



北京大学 深圳研究生院
Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School



Life at PKU Shenzhen Frequently Asked Questions

Table of Contents

(1) Getting Settled at PKU Shenzhen	3
(2) Living on Campus	4
(3) Housing and Dining	6
(4) Living in Shenzhen	7
(5) Getting Around	9

Getting Settled at PKU Shenzhen

What is included in orientation?

PKU Shenzhen offers a campus life orientation lasting about one week in the fall or three days in the spring. Your school will also provide an academic orientation. PKU Shenzhen staff and your school's staff will assist you with school registration and the process of applying for your residence permit. We will organize a campus tour, a Chinese language survival course for beginners (fall only), a trip to IKEA and have an excursion to the city center. We will also assist you with buying a metro/bus card and familiarize you with the metro and buses that serve campus. Your Campus Advisors (Chinese students assigned to assist you in your transition to China) will also have events to get to know China and the cohort better.

How can I open my personal bank account?

Your campus card is already linked with a Ping An Bank personal bank account. Shenzhen University Town has a partnership with Ping An Bank and there is a Ping An Bank branch on campus. You are also welcome open a personal bank account outside of campus. You will be required to present your passport to the bank when opening an account. You will find their addresses and directions in the Campus Guide given to every PKU Shenzhen student at the beginning of the year as well as on the [PKU Shenzhen website](#).

Do I need to buy medical insurance?

Yes. All students of Peking University are required to be medically insured throughout their entire period of study (for students enrolled for more than 6 months) by a local Chinese insurance company. PKU Shenzhen recommends purchasing the Comprehensive Insurance Plan of Foreign Students provided by Ping An Insurance Company (recognized and recommended by the Chinese Ministry of Education), which covers accidental injuries, hospitalization and some outpatient care. A year-long subscription costs 800 RMB, and one semester is 400 RMB. It should be noted that this insurance does not cover international English-speaking hospital wards and/or clinics. For more information on insurance visit our [insurance webpage](#). Students studying for 6 months or less may instead provide proof of sufficient medical insurance from their home country that provides coverage within China by filling out the "[Student Acknowledgement & Insurance Provider Certification Form](#)" that was mailed with your JW202. Without proof of insurance, students will be required to subscribe to the Ping An Comprehensive Insurance Plan of Foreign Students, which is 400 RMB per semester.

Should I exchange money before I get to China? Will I be able to use ATMs?

Your campus card is automatically linked with a Ping An Bank account and serves as a debit card. CNY (RMB) is the only legal currency in mainland China. You may convert most of the world currencies at any Bank of China branch in Shenzhen. T

If you have an international credit card belonging to either the Mastercard or the Visa network, you can withdraw RMB at any ATM belonging to those networks. The transaction fee will depend upon your bank. There is a Bank of China ATM and Ping An Bank ATM located on campus beside Mirror Lake. Travelers' checks in USD are accepted by many Chinese banks but the procedure to cash them is very lengthy. It can take a month to cash Travelers' check, so we do not recommend that you use this method. For more information visit our [Banking and Money](#) webpage.

Should I take traveler's checks?

Travelers' checks in USD are accepted by many Chinese banks but the procedure to cash them is very lengthy. It can take a month to cash Travelers' check, so we do not recommend that you use this method. For more information visit our [Banking and Money](#) webpage.

Living on Campus

Can I join a sports team? Can I join a Chinese student club for volunteer activities?

You are encouraged to join any of the student associations at PKU Shenzhen and to take part in all the events organized by the school. Student associations include art troupe, golf, football, English language school newspaper, and dance, just to name a few. In addition, you will be informed by email or through PKU Shenzhen website of the events organized by the school. To join or set up an association, please contact the Student Affairs Office (H Building 102B).

Are there sports facilities on campus?

Yes, sport facilities include a gym, ping-pong tables, badminton courts, pool tables, tennis courts, a track and field, a football field and basketball courts. A gym membership at the PKUSZ Fitness Center costs a minimal fee per month, semester, or year. Separately, the new University Town Sports Center also includes a swimming pool, gym, tennis courts and basketball courts. For detailed information on the sports facilities, hours and membership costs, visit our [athletics](#) page. Student associations (football, basketball, rugby, golf, rowing, etc) often organize activities open to all students.

Is there campus security? Is the campus in a safe location?

Yes, University Town and PKU Shenzhen are gated with 24 hour security and surveillance. All campus entrances and dormitory buildings have security guards on duty 24 hours. In addition, the campus card only allows residents to enter dormitory buildings. Any visitors are required to register with the security guard in the lobby.

The campus is located in the suburbs of Shenzhen. The campus is primarily surrounded by the Shenzhen zoo, a golf course and other natural areas. There are some small villages nearby campus where you should beware of petty theft. Campus is highly secure, but you should beware of theft. Always lock your dormitory doors and take care of your belongings.

Does PKUSZ have Chinese language classes?

Yes, PKU Shenzhen provides basic level course offerings for enrolled students and faculty/staff. You can also request to be paired with a language partner to work with you one-on-one.

Do international students have any student counselors? Is there an international student's office on campus? Whom should I turn to if I have questions or difficulties?

All schools have staff members in the main administrative offices trained to help with student issues. The School of Translation Law and HSBC Business School have staff members specifically to serve the needs of international students. Please feel free to turn to them for any questions or difficulties. For school wide issues or problems that cannot be resolved by your individual school, please contact the International Affairs Manager for PKU Shenzhen, Megan Mancenido (Tel: 2603-3261, megan@pkusz.edu.cn). PKU Shenzhen also provides student Campus Advisors to assist international students in some of the living difficulties, such as calling for maintenance and communicating with campus services.

We also have a university-wide counselor for students. You can find more information for those counseling services [here](#).

Are there winter and summer holidays? Can I stay in my dorm room?

All students have a winter holiday for Chinese New Year in January and February. The break lasts for about one month in between semesters. The summer holiday is from late June until late August. Full time students are welcome to stay in their dorm rooms over the winter and summer holidays after your first year, provided that your accommodation fees for the following period are taken care of in a timely manner. Exchange students will have specific check-out dates issued by Campus Services that need to be observed. You can view the 2017-2018 academic calendar [here](#).

Can I travel on my own in China during the holidays?

Yes. You are free to visit China, alone, with friends, or with your family. Some areas/regions are under strict control at some periods, you should make sure that no part of your trip covers restricted areas and obtain prior approval from the Chinese authorities.

**Can I invite my family members and friends to come to China during my holiday?
How can I help them to get the visa?**

To apply for a long-term stay visa on behalf of your family members (spouse and children younger than 18), you are required to submit the required documents to Shenzhen Municipal Public Security Department. For a short term visa for friends or non-dependents, you may write your own invitation letter that states your status in China, and your friends and other family members can use this letter to apply by themselves at a Chinese embassy or consulate. Your family cannot stay with you in the dormitories, but you can find a visit of nearby hotels for your family [here](#).

Housing and Dining

What will my dorm room be like? Should I bring my own blankets and sheets?

On campus dormitories include a private bathroom with a western style toilet and a balcony. All dorm rooms are equipped with basic furnishings: single bed(s), dresser, desk, chair and bedside table. The first floor of the dormitory has a laundry room with washing machines. For a better picture of our campus and dormitories, peek into current international [student rooms](#) and take our [3D Tour](#).

You will be asked to provide your own bedding. Basic bedding is available at the campus shops or you can bring your own bedding with you. Student orientation will also include a shopping trip to the nearby Ikea where you can buy everything you might need for your room.

I'm a married student; can I live on campus with my spouse?

Dormitories are reserved for PKU Shenzhen students only. If you and your spouse are both enrolled, we can arrange a shared room for you. If your spouse is not a student, he or she cannot live in the dorms with you. We can provide basic assistance on living off campus, but you will ultimately be responsible for arranging your own off campus housing.

Is WiFi on campus and in the dorms?

Yes, the University Town's wifi network covers the entire campus, including the classrooms, the library and the dormitories and costs 20 RMB per month for the basic

speed. Once a student has received his/her username and password, the internet will be available for use on a 24-hour basis.

The campus is also covered by the CMCC network by China mobile, which you can access by registering your China mobile cell phone number. The CMCC network costs 1 RMB per 100 minutes.

Can I take my electronics? Will I be able to use my laptop?

You can use your own electronics in China, and the majority of the plugs fit several countries standards, including Europe and the United States. The voltage is 220V; you will need an adapter if the voltage in your own country is different. Electronics such as laptops and smart phones often have a built in converter. Smaller electronics such as hair dryers and razors will require a separate converter. It is recommended to buy smaller electronics in China as it is often cheaper than buying an international converter.

How early can I get in the student dormitories?

For degree-seeking students, since you have 30 days after your entry in China to obtain a residence permit and that the procedure to apply takes about 20 days, please do not come to China ahead of time. You will be welcome in the dormitories on August 21st (PHBS and SUPD) or August 13th (STL only). The Campus Service Center is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 12:30pm and from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. For exchange students it is also not recommended to arrive to China much earlier than the arrival date given unless you are willing to go through the process of extending your visa if it expires before the end of your study.

What are the food options on Campus? Is there non-Chinese food available? Are there Muslim and Kosher food options?

There are dining halls and restaurants on campus (a meal costs between 10 and 25 RMB) four restaurants including Subway sandwich restaurant and an American-style pizza restaurant. In addition to restaurants on campus, there are typical Chinese 'villages' adjacent to the campus where you can eat local noodles and Chinese BBQ.

There is a counter on the first floor of the dining hall that offers food free of pork and pork oil. There is also a Chinese Muslim Uyghur restaurant on campus and in surrounding neighborhoods.

Living in Shenzhen

I've never heard of Shenzhen, what is the city like?

PKU Shenzhen is a diverse and globally-conscious campus in the thriving entrepreneurial city of Shenzhen. Thirty years ago, Shenzhen was a fishing village of little more than 20,000 inhabitants. Today, this Special Economic Zone is leading

China's modernization and development movement with a population of over 14 million. Located in Guangdong, the most vibrant province in China, Shenzhen is adjacent to Hong Kong and Macau, and only one hour by train from Guangzhou (Canton). Shenzhen also has growing expatriate community. You can find many international restaurants, shopping malls and grocery stores in Shenzhen. It is also a growing city of design, and home to many young entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Is it easy to buy things in Shenzhen? Are there international brand stores?

You will be able to find many international brand stores, such as Ikea, H&M, Uniqlo, Decathlon, etc. You will be able to find almost everything you need in Shenzhen, so there is no reason to over pack. For more information on what to pack for China see our [Packing list](#).

What kind of clothing should I take?

Shenzhen climate is sub-tropical, very hot and wet in summer, with frequent storms and abundant rainfall, while humidity makes winters rather cold, even if the thermometer rarely drops below 11C (51F). Spring and autumn are the best seasons with temperature varying between 29-36C (80-95F).

Can I use my cell phone in China?

You can use a Chinese SIM card in most cell phones. During orientation, you can register for a China Mobile SIM card that can use be used with prepaid phone cards (please have your admission letter and passport prepared). However, you may need to unlock your phone to be able to use it internationally. SIM cards are very cheap and most people buy prepaid phone cards, which are available at most stores. You can also buy a monthly pre-paid 3G plan for smart phones.

What is there do to in Shenzhen?

As a young city, Shenzhen lacks the cultural sites of Beijing and Shanghai, but has many hiking opportunities, city parks and beaches to explore as well as a growing expatriate community. See the [PKU Shenzhen website](#) for directions to popular tourist sites. Shenzhen is still growing at a rapid rate; new restaurants, shops and bars are constantly opening. You can find out what events are happening in Shenzhen in the expatriate magazine [That's PRD](#). The online websites [Shenzhen Party](#) and [Shenzhen Stuff](#) also list events.

Getting Around

How will we be able to get around town? Are taxis affordable? Are buses easy to use if you don't understand Chinese?

Shenzhen has a large network of buses and 8 subway lines. The closest subway station is 20 minutes away on foot from campus and a bus stop serving the city center 10 minutes away on foot. However, the growing presence of bike shares makes it extremely easy to travel short distances. Many people choose to bike from PKU to the subway station and just leave the bike shares there. For more information on how bike shares work in Shenzhen, please visit <http://thenanyan.com/life-in-shenzhen>. While it can seem overwhelming to navigate public transportation at first, the increasing use of English makes it very accessible. The subway is very modern, practical and all directions are indicated both in Chinese and English. The radios on most buses and all subways announce the stops in both Chinese and English and most major bus stops are written in English or Pinyin.

Taxis are also very convenient and relatively inexpensive, and easier to take than a bus, provided that you hand the address of your destination written in Chinese to the driver. PKU Shenzhen being close to several natural sites however, traffic is not as heavy as in downtown; consequently taxis are also scarce around the campus. You can see a map of transportation around the campus and a map of Shenzhen subway on the [PKU Website](#). Most students use Didi Chuxing (Chinese Uber equivalent with an English interface) to get around town. A Didi account must be attached to your WeChat Wallet/Alipay/Unionpay card to activate.

We provide students and faculty with all the information they need to navigate the Shenzhen transportation system during the first few weeks of their arrival, organize trips and shopping days in Shenzhen and help them with all their transportation-related issues.

Is it easy to travel to Hong Kong?

If you go to the border by car, it is about 30 minutes. There are 5 border checkpoints that are accessible by the metro, bus, or ferry. It takes about 1 hour by metro to the border and then about another hour by subway to central Hong Kong. For example, the Huangguang border checkpoint is on the same subway line as the station closest to campus, Xili Lake Station (Line 7). There is also a ferry and direct coach buses (also about one hour) to central Hong Kong. Depending on the day and time you visit the border, it can take 20 minutes to 2 hours to pass through customs. For more information on transportation to Hong Kong visit the [PKU Shenzhen](#) website. While for most nationalities a visa is not required for Hong Kong, some nationalities are required to have a Hong Kong visa. Be



sure to check with the Hong Kong consulate.

Where can I learn more about campus life at PKU Shenzhen?

Blog: <http://thenanyan.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/PKUShenzhen>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/PKUShenzhen>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/PekingUniversitySZ>

Official Website: <http://english.pkusz.edu.cn>

