- Watch Chinese movies and listen to Chinese music.
- Find Chinese-speaking language partners and practice speaking with them.
- Keep a diary in Chinese.
- Keep a journal of Chinese phrases, expressions, whole sentences, and a collection of structures.
- Practice Chinese phrases picked up from conversation and reading.

**Advanced Students**

- Read Chinese newspapers and magazines using a dictionary.
- Read two books in Chinese, one fiction and one non-fiction.
- Read a book in Chinese in your major.
- Practice writing about your major field in Chinese, using simplified characters.

**Reference Books**

Have a good Chinese-English dictionary available on arrival. The dictionary compiled by the Beijing Language Institute is recommended; the American edition, the *Pinyin Chinese-English Dictionary*, is available in paperback (Wiley, 1982).

Past EAP students prefer the *Concise English-Chinese, Chinese-English Dictionary* by A. P. Cowie and A. Evison (The Commercial Press, 1986). It is also printed in China and readily available.

Liang Shih-Chiu’s pocket *Practical Chinese-English Dictionary*, printed in both Hong Kong and Taiwan, is another suggestion.

Students working in pre-modern Chinese should take their favorite Chinese-English reference books as they are virtually unavailable in China.
ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Travel Documents

- The name on your passport, all EAP applications, and host university application must be identical in order to secure a visa, which is required for this program. Direct any questions to the Campus EAP Office immediately.

Visa

Obtain a visa in the U.S. prior to departure. Your initial length of stay in China determines which visa will be issued. If you decide to extend participation in EAP while abroad, you will need to apply and pay for a visa extension in China before your visa expires; otherwise, you will be fined for overstaying your visa.

The F and L visas over 90 days are recommended for summer students. You can request a double- or multiple-entry F or L visa from the Chinese consulate. Fees differ for each visa type. If you only have a single-entry visa and wish to travel outside of the Chinese mainland (including trips to Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan) during the term, you will need to pay for a reentry permit each time you return. Contact your local Chinese consulate for details.

BNU fall and all academic year participants will apply for the X visa. With an X-type visa, you must apply for a residence permit within 30 days after you enter China, which costs about RMB 600 to 1,000 and takes two to three weeks to process. The residence permit allows you to travel out of China with no limitations during your year of study (with no fee for reentry). Do not request the multiple-entry X visa; it is useless to you and more expensive.

BNU students with Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan passports have “home visit permits” and do not need to apply for a visa. Contact your local Chinese consulate for more information. Peking University will not accept EAP students who are citizens of PRC, Taiwan ROC, Hong Kong, or Macau, even if you are a U.S. permanent resident and have a green card for the year program. Peking University requires all international applicants to have a visa.

U.S. Travel Registration

As soon as you know your flight plans prior to departure, register online with the U.S. Department of State. Registration is free and allows for the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to be a source of assistance and information in case of difficulty or an emergency while traveling abroad.

Photocopies

It is easier to replace lost or stolen documents when you have photocopies. Photocopy all important documents in duplicate, including passport photo pages, visa pages, vaccination certificates, travelers checks receipts, airline tickets, student ID, birth certificate, credit cards (front and back), etc., then leave a copy at home with a parent or guardian and pack a set in various pieces of luggage. Spending a few moments copying documents now will save you time if you lose important documents in China.
**Packing Tips**

You can buy practically everything you need in China. Past students recommend the Jin Wu Xing store for all moving-in needs. It is within walking distance of the Lanhui Gongyu dorm. There is a Walmart and Carrefour in Beijing that sell many American products.

The **UCEAP Insurance Plan** includes a personal property benefit, but it is your responsibility to review the coverage and ensure that it will meet your needs. Identify each item of luggage on the inside and outside with your name, home address, and destination. You can buy most of the things you need in China, but EAP students recommend taking the following items:

**Essential**

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Washable, easy-to-care-for clothing
- A formal outfit for special occasions
- Flip-flops for the shower
- Preferred toiletry products (special brand names; consider dental floss, deodorant, hair products, facial cream, and feminine hygiene products)
- Insect repellent with DEET, such as Cutters or Off, and anti-itch cream (there are a lot of mosquitoes)
- Medicine kit (ibuprofen, cold and antidiarrhea medication, cough syrup)
- Ziploc bags (you can buy more locally when you run out)
- Flashlight and duct tape
- Heavy-duty water bottle
- Anti-bacterial gel (bathrooms often do not have toilet paper or sinks; you can buy Wet Naps in most stores)
- Warm clothing that can be layered (gloves, long underwear, thick socks, scarves, gloves, sweaters, coat, etc.)

**Optional**

- Contact lens solution
- Family photos (useful as icebreakers)
- Converter for small appliances (both 120V and 220V)
- Surge protector for 220V
- Simple combination lock
- Recipes
- Metric system conversion chart
- Pocket knife (pack in checked luggage, not in carry-on)

Some students obtain name cards after they arrive in China, once they have their contact information settled. Name cards are used for networking and social purposes and can easily be printed at local copy shops around town.
**Climate and Dress**

Chinese dress is casual, although you should take a more formal outfit for special occasions.

Beijing has four distinct seasons. The weather goes from hot and humid in summer (July to mid-August) to very dry and cold during winter (November to February). In September the temperature is between 70°F and 80°F. Fall is considered the best season in Beijing, with comfortable temperatures. It gets cold in November (40°F to 50°F) and drops well below freezing in the winter, with little precipitation. During the winter, many rivers and lakes freeze. Spring is short and dry. During the warm, humid weather from May to September, mosquitoes are a problem and insect repellent is a must. In the summer, most days are humid and overcast with frequent rain.

Public buildings are not heated in the same manner as the U.S. The heat is turned on in mid-November and is turned off in mid-March, so you will need warm clothing until the heat comes on. When the heat is turned on, you may find classrooms and other buildings to be too hot and dry. The opposite is true in the summer; classrooms and dorms may not be air-conditioned. Buses and major shopping malls are air-conditioned.

Travel lightly. You frequently have to carry your own baggage, and the less you take, the easier the trip. Also, you will accumulate many new possessions while in China. In order to leave room to take these new things home, it is better to avoid using the entire baggage allowance for the outbound trip. If possible, limit baggage to one medium suitcase and one small flight bag or backpack. You will wash your clothes regularly so you can take less. Past participants advise against taking bulky winter clothing—you can buy it cheaply, although students who wear large and tall sizes might have difficulty finding their size. Students with larger feet (over size 8 for women, over size 10 for men) will not easily find shoes in China, and need to plan accordingly. The EAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad.

**Gifts**

Take a few small, lightweight, American gifts for your foreign hosts and new friends. Suggestions include Frisbees; T-shirts with city, state, or campus logos; UC pens or pencils; decals; baseball caps representing Major League teams; See’s candy; California pistachios or almonds; California postcards, posters, scenic calendars; and coins and stamps.

**Contact Lenses**

If you wear contact lenses, take the prescription and a pair of glasses with you in case the heat or the city environment makes contacts uncomfortable. If you find you can wear contacts in Beijing, they are readily available at half the U.S. price in all brands and colors. Various brands of saline solutions, daily cleaners, and enzyme removers are also available.
On-site Orientation
At the beginning of your program, you will attend an orientation that covers information related to Beijing Normal University or Peking University as well as EAP. Participation in all orientation sessions is mandatory. The following topics are covered:

- living arrangements
- academic affairs, including MyEAP course registration
- banking
- transportation
- medical care
- safety
- social activities

Official EAP Start Date
Pre-Program Travel
Do not plan to travel outside of the U.S. after finals at UC and before the program begins. Each year, the Chinese host universities send acceptance letters on different dates, sometimes only a short time before the program’s Official Start Date. You need to be in the U.S. to receive the acceptance materials and apply for a visa.

Travel to the Study Center

- The program calendar is subject to change. The Chinese government occasionally makes last minute pronouncements forcing schools to adjust their semester dates on account of special events, natural disasters, terrorist threats, or the redistribution of public holidays.

There is no EAP group flight to China. You must book your own flight and any other travel arrangements. You are strongly urged to purchase changeable airline tickets. Standby tickets are not appropriate for EAP students. Even if you are on full financial aid, you are responsible for reserving and purchasing your plane ticket to China. The Financial Aid Office will not make these reservations or payments for you. When traveling always carry your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money. Never put valuables in your checked luggage.

The start date of the program can change due to unforeseen circumstances. You are responsible for making modifications in your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. EAP is not responsible for any non-recoverable transportation charges you may incur for independent travel arrangements or changes in EAP and host university calendar dates.

In order to keep informed of program changes, update MyEAP with any changes to your contact information.

Failure to arrive on the Official Start Date is cause for dismissal from the program (Student Agreement, Section 10). More detailed arrival information and directions to the check-in point are provided in the EAP Predeparture Checklist online. If you arrive before the Official Start Date, call the Beijing Study Center to report arrival.
If you plan to arrive in China earlier than the mandatory Official Start Date, you will need to make your own hotel reservations. EAP and the Beijing Study Center cannot make arrangements for you to move into housing earlier than the established move-in date. Often the rooms are still occupied by other students, so space is not available.

Financial Aid Students
Your financial aid package is based partly on the EAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare amount is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to China. If your independent travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the EAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselors. Neither EAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

Return Travel
If you do not make round-trip arrangements, be sure to book a return flight with plenty of lead time once abroad. Study Center staff can refer you to a local travel agency for information on return travel.

You cannot leave the academic program before your exams are officially over. Remember that Christmas is not a national holiday in China. You are not permitted to ask for a change in exam dates to accommodate your holiday travel schedule or because of non-refundable plane tickets. Year students may travel only after first semester exams are officially over and must return to Beijing for spring term according to dates set by the Study Center. See the program calendar on the EAP website for departure dates.
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Buses are cheap, but crowded and slow. Get a bus map and figure out how to get around. In most cases it’s the best way to go places.

Buy a bicycle. It really makes you mobile and puts you right in there with the locals. Any time you want to buy something, visit some place, or wander around, you can just hop on your bike.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Bicycles

Riding bikes in China is not like riding around a UC campus or neighborhood. You must exercise great care because many drivers and cyclists do not observe traffic rules, streetlights, or crosswalks. In addition, safety on the road is dubious (exposed manholes, ditches under construction that are unguarded by barricades). At night, hordes of cyclists cruise dimly lit streets without lights or reflectors. Although traffic is heavy and chaotic, most EAP participants have enjoyed the mobility that a bicycle affords.

Many students purchase bicycles when they arrive in China; new bikes are available for about $25 to $80. All bikes should be locked to something solid, like a tree or a pole. Even if your bike is inexpensive, you will want to spend enough money to buy a solid and safe bike lock to prevent theft.

Parking lots for bikes abound, mainly near stores. Pay the attendant, lock your bike, and off you go. Use an additional lock on your bike. If you leave for vacation or know you will not be using your bike for a while, secure your bike in your room.

Motorcycles and Cars

Do not operate a motorized vehicle in China. Not only are the traffic patterns difficult to figure out, but the cost of insurance and potential complications from accidents should be enough to dissuade you from driving.

Accidents involving these kinds of vehicles are common, and some EAP students have been involved in them. Caution is of the utmost importance in this regard. Instead, use public transportation which will easily take you anywhere you want to go in Beijing. The new subway lines make transportation to the downtown area extremely convenient.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances
Understanding your finances before, during, and after EAP is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to EAP
- EAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while on EAP (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account
Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your home campus Financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. The fees that you owe UCEAP are posted to your account, and you can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). Fees will be applied after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP.

EAP Student Budget
Carefully review your UCEAP Student Budget.

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. The fees due to UCEAP will be posted to your MyEAP Student Account after your program predeparture withdrawal date. Program fees are subject to change. View your EAP Student Budget frequently.

Instructions
- Download and print your EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your EAP bills. Sign them up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you are on financial aid, see also the EAP Financial Information web page.
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

My biggest worry before departure was money. All I really needed to know was to bring traveler checks, a bank card, and a credit card for emergencies. It wasn’t so worrisome after all.

Travelers checks can be easily cashed near BNU and Beida at local banks. All you need is your passport.

Handling Money Abroad

- The official currency unit used in China is the yuan or renminbi (most often abbreviated RMB).

Get used to carrying more cash in China than you would in the U.S. People do not use checks, and credit cards are not as frequently accepted as they are in the U.S.

Students on financial aid who extend their participation should review the Extension of Participation chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.

There are two economies in Beijing. The prices in the expatriate economy (meals in international hotels, Western sundries, and foods) run 100 percent to 300 percent above U.S. prices. The prices in the Chinese economy (restaurants for locals, train tickets, native products, etc.) run from 10 to 100 percent of U.S. prices. You can live inexpensively if you are immersed totally in the regular Chinese economy. Most students allow themselves occasional luxuries from the expatriate economy. A Western-style or an extravagant Chinese meal at a good restaurant can cost at least $20. On the other hand, a good hearty meal in a regular Chinese-style restaurant can cost as little as a few dollars.

Initial Expenses

Take money to China in the form of travelers checks, credit cards, ATM cards, and cash. ATM cards are the most convenient way to get cash. Be aware of your account’s daily withdrawal limits and plan accordingly. Many U.S. banks offer a foreign currency service where account holders can order RMB a few weeks prior to departure.

Take $200 in U.S. currency for immediate exchange at the airport upon arrival to cover the first few days.

Fall and year students should have access to at least U.S. $1,500 to cover dormitory room charges for the fall semester and miscellaneous expenses during the first two months abroad.

Exchanging Money

There is a money exchange window at the Peking International Airport, outside the International Arrivals gate. Exchange rates at the airport and most hotels are about the same. There will be a small percentage fee charged per transaction (no matter where you change money). That fee varies by location and date. American money can be conveniently exchanged for foreign currency and is good to have for airport purchases, airport transfers, and departure taxes when returning to the U.S.

In Beijing, you can change U.S. cash at almost any bank or even some major department stores (with a passport) and can change travelers checks at the Bank of China. If you have a local bank account, keep the receipt each time you exchange money. With the receipt you can exchange RMB for foreign exchange within six months of the receipt’s issuance. Some banks only provide money exchange and travelers check services on weekdays. The Bank of China provides this service every day of the week. You must bring your passport with you.
The Study Center will provide further information about exchanging money and the best places to do so. There are banks and ATMs in close proximity to all EAP locations. The bank rate on any given day is standardized throughout China, so you will get the same rate wherever you go; only the transaction fee will vary. Changing money on the street is illegal in China. Counterfeit bills are a big problem in China and some EAP students have received bad bills changing money on the street.

**Banking**

The Bank of China, the Industrial & Commercial Bank of China, and CITIC are all reputable and have branches all over the city. With your passport, you can establish either RMB or U.S. dollar savings accounts, with the option of a local ATM card. You cannot get U.S. currency from the ATMs, only RMB. Interest rates vary. Wire transfers from the U.S. can be deposited into either type of bank account. Personal checks from U.S. accounts cannot be used to make purchases in China, and EAP does not recommend using them.

Wire transfers to your bank account in China usually can be accomplished within three working days. Provide the sender with your Chinese account number, the corresponding bank’s address in the U.S., and the Chinese bank’s Swift code. If you think you may use this option, check with your home bank before departure to see what else they may require.

- If you are on financial aid and extend your participation, anticipate that funds will not be available for a few months. Budget carefully for subsistence and travel during the break between semesters.

**ATM/Credit Cards**

Visa and MasterCard are accepted in China at major department stores. In addition, money deposited into an account in the U.S. can be accessed via Visa, MasterCard, or American Express from ATMs in China on the Plus or the Cirrus systems. There are service fees for each transaction, even for viewing account balances. Bank of America ATM cards can be used for cash withdrawal (up to RMB 2,000 per day) at Industrial and Commercial Bank of China ATMs with no fee.

Cash is issued in RMB. Exchange rates are fixed at the official rate. The maximum cash withdrawal per day is usually RMB 2,500. You can also get cash advances on your credit card, but beware that most credit card companies will charge high interest on cash advances. Check with your credit card company and bank for restrictions and possible fees associated with using your card abroad.

Be aware that Chinese ATMs sometimes run out of cash. If this happens, go into the bank and let them know.

At BNU, there is a Bank of China international ATM south of the Lanhui Gongyu dorm. There is another ATM beside the east gate of BNU (on campus). You can find HSBC ATMs about four to five blocks from the BNU campus (near Carrefour). Other international ATMs are located wherever foreigners frequent, such as the Lufthansa Center or the China World Hotel.

At PKU, there is a Bank of China international ATM beside the underground supermarket “WuMei” on campus, which is south of Shaoyuan, about a five-minute walk. Near the campus, HSBC ATMs can be found in Carrefour, south of the campus.
Communications Abroad

Phone Services
Telephone calls to China are far less expensive than calls from China. However, callers should remember that China is 15 hours ahead of Pacific daylight saving time in the U.S. Current students suggest that you make a plan to have your friends or family call you in China, since the cost is much less than to call the U.S. from China.

Making phone calls to China is still somewhat difficult, but getting easier and cheaper each year. Family and friends should learn how to say the numbers and your name in Chinese.

Callers from the U.S. can reach you at the dorm. Telephone numbers will be made available after arrival so you can inform your friends and family. The wealth of options—cell phones (relatively cheap now), calling cards, and card-activated phones in dormitory rooms—makes most calling options in China a possibility.

Cell phones are highly recommended for your convenience and safety. It will also allow the Study Center to reach you promptly in case of an emergency. You can buy a cell phone and subscribe to an inexpensive plan after orientation in Beijing.

Voiceover Internet Protocol (VoIP), the technology for transmitting voice conversations via the Internet, is popular with students who take a laptop abroad. Social networking software such as Skype and QQ (Chinese) are commonly used to make free or low-cost calls over the Internet.

Computer Access and Use
E-mail
You must regularly check your e-mail in China since it will be used as the main mode of communication between you and EAP for routine business and academic advising. Access to computers on campus is easy and relatively inexpensive.

Computers
EAP students strongly recommend that you take your laptop to China. Chinese software can be purchased easily in Beijing.

Laptops usually come with a transformer that works on either 120V or 220V without modification. If you need to buy a transformer; a good one will cost about $50.

Be aware that the Chinese government restricts access to a range of Internet sites, including common ones such as YouTube, Facebook, and Blogger, among others. The list of blocked sites changes frequently.

BNU: Each dorm room for foreign students at BNU has Internet access. If you take a laptop, you can open an Internet account with your student ID for a monthly fee of about RMB 60. There are also two computer labs on the BNU campus available for an hourly fee. The Beijing Study Center will help you set up a BNU Internet account upon arrival. It takes about a week to complete the process. Past students have said that the Internet in Xinsong apartment can be quite slow.

PKU: Every PKU international student dorm room has Internet access if you bring a computer. Wireless Internet services are available on campus. You will need a WiFi enabled laptop to access the wireless network. The Internet fee is a flat rate of RMB 90 per month.
HOUSING AND MEALS

Where Will I Live?

Be cautious when using “private” agents to help you find housing. EAP recommends that you consult with the Study Center before making a deposit or entering in any agreement to avoid scams.

You will be housed in either a university dormitory for foreign students or off-campus housing. If required by the host university, a housing application will be sent to you during the application process and placement will be announced prior to departure.

You will make the housing payments directly to the dormitory. You must make your housing payments on time and in full. Financial aid will not make housing payments on your behalf. Financial aid offices report financial aid commitments to EAP. These funds are applied to the EAP student account. If there is a credit balance, EAP will request a disbursement based on the EAP financial aid disbursement schedule.

Foreigners in China may live off campus in private housing if the housing is officially registered with the Chinese government. You are required to register with local authorities within 24 hours whenever your housing changes, even if you are sleeping on a friend’s sofa for two weeks. If you do not follow proper registration requirements, you may experience difficulties with local police or other authorities and you may be fined. EAP will not assist you in this matter.

**BNU Summer:** During the summer, you will be housed in one of the on-campus student dormitories at BNU. You are responsible for paying the total cost of the room to BNU in cash (RMB) immediately upon arrival at check-in or within five work days after the check-in. Travelers checks and credit cards are not accepted. The amount you need to pay will be given in the EAP Predeparture Checklist in the spring.

**BNU Fall:** You will live in a dormitory on campus. You may live off campus upon approval by the Study Center Director.

**PKU International Summer School:** You will be housed in one of the off-campus international students dormitories at PKU. You can arrange your own housing with approval from the Study Center Director.

**PKU Year:** On-campus dormitory space is limited. You may apply for on-campus housing or you may live off campus with approval by the Study Center Director. You will receive the on-campus housing reservation form during the summer ILP and be informed whether to get a room on campus in early August.

“EAP STUDENTS SAY...
The most important things to take with you are flexibility and a good sense of humor. If you don’t know how to laugh at your predicaments, you’ll probably be upset much of the time.”
BNU Housing Q & A

Summer Students

Q: Where do I live?
A: During the summer, you will live at BNU in a dormitory for foreign students in double rooms (two UC students to a room). The Lanhui Gongyu dorm offers a daily cleaning service, frequent sheet laundry, and all bedding and sheets are provided. Rooms have private bathrooms with a shower and toilet, TV, air-conditioning, and a small safe for storing valuables. Each room in the Lanhui Gongyu has two beds, two desks and lamps, a small refrigerator, bookshelf space, and a wardrobe closet. There is a card-activated telephone in each room that you can use to make off-campus calls within the city. With a calling card purchased in China (such as the IP card), you can also use the room phone to make international calls. Most students buy cell phones after arrival. You cannot cook in the rooms in the Lanhui Gongyu. All UC students are housed in the same dorm (often with entire floors dedicated to UC students).

Q: How are roommates assigned?
A: In the summer, UC students are assigned other UC roommates. Since there is no housing application for the summer, it is not possible to request a specific roommate. However, if UC students arrive at the same time, they can request to live together, or students may ask for specific UC roommate assignments during check-in.

Fall Students

Q: Where do I live during the summer Intensive Language Program?
A: See the previous section for information about summer housing at BNU.

Q: Where do I live during the fall program?
A: During the fall, you can choose between many different options. You can live on campus in a foreign student dorm or, with Study Center approval, off campus in a privately arranged apartment. Most EAP students prefer the newer LiYun (No. 3 international students dorm) even though they are a bit more expensive than the older dorms. These dorms are hotel-like in both quality and amenities (daily cleaning service, frequent sheet laundry, etc.).

Q: How do I prepare for housing?
A: BNU will provide detailed information about housing options and how to apply for them online when they send the admission letter and JW202 form. You will apply online for your housing; be sure to apply as soon as possible for the best chance at your first choice. If you miss the deadline, there is nothing the Study Center can do to help. Visit the BNU housing website for more details and descriptions of the housing choices. You will not know the room number until you check in. You can choose roommates when you check in.

Q: What is provided in the dorms?
A: Rooms may be double or single, and most will have a private bathroom with a shower and toilet, TV, air-conditioning, card-operated telephone, and small safe for storing valuables. Some dorms will have a suite of rooms that share a bathroom. You will also find small convenience stores, restaurants, and coffee shops in the dorms (one even has a McDonald’s). There are many different types of rooms, so carefully read your options and choose the room that best fits your needs.

“EAP STUDENTS SAY...

International students at the student dorm are a major part of the experience. Getting to know them is really important, and it’s a good way to learn Chinese because that’s often the only common language.”
Q: How are roommates assigned?
A: For the fall, you can request to live with a foreign student or a UC student. Japanese and Korean roommates have been popular with recent EAP students and can provide useful Chinese language practice.

Q: What do the BNU dorms cost?
A: During the fall, the Lanhui Gongyu dorm will continue to be available at a slightly reduced “long-term” rate from the summer cost (for double occupancy). Other dormitories are also available at BNU during the fall. Details about fall dorm costs will be provided when you get your admission letter and JW202 form. Travelers checks, personal checks, and credit cards are not accepted for payment.

You may submit a request to change rooms during the first two weeks of the term. Approval will be subject to room availability. After two weeks, you will be expected to pay the entire fall term dorm fee in cash directly to BNU. If you decide to move out later on, you will be charged for an additional two weeks.

Q: Can I live in Chinese student dormitories?
A: No. The Chinese host university does not permit this. In addition, UC students find the quality of these rooms well below what they are used to at UC. The Chinese student dorms are very noisy and crowded, often with six students to a room.

Q: Can I live off campus?
A: With Study Center Director approval, you can live off campus in a private apartment for the fall semester. Permission for foreign students to live off campus has been granted by the Chinese government, but you must also follow the Study Center’s advice, exercise caution, find reputable and safe accommodations, and register with the police. Not all apartments are properly registered with the Chinese government, and the police may evict students who live in illegal housing situations. Unfortunately, if this happens, the Study Center is not able to intervene. It is your responsibility to ensure your housing is legal and safe. More information will be available in Beijing after arrival.
PKU Housing Q & A

Summer Students
Q: Where do I live?
A: You will have your own bedroom in Zhongguanxinyuan (ZGXY), an international students dormitory at PKU. Each suite has a telephone, Internet access, air-conditioning, a closet, a small shared sitting room with a color TV and dining table, and a shared bathroom. Two sets of bedding will be provided. A housing application will be included in the EAP Predeparture Checklist.

Year Students
Q: Where do I live during the summer Intensive Language Program?
A: The summer ILP takes place at Beijing Normal University and you will live there. Please see the previous section for information about summer housing at BNU.
Q: Where do I live during the year?
A: You will live in a foreign student dorm or off campus. Housing is tight at Peking University, so there is no guarantee that you will be housed in a newer, nicer (and also more expensive) dorm. The housing options form will be provided by the Study Center for you to fill out if you want to live on campus during the summer. Since Peking University cannot accommodate all students in their first choice dormitories, flexibility is a must. In the dormitories, you may room with students from other countries, or, depending on the dorm, pay extra for a single room.

Q: What is provided in the dorm?
A: When it comes to housing at PKU, you get what you pay for. The most inexpensive rooms contain two beds, two desks, two bookshelves, closet space for each person, and Internet access, but they do not have air-conditioning. Bed linens are provided and are regularly changed. There are card-activated telephones in each room. The rooms are slightly dark and plain, with plaster walls and polished concrete floors. Rooms are heated in the winter starting in early November.

Many of the more expensive rooms are better furnished and resemble hotels, offering private rooms with Internet connections, private bathroom, and living room. The rooms are furnished with basic necessities (bed, desk, bookshelves). Unfortunately, it is very difficult to reserve a room in these dorms; space is limited and demand is high. There is a restaurant in the more expensive dorm building as well as a convenience store and laundry facilities.

Q: Can UC students live in Chinese student dormitories?
A: No. The Chinese host university does not permit this. In addition, UC students find the quality of these rooms well below what they are used to at UC. The Chinese student dorms are noisy and crowded, often with four to six students to a room.
Q: Are there any other housing options?
A: There are a few other living options at PKU. In Buildings 6 and 8 at Shaoyuan (the foreigners’ complex), there are two- and three-room suites that have private baths and living rooms. They include basic cleaning services as well as clean sheets and bedding. Bathrooms are shared with one or two other people. Year students can also apply for Zhongguanxinyuan, which is where the summer PKU students stay. These rooms are in relatively short supply, however, and availability cannot be guaranteed. See the previous questions for more detailed descriptions.

Q: Are the dorms clean?
A: Sanitary conditions in the rooms are fine, although this depends on the cleanliness of the tenants. If your room is kept clean, ants, cockroaches, and other insects may not intrude. The sanitary conditions of the bathrooms, showers, washing rooms, and kitchen areas are tolerable, but not up to U.S. standards. Students in the cheaper dorms may be surprised to see personal refrigerators lining the hallway (there is no space inside the rooms) and personal washing machines filling the wash rooms.

Q: What do I need to know about the kitchens?
A: You are responsible for cleaning the kitchen and dorm room. Communal kitchens, available only in Shaoyuan 1-4, consist of a small room with a little gas burner. Keep all your kitchen utensils and personal belongings in your room, as theft may occur from the common rooms. An electric oven and microwave are available for public use on some floors in ZGXY.

Q: What are the bathrooms like?
A: Bathrooms in the cheaper dorms are communal and located on each floor. They have both Western and squat toilet fixtures. Bathrooms are cleaned daily and sanitary conditions are bearable, but not pristine. Shower shoes (flip-flops) are highly recommended. Bathrooms in the more expensive dorms are either private (shared in the suite), or in better condition than the less expensive dorms.

Q: Do the dorms have phones?
A: Card-activated telephones are located in the dorm rooms. Cards can be bought in many places both on and around campus, and students should look for cards with better deals. You can always buy the IP cards for less than their printed value. Most students buy cell phones after arrival.

Q: Can I live off campus?
A: With Study Center approval, year students can live off campus in private apartments after the summer ILP program. Permission to live off campus has only recently been granted by the Chinese government, so you must follow the Study Center’s advice, exercise caution, find reputable and safe accommodations, and register with the police. Not all apartments are properly registered with the Chinese government, and the police may evict students who live in illegal housing. Unfortunately, if this happens, the Study Center is not able to intervene. More information will be available on-site in Beijing after arrival.
Dorm Safety
Under most circumstances, the fuwuyuan (service people, including desk clerks at dorm entrances, janitors, and other dorm personnel) do not enter the students’ rooms except to clean. Break-ins are rare, but do happen, and are often the result of people neglecting to lock their doors. Some desks have locking drawers in which to keep valuables. Individual rooms at BNU have safes to store small valuable items (passports, travelers checks, money). Remember to lock your valuables, including passports and residence permits. You are advised to take a lock or two for extra security. A hard-side suitcase with locks is another good way to protect your valuables. EAP recommends that you travel with copies of your important documents and leave the originals locked up safely. While in Beijing, never carry your passport with you unless you are going to the bank to change money or an official government office.

Laundry
Each host university has rooms with coin- or card-operated laundry machines. Since the air in the rooms is usually dry during the winter, clothes hung in the room can dry overnight (summer is humid and drying takes longer).

At BNU, Lanhui Gongyu has washing machines on the fifth and seventh floor. Students use a prepaid card that includes a deposit. When you leave the dorm at the end of the program, return the card and the dorm will return the deposit. In other BNU dorms, past students have made arrangements to have a machine available, but there are also coin- or card-operated washing machines. Cards for the washers in the new LiYun dorm have a similar cost, with deposit.

At PKU, there is a laundry room for each floor of the Shaoyuan building that has washers and dryers. In ZGXY, there is a laundry room on most floors. You must pay to use them (just like in the U.S.).
Meals

Drinking Water
Do not drink tap water. Take (or buy after arrival) a heavy duty bottle that can hold boiling water without melting. Hot water usually is available in the dorms from 6 a.m. until midnight. Boiled water for drinking is not available before 8 a.m., so be sure to fill a thermos the night before. Hot water is provided in thermoses and refilled daily.

Bottled water is available everywhere, and past students have purchased an office-type water cooler (with five-gallon bottles and a water delivery service) to share at inexpensive prices.

General Notes on Food
In addition to Chinese and international student cafeterias where students take most of their meals, there are many small eateries both on and off campus that serve Chinese meals for a reasonable price. In Beijing, Western, Japanese, Korean, and American fast food (KFC, California Noodle King, McDonald’s, and Napoli Pizza) are available.

An array of fresh produce, meat, and vegetables is available at several local markets. While produce prices are sometimes marked on the stalls, this should not deter you from bargaining; at any rate, never pay more than the stipulated price. Often, those who do not speak Chinese well or who appear to be foreign will be charged more—but you should bargain. You can find a large variety of staples, including grains and spices, at various markets.

Beijing Normal University
There are two places to eat in the Lanhui Gongyu, but do not limit yourself to these conveniently located and slightly more costly options. The dining hall cafeteria is clean and normally crowded during lunch (try to get there early for best choices). Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are available. There is also a restaurant at the Lanhui Gongyu, with sit-down meals, but it is more expensive than the cafeteria. On the second floor is a small convenience store, popular for ice cream and snacks. On campus, there are numerous student cafeterias (about five) where you need to use a prepaid meal card, which the Study Center will help you obtain. The 20 RMB card deposit can be returned when you return the card. Head out any campus gate and you’ll have a short walk to countless restaurants.

Peking University
There are several student cafeterias on campus and countless food stalls and restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding the campus. Although cooking in the rooms is prohibited, many students cook on hot plates in specially provided rooms on each floor. You must be careful to not leave anything in the cooking rooms unattended. Pots, pans, spoons, ingredients, and anything else left unattended will be stolen. Many students in the cheaper dorms keep refrigerators outside their rooms.

There are six large Chinese student cafeterias on campus. With your student ID, you can obtain a cafeteria IC card, which permits use of the student cafeterias but charges a 15 percent service fee. For those who want Western food, there are KFCs, Pizza Huts, and McDonald’s all around campus. There are also Korean, Japanese, and American restaurants within walking distance to campus. Eating is not a problem for EAP students in China.
**Extracurricular Activities**

**Get Involved**

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while on EAP is an excellent way to meet people, improve your language skills, and integrate more fully into the community. Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad.

Do not commit to too many things early in the year. While there is time to pursue some individual interests, you are expected to attend classes and participate in organized activities and excursions.

You can take advantage of a wide range of activities including ballroom dancing, calligraphy, and *taichi*. Sports have been a good entry into Chinese university life for some—especially tennis at PKU. The more familiar sports such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and badminton abound.

The range of UC student involvement in Chinese cultural activities has been very broad. Past students have studied martial arts, Chinese medicine, dance, and music through contacts that they have made—usually through the international student network.

**Gym Facilities**

**BNU**

Various athletic facilities are on the BNU campus, including basketball courts, volleyball courts, badminton courts, and the running track and field near the Lanhui Gongyu. These facilities are free for students. The tennis court and some facilities inside the gymnasium are charged by the hour. There is a pool in the Qiujiduan Gym on campus. You can purchase a monthly card or quarterly card but there are some time restrictions on use of the pool. Other gyms are available in the city at varying prices.

**PKU**

There are two big gymnasiums (Wu Si and Er Ti) and many outdoor sports facilities on campus. The tennis court is just opposite Shaoyuan Building 7. Make a reservation using your student ID each time. The newly opened underground fitness center inside the Science Building Complex is excellent. The gym card costs about RMB 90 per month with your student discount. There is a large swimming pool on campus at the southeast corner of the university. West of campus, there is a gym and a swimming pool at Haidian gymnasium (Haidian Tiyu Guan). There are also many gyms around PKU and Wudaokou. They offer a monthly membership.

**Work in China**

On a student visa, exchange students are not permitted to work in China. Working illegally is not endorsed or supported by EAP. However, many students find unpaid or academic internships, which provide interesting résumé-building experiences.
**Travel**

Individual travel is permitted on free weekends, but you are responsible for making your own arrangements. The EAP Student Budget does not include funds for personal travel. You **must** inform the Study Center of your travel plans if you plan to be gone for an overnight trip.

While there is time to pursue individual interests, you are expected to attend classes and participate in organized activities and excursions. Chinese universities are strict about attendance, and absences may bar you from taking the final examinations or from receiving final grades.

There are over 600 cities and areas in China open to visitors without special travel permits, including most major scenic and historical sites. However, the U.S. State Department advises visitors to be aware that Chinese government regulations prohibit travel in certain areas without special permission. For more information, contact the nearest Chinese embassy or consulate or, once abroad, contact the American embassy or American consulate.

The **Lonely Planet website** provides good travel tips, youth hostel information, etc. The Lonely Planet guide is almost impossible to find in China. It sells out as soon as it is stocked. Take a copy from home.

**Post-Summer Break**

Between the BNU summer and the fall term there is a break of about 10 to 14 days. You are encouraged to travel at that time. If you will be continuing to the PKU year program, the Study Center may be able to store your bags at the Study Center Office at PKU. Lanhui Apartment has helped to store students’ bags for the price of RMB3-4 per piece of luggage per day. If you will be staying at BNU for the fall, you may be able to leave your possessions in your dorm room during the vacation period and pay the normal daily room rate. More details will be provided toward the end of the summer before vacation.
HEALTH

Health Care Facilities

As medical or security emergencies can happen at any time, plan ahead; research the health care system in China. The standards of medical care in China are not equivalent to those in the United States. Medical facilities with international staff are available in Beijing and Shanghai and a few other large cities, but the level of care may be inadequate. In most rural areas, only rudimentary medical facilities are available, often with poorly trained medical personnel who have limited medical equipment and medications. Rural clinics are often reluctant to accept responsibility for treating foreigners, even in emergency situations.

Even in the VIP/foreigner wards of major hospitals, patients have frequently encountered difficulty due to cultural, language, and regulatory differences. Physicians and hospitals have sometimes refused to supply American patients with complete copies of their Chinese hospital medical records, including laboratory test results, scans, and X-rays.

Public ambulance service is not reliable. Ambulance personnel generally have little training and ambulances are poorly equipped. Response times may be long due to heavy traffic. Use private transportation or a taxi when available if you need to go to a hospital.

Both PKU and BNU have clinics that handle normal maladies and routine emergencies, and there is a hospital by the PKU campus.

If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact the Study Center immediately. The Study Center can recommend which clinic to visit, provide the necessary medical insurance claim forms to complete, and help make arrangements with your professors if you expect an extended absence.

Beijing United Family Hospital

#2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang District
Beijing 100016, China

Phone: (86) 10-5927-7000; (86) 10-5927-7120
Web: www.unitedfamilyhospitals.com/en/bj

Peking Union Medical College Hospital, International Medical Service

No. 53, Dongdan North Street, Dongcheng District
Beijing 100730, China

Phone: (86) 10-6529-5284; (86) 10-6529-5269
Web: english.pumch.cn/english/HealthInformation/tabid/160

Medical Insurance Coverage

The required UCEAP Insurance Plan covers you while on UCEAP in China. However, hospitals do not accept credit card payments and they do not process insurance claim forms. In some hospitals, you may have to pay a cash deposit before being admitted. Debit cards are not acceptable forms of payment. You must pay for medical services at the time they are rendered and then submit the proper claim forms and receipts (no need to translate). Be sure to have funds available to you to cover this contingency.

Medical insurance claim forms are available on the UCEAP website.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...

Wash your hands, watch your step, and avoid stray dogs.

Expect different hygienic and etiquette practices: lots of spitting, littering, pushing, no lines, blowing snot on the ground, etc. Patience and understanding are definite virtues here. Also expect lots of traffic, pollution, and crowds.

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**Staying Physically Healthy**

The required online UCEAP Travel Health Education Certification course is designed to provide you with predeparture health-related advice about specific precautions and recommended vaccinations. You are responsible for reading all health and UCEAP-related materials.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Travelers’ Health website](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) is a good source of information.

**Tips:**

- To avoid illness, it is important to practice healthy behavior and to avoid lowering the body’s resistance.
- Bring a good multivitamin in quantities to last the duration of the program.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially before eating.
- Do not consume tap water, fountain drinks, or ice cubes; instead drink only boiled water or beverages in sealed containers. (See Drinking Water in this section.)
- Avoid undercooked food, unpasteurized dairy products, and food from street vendors.
- To prevent serious parasitic infections, avoid swimming, wading, or rafting in bodies of fresh water, such as lakes, ponds, canals, streams, or rivers.
- Avoid handling all animals and wash any bites or scratches right away with soap and water, and immediately seek medical attention.

Even if you are healthy, you need to be prepared. China is almost the same size as the United States, but it has five times the population, and densely populated areas are prone to more frequent viral outbreaks.

You may be susceptible to diarrhea, colds, and other illnesses after arriving in China. Take a small personal medical kit containing cold remedies, cough drops, cough medicine, throat lozenges, and medication for diarrhea, nausea, and upset stomach. Have enough to get you through the first few weeks until you can find what you need in China.

**Air Quality**

Excessive air pollution is a major problem in most Chinese cities, including Beijing. According to World Bank statistics, 16 of the world’s 20 most polluted cities are in China, and before the Olympics helped clear the air, Beijing was the worst. Shanghai, Qingdao, Tianjin, Hong Kong, and Shenyang are not far behind. Some visitors to Beijing develop a “Beijing cough” and sore throat during the first few days in the city due to the air pollution. Despite efforts to reduce pollution, coal still supplies 80 percent of China’s energy needs. During the summer, high heat and humidity will also contribute to Beijing’s poor air quality. Smog in Beijing could exacerbate heart or lung diseases; additional supplies of medications may be needed to control symptoms. If you have a medical condition that may be exacerbated by polluted air, be sure to consult a physician before departure.
Smoking
China is the largest tobacco production and consumption country in the world. Even though a ban on smoking in most public buildings has come into force in Beijing, it is common to see many smokers inside and outside buildings. Smoking at mealtime is acceptable. If you have a chronic health condition that is exacerbated by cigarette smoke, consult with your physician before departure.

Drinking Water
Dehydration can be a particular problem during travel. Listen to your body and learn to recognize the signs that you are not getting enough fluids.

China’s water supplies are often inadequate and many are polluted. All water in China must be boiled or treated before drinking. Most dorms and hotels have boiled water available for drinking (for tea, or plain, after it cools). Do not consume tap water, fountain drinks, or ice cubes; rather, drink only boiled water or beverages in sealed containers. Take (or buy after arrival) a heavy duty water bottle that can hold boiling water without melting. Cholera is active throughout the country. You must observe precautions.

Infectious Diseases
UCEAP continually reviews information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization, works closely with medical experts on the UC campuses, and monitors local host university and country health resources.

Exercise care to prevent avian flu: avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, and any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces or fluids from poultry or other animals; only eat thoroughly cooked poultry products. Refer to additional information on the EAP website.

In the event of a pandemic, UCEAP’s ability to assist you abroad may be severely limited by restrictions on local and international movement imposed for public health reasons by foreign governments or the United States.
Psychological Health and Stress
Speak with returnees and gather as much information as possible before you leave for China. If you are currently seeing a specialist for a psychological health condition, meet with the specialist to make sure that you have a plan in place if you need to reach out to local resources. The Chinese Society of Psychiatry and Beijing Huilongguan Hospital provide Chinese Psychiatry online, which includes information and news about psychiatry and mental health in China.

Living abroad can be stressful. Do not be surprised to think, “It’s not what I expected.” Expect the unexpected and beware of romanticized preconceptions or unrealistic expectations. Life in China, fast-paced as it is, involves crowds, noise, and a foreign surrounding. Ask for insight from locals, acknowledge this as a valuable learning experience, and be open and accepting of the differences you encounter. You will grow to understand and appreciate China more, and it will make your stay more enjoyable as you begin to adapt to your new environment.

Culture shock and homesick feelings are normal. It is easy to become worn down from physical and mental stress due to the vastly different environment. To counter this, eat well and drink plenty of water, get plenty of rest, and share any concerns with the Study Center.

Additionally, for someone on a tight budget and with limited free time, a year in China may mean a rather constricted lifestyle. For diversion, students find that some sort of regular activity, whether with an interest group like a chorus or hiking club, or study of traditional dance or calligraphy, offers an outlet for practicing Chinese and getting a break from textbooks.

Prescription Medication
Take enough prescription medication to last the entire time you are abroad. Recognizable brands of prescription and over-the-counter medication readily available in the United States will likely be difficult—if not impossible—to find in China.

Pack prescription medications in your carry-on luggage and store them in the original, labeled containers. Upon arrival, Chinese customs officials may ask for a copy of the prescription or letter from a physician on letterhead with a detailed explanation including the purpose, generic name of the medication, and prescribed dosage. You should know the generic name or chemical makeup of your medicines.

Refer to the Health chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad for more information on taking medication and supplies abroad.
SAFETY

Crime
Beijing is a relatively safe destination with low levels of violent crime and civil unrest. There are personal safety and security issues, ranging from minor verbal harassment, pick-pocketing, and petty theft to more serious incidents.

Preventing Theft
The best deterrents against crime are awareness and common sense. Take prudent measures to protect your own well-being just as you would do on your home UC campus. Be aware of your surroundings and vigilant at all times. Pay attention to all signs—even instincts—that alert you to possible danger. Buses and trains are typically very crowded; safeguard personal belongings, particularly cell phones, and keep baggage within eyesight. Never carry an unlocked backpack on your back when walking or riding a bike.

Keep your dorm door and windows locked at all times, both when you are in your room and when you are not, and never allow strangers to enter the premises. Every incident of dorm robbery in the past occurred while dorm doors or windows were left unlocked. Do not invite strangers or questionable acquaintances to your dorm.

Do not give your personal information to strangers or go places with them alone. Caution is necessary in isolated areas, particularly at night, and traveling in groups is advisable. Some portions of the PKU campus are not well lit at night, so exercise caution. If you are traveling in an area and feel unsafe, leave the area immediately. It is also important for you to stay in close touch with the Study Center and attend all meetings organized by Study Center officials.

Chinese Law and Criminal Penalties
While in China, as in any other country, you are subject to that country’s laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the U.S. Americans are not protected by U.S. laws while in China. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than those enforced in the U.S. for similar offenses. Persons violating the law, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.

- Do not take photographs of airports, government buildings, or other strategic infrastructure in China. Ask permission when taking pictures outside typical tourist sites.
  People caught taking pictures of sensitive installations may be subject to detention and interrogation, often without representation.
- Penalties for drug possession, use, and trafficking are strict. Offenders can expect severe jail sentences and fines. In the past, some foreign nationals have been executed for drug offenses. Other foreigners convicted on drug-related charges have received 15-year sentences.

Natural Disasters
Natural disasters are common in China. The southeast coast of China is subject to strong typhoons and tropical storms, usually from July to September.
Traffic, Transportation, and Road Safety

The rate of traffic accidents in China, including fatal accidents, is among the highest in the world. The greatest road hazard remains the driver—most have little experience operating motor vehicles and are either overly cautious or aggressive, resulting in several accidents per day. Traffic is chaotic and poorly regulated, and right-of-way and other courtesies are usually ignored. Traffic laws are rarely adhered to and policing is done remotely by video camera (mainly speed traps). Yielding to oncoming traffic or pedestrians is unheard of, as is signaling one's intentions in advance. Traffic signals are absent at key locations and road closures are either poorly marked or not marked at all.

Cars, bicycles, motorbikes, trucks, and buses often treat road signs and signals as advisory rather than mandatory. Vehicles traveling in the wrong lanes frequently hit pedestrians and bicyclists.

Be careful while walking near traffic. Most traffic accident injuries involve pedestrians or cyclists who are involved in collisions or who encounter unexpected road hazards (e.g., unmarked open manholes). Exercise special caution when crossing streets in China; pedestrians do not have the right of way. Cars regularly make right turns at a red light without stopping and will not yield for pedestrians.

Women traveling on public transportation may be groped or sexually harassed verbally, particularly during periods of warm weather. Women should avoid traveling alone on buses and trains at night, especially since taxis are relatively inexpensive, easy to find on main streets, and much safer.

Using taxis is generally safe but unscrupulous drivers sometimes try to con foreigners into paying higher fares. Insist that the driver use a meter and make sure they activate the fare meter. Few drivers speak a foreign language, so have your destination written in Chinese characters. Private taxis and drivers are available. Many taxi cabs do not have functioning seatbelts for passengers. If seatbelts are available, you are strongly encouraged to use them to reduce the risk of injury.

Crime is a potential problem on buses, trains and highways in China. Keep valuables secured at all times.

Transport security is a concern in China, and using mass transit alone is inadvisable. Public transportation systems are well-developed in major cities, but infrastructure and services are limited in rural areas.

Public buses are often uncomfortably crowded and passengers typically must be able to read Chinese to read maps and fare charts. Drivers usually do not know any foreign languages. Pickpockets and thieves operate on city and long-distance buses.

Taking steps to reduce vulnerability when riding trains or buses is necessary. Try to use trains during daylight hours only, if possible. Booking the highest-class ticket available is recommended. Do not accept food or drinks from strangers; criminals occasionally drug unsuspecting victims. Never leave belongings unattended when traveling on trains.

The physical road conditions in larger cities are generally good.
**Government Scrutiny**

Be aware that there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in public or private locations. All means of communication—public phones, cell phones, faxes, e-mails, text messages, etc., are likely monitored. The Chinese government has access to the infrastructure operated by the limited number of Internet Service Providers (ISP) and wireless providers operating in China. Wireless access to the Internet in major metropolitan areas is becoming more and more common. As such, the government can more easily access official and personal computers.

The Chinese government has publicly declared that it regularly monitors private e-mail and Internet browsing through cooperation with local ISP. The government also employs several thousand individuals to police the Internet. Some bloggers are subject to particular scrutiny in China where such activity is often carefully monitored and in some cases blocked, depending upon the subject matter.

In general, be discreet about discussing politics and religion while in China. These are sensitive issues and are regulated by the government. Officials monitor information travelers bring into the country, especially political or religious material. Writing that is deemed antigovernment is not allowed, including some Christian literature and anything that supports the Tibetan freedom movement.

**Dual-National U.S. Citizens**

Dual-national U.S. citizens, particularly those with dual Chinese and United States nationality, should realize that entering China using their non-U.S. passport could mean that the Chinese government may not afford them the consular protections to which they are entitled. While the U.S. government will offer consular services to all U.S. citizens regardless of dual nationality, use of other than a U.S. passport to enter China can make it difficult for U.S. consular officers to assist dual-national U.S. citizens who have been arrested or who have other concerns with the Chinese government. China does not recognize dual citizenship. U.S. Embassy and Consulate officials are often denied access to arrested or detained U.S. citizens who do not enter China using their U.S. passport.

**Personal Emergency Plan**

Develop sound emergency exit procedures for your dorm and other public buildings. For student protection, outside doors may be locked overnight and first floor windows often have bars over them. There are building staff on duty both day and night who will unlock doors and help to evacuate people in case of an emergency. However, you must survey the situation in your own dorm area regularly and develop at least two workable emergency evacuation plans.

Many locals do not speak English, so it is important to have a good phrase book and dictionary. Also, keep a card with your local contact information written in Chinese. This will help direct non-English speaking taxi drivers to the right location. It can also be useful to have other pertinent information translated to keep with you: places you plan to visit and information for local contacts, and emergency contact information.
Emergency Contacts

What Constitutes an Emergency?
Emergencies are circumstances out of the ordinary, unplanned, or unexpected, which threaten the health, safety, and well-being of you and/or your fellow students. The following are considered true emergencies:

- Any situation that places a student or students at risk, including illness or harm, or other traumatic incidents that require immediate response
- A student who has been arrested
- Civil unrest or a natural disaster in the host country

In an Emergency
Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

If you are in the U.S.
- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact the Operations Specialist at the EAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

If you are abroad
Carry the local emergency contact information at all times:

- Ambulance ........ 120
- Fire ................. 119
- Police .............. 110
- BNU Security Guard Office: 5880-8051
- PKU Security Guard Office: 6275-1321

U.S. Embassy in Beijing
American Citizen Services
No. 55 An Jia Lou Road
Beijing 100600
Phone: (86-10) 8531-3000
Fax: (86-10) 8531-3300

Regular Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:30 a.m.–noon, 2–4 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.–noon only

After-Hour Emergencies: (86-10) 8531-4000
E-mail: AmCitBeijing@state.gov
Web: beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/contact_us.html

If you have a health or safety emergency and do not have access to local or Study Center emergency contact information, call the EAP 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762.