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STUDY IN CHINA: A HANDBOOK FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS (ENGLISH EDITION)



来华留学人员
必备手册(英文版)



北京语言文化大学出版社



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Study in China: A Handbook for Foreign Students

(English Edition)

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Preface

Anyone who has ever studied abroad would have had such an experience: a bit uncomfortable and at a loss on arriving at a new place. The feeling results partially from the ignorance of the local customs and regulations and consequently many twists and turns might be encountered. If it takes too long to get accustomed to the new environment, life and study abroad would be affected. The same is true to the overseas students coming to China. Therefore, this handbook, *Study in China*, is compiled to provide necessary information about living and studying in China so that their frustration might be reduced and their precious time and energy saved.

The book comprises five chapters, and its main content is arranged in accordance with the problems that overseas students often encounter when studying and living in China. Out of consideration for the difference between Chinese educational system and that of other countries, detailed information is given in the first three chapters on preparation before coming to China, arriving in China and studying in China. Taking the specific circumstances in China into account, different aspects of overseas students' life in China are introduced in Chapter Four, Tips on Living in China. Furthermore, in view of a large amount of tourist attractions and thousands of years' cultural relics in China, Chapter Five is devoted to Travel in China.

There is one point we have to mention here. Some decrees, rules and regulations may change a little bit along with the further development of China's reforms and the perfection of Chinese legal system. Therefore, readers of this book need to follow the current specific rules and regulations. In addition, many cases that happened in Beijing Language and Culture University are presented in this book for the authors are all working in this university and no other implications are made.

Finally, for the limitation of space, it is impossible for the compilers to

contain all the detailed information in this book. Therefore, it is a practical guidebook rather than an encyclopedia to overseas students studying in China. We sincerely hope this handbook will be of great help to them.

Compilers
January 20, 2001

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Chapter 1 Preparation before Coming to China

1. Application for Studying in China

For a foreigner, the best way to learn Chinese language and get to know its history, culture, society, politics and economy is to come and study in China. Then, how to apply for studying in this country? In the following chapter, you would get a satisfactory answer.

1.1 Universities and programs in China accepting foreign students

a. The colleges and universities in China that accept foreign students

Up to now, there are totally 422 colleges and universities that are qualified to accept foreign students to pursue their studies (the data is valid until December 2001). More detailed information could be found in the *Institutions of Higher Learning in China Accepting Foreign Students*, which is Appendix II in this book.

b. The specialties that foreign students could take in universities

The universities offer such specialties as philosophy, economics, law, mathematics, pedagogy, history, literature, natural science, engineering, medicine, and management. The short-term programs used to offer only Chinese language, now have various subjects like literature, calligraphy, economics, architecture, law, Chinese medicine, acupuncture and moxibustion, art, and physical education. And the short-term programs are available

not only during summers, but all year round. These universities have excellent teaching staff and advanced teaching facilities, the managing systems are scientific, systematic and regulative, and living facilities are sound also. Therefore, they are able to provide a comparatively favorable environment for overseas students to study and live there. We sincerely welcome you to China to study. For specific information, you may visit www.csc.edu.cn for Institutions of Higher Learning in China Accepting Foreign Students.

1.2 Programs available to foreign students and requirements of school entrance

For the convenience of teaching and management, regulations concerning programs available to foreign students and school entrance requirements have been made by the Chinese government. As long as you meet the requirements of a program, you can apply for it. The following table shows the programs available and the qualifications of foreign students accepted:

Type of Programs	Age	Qualification	Term
Under-graduate	Under 25	With an educational background comparable to Chinese senior high school education or above, and having passed Chinese college entrance exams or been tested as qualified	4 – 5 years
Master's degree	Under 40	With completed undergraduate education, recommended by two professors or associate professors, and having passed entrance exams or been tested as qualified; Graduates of Chinese colleges or universities with excellent achievement can be admitted without entrance exams if recommended	2 – 3 years

Type of Programs	Age	Qualification	Term
Doctorate	Under 40	With a master's degree and recommended by two professors or associate professors, and having passed entrance exams or been tested as qualified	3 years
Chinese language training	Under 55	With an educational background comparable to Chinese senior high school or above	1 – 2 years
Special program for general scholars	Under 35	With two years' college education or above	1 – 2 years
Special program for senior scholars	Under 45	With a master's degree or being a doctoral candidate	Within 1 year
Special program for research scholars	Under 55	Associate professors or professors	Within 1 year
Short-term refreshers	Under 60	With an educational background comparable to Chinese senior high school education or above	4 – 20 weeks

1.3 Ways of applying for studying in China

Generally speaking, foreign citizens could apply for studying in China through the following five channels. You may choose the most appropriate

way according to your specific conditions.

a. Applying for Chinese government scholarship

Applicants should submit their materials to the office of their own country in charge of the inter-governmental exchange programs. If these applications are approved by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) and the applicants are admitted by the concerning university in China, they will obtain the scholarship of the Chinese government.

b. Applying for Chinese government special scholarships

i. The Great Wall Scholarship. Applicants may hand in their applications to the branch offices of UNESCO, and be recommended by them to CSC.

ii. HSK Winner Scholarship Program. After receiving the HSK Winner Certificate, applicants could submit their applications to the Chinese Embassy in their countries or directly to CSC.

iii. Chinese Culture Research Fellowship. Applicants may hand in their applications to the Chinese Embassy in their countries or to Chinese universities or Chinese professors and get recommended by them to CSC. Applicants may apply directly to CSC. Please refer to the Name List of the Tutoring Professors of Chinese Culture Research Fellowship drawn up by CSC.

iv. Short-term Studies Scholarship Program for Foreign Teachers Teaching Chinese. Applicants could apply to the Chinese Embassy in their countries and be recommended by them to CSC.

v. Excellent Students Scholarship. Applicants may apply to the Chinese university they are studying in and be recommended to CSC by the university.

c. Financed by foreign institutions

Those applicants who are financed by a foreign institution and are willing to go through the channel of CSC may be recommended by the institut-

ions providing financial support to CSC after this financial support is secured.

d. Inter-college exchanges

For those who come to China on the exchange agreement between two universities, the university which recommends the applicants should send applications in accordance with the terms of the agreement to the university that the applicants apply for.

e. Application of self-funded students

The Division of Foreign Student's Affairs of CSC is in charge of processing applications of individual candidates who would like to study in China at their own expenses, and will contact the Chinese universities in accordance with applicants' preferences and qualifications for their admission.

1.4 The scholarship offered in China

You may wish to obtain scholarships provided by the Chinese government for foreign students when you apply to study in China. Then, what kinds of scholarships does the Chinese government provide for foreign students? How to apply for these scholarships?

The scholarships provided by the Chinese government for overseas students could be divided into two types: Chinese government scholarship and Chinese government special scholarships.

a. Chinese government scholarship

The scholarship, set up by the Chinese government on the basis of the bilateral exchange agreement or educational cooperation program between governments, could subsidize foreign students of different types to study in China. This scholarship is provided through the channel of government exchanges and individual applications are not accepted.

The scholarship of the Chinese government consists of two kinds: full scholarship and partial scholarship.

i. The full scholarship covers tuition, medical care, textbooks, lodging and allowance. The fund that covers the expenses of the first four items is appropriated to the relevant schools by the Chinese government and foreign students needn't pay those expenses. The allowance would be distributed to students by the schools monthly. Allowances are different for different types of students:

—— For undergraduates: ¥ 800/month

—— For Master's degree candidates and students of general training program: ¥ 1100/month

—— For doctoral candidates, students of advanced training program and senior visiting scholars: ¥ 1400/month

ii. The partial scholarship covers the expenses of one or several items that the full scholarship covers.

In addition, according to the specific agreements or understanding, the Chinese government would provide one-way or round-trip plane tickets to students from some countries while students from other countries have to cover their traveling expenses by themselves.

b. The specific types of scholarship provided by the Chinese government

The Ministry of Education entrusts CSC to offer the following scholarships:

i. The Great Wall Scholarship, which is offered to UNESCO every year;

ii. Excellent Foreign Students Scholarship, which is offered to foreign students excellent in both conduct and study, who have completed one level of study in China and intend to pursue higher level degree study;

iii. HSK Winner Scholarship Program, which is offered to foreign students who scored high in HSK exams;

iv. Chinese Culture Research Fellowship, which is offered to foreign

scholars and experts who are engaged in Chinese cultural studies;

v. Short-term Studies Scholarship Program for Foreign Teachers Teaching Chinese, which is offered to foreign teachers in various countries who are professionally engaged in Chinese language teaching.

Foreigners who are interested in studying in China may apply for these scholarships to the agency of their own country responsible for dispatching students abroad in accordance with the Chinese government's regulations and their own qualifications. Applications are accepted from January 1st to April 30th every year, and they should include the following materials:

- Study-in-China application forms required in the Chinese party;
- Completed Physical Examination Record for Foreigners plus blood test report;
- Certificates of the latest diploma, courses taken and transcripts;
- As an extra, recommending letters by two associate professors (or those with equivalent titles or higher) are needed for those who apply to Master's degree or doctoral degree studies;
- Proficiency reports of mathematics, chemistry and physics;
- Art works need to be presented if the applicants apply for studying music or art.

Besides, according to the regulations of the Chinese government concerning scholarship appraisal, those students with scholarship who are to study in China for more than one year have to be appraised and approved in order to enjoy next year's scholarship. The appraisal includes their study attitude, examination results, class attendance, conduct, rewards and punishments, etc. Specific qualifications and requirements concerning appraisal are drawn up by various universities. The procedure of appraisal is as follows: students on scholarship first complete the Form of Annual Appraisal of the Scholarship for Foreign Students and hand it in to the university they are studying within the allotted time. Those who get favorable appraisal will go on enjoying the next year's scholarship. The scholarship of those who get unfavorable appraisal will be suspended next year. The suspension period is

one year. Students whose scholarship has been suspended may apply for continuing their studies at their own expenses or for a tuition waiver. Such students can apply for resuming scholarship in written form when suspension expires. With the agreement of the university and the approval of CSC, these students may resume to their scholarships. Those who quit school after their scholarships are suspended cannot apply for resuming their scholarships.

1.5 Application of self-funded students

If one fails to obtain a scholarship for foreign students offered by the Chinese government, nor does he/she find any institution that sponsors him/her to study in China, he/she can apply to study at his/her own expenses. There are totally 422 universities in China accepting foreign citizens to study in China. You may choose from these 422 universities and then apply for it. The specific application procedures are as follows:

a. Applicants' qualifications

Applying for self-support study in China, one needs the financial affidavit and the written statement of one's guardian in addition to the above-mentioned qualifications for being a student on scholarship. For exchange students, the applications could be processed in line with the agreements of the universities involved in cooperation.

b. Relevant materials necessary for application

In order to apply for studying in China as a self-sponsored student, one needs to prepare the following materials:

—— The certificate of the highest education received, transcripts and student identification

You must submit two photo copies of the notarized certificate of the highest education received and transcripts in Chinese or English are

required. If the applicant is a student, he or she should also submit his or her student identification certificate.

—— Recommendation letters

If one applies to study for a Master's degree, doctorate, research scholar or a senior visiting scholar program, he/she needs to submit two recommendation letters written by two professors or associate professors.

—— Works of art

If one applies for music major, he/she needs to submit one cassette tape of the recording of one's own work.

If one applies for fine art major, he/she needs to submit six color pictures of his/her own work (including two sketches and two color paintings).

—— The Proficiency Examination Report of Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics

If one applies for an undergraduate program in science, engineering, agriculture or medicine, he/she needs to submit his/her proficiency report of mathematics, chemistry and physics. The total score has to be above 180. If one applies for an undergraduate program in economy, trade or management, one needs to submit the proficiency report of mathematics and the score has to be above 60. If one fails in these proficiency exams, one will not be accepted by the colleges and universities.

Note: CSC entrusts Chinese embassies in different countries and Chinese institutions of higher learning to administer the proficiency examinations of mathematics, chemistry and physics. The examinations are given at the last weekend in March every year. Proficiency Examination Report of Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics will be sent to students by the institutions administering the exams.

—— Report of Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)

When one applies for an undergraduate program in Chinese literature, history, philosophy, traditional Chinese medicine and traditional Chinese pharmacology, a level C (or level 6) on intermediate HSK is required. If one applies for an undergraduate program in other majors, a level C (or lev-

el 3) on elementary HSK is required.

If you apply for an undergraduate program and have never studied Chinese or your Chinese proficiency does not meet the requirement, you need to take Basic Chinese Language for 1-2 years after coming to China. You need to study Chinese for two years if you major in Chinese literature, history, philosophy, traditional Chinese medicine or traditional Chinese pharmacology; or for one year if your major is a subject other than the ones mentioned above. Because Chinese is the language mainly used in Chinese institutions of higher learning, those who apply for undergraduate study must take courses in Chinese. For those who come to study in China for a master's or doctor's degree or as senior visiting scholars, or research scholars, English may be used in some universities where possible.

c. How to apply for a long-term program (one year or more) as a self-funded student

A Chinese school year consists of two terms, which starts in September every year and ends in August of the following year including summer vacation and winter vacation. Students enrollment in Chinese institutions of higher learning takes place in two seasons, namely spring and fall. Generally speaking, the majority of the applicants are enrolled in September, the fall semester, and the minority in the middle of February, the spring semester. Foreign students who want to enter school in fall need to submit their applications from March to the end of June of the year, while those who want to enter school in spring need to submit their applications from October to the end of December of the previous year. As different universities have different regulations, the applicants may ask directly for school admission brochure and Foreign Student Application Form from relevant institutions.

After you complete Foreign Student Application Form for studying in China, according to the direction, you may either hand it in or mail it to the Chinese institutions of higher learning with the educational credential, recommendation letters, financial affidavit, the written statement of your guard-