



**PHBS**  
Peking University  
HSBC Business School

# Pre-Arrival Information for International Students



Arrival Time:  
August 21, 2023 (preferably before 11am)



## Table of Contents

1	Money and Banking.....	3
2	Arrival Expenses.....	4
3	Visa and Travel.....	4
4	Student Insurance.....	4
5	Living Costs.....	5
6	Accommodation.....	6
7	Academic Calendar.....	6
8	Weather.....	7
9	Packing List.....	7
10	Communication.....	7
11	Mental Health.....	8
12	Books, Movies, Information Sources Lists.....	9
13	Learning Chinese.....	10
14	Orientation.....	10
15	Getting to Know the Staff.....	11



# 1 Money and Banking

The currency used in China is Renminbi, also referred to as RMB or Chinese *yuan*. 1 RMB = 0.14 USD = 0.13 EUR (June 16, 2023). We recommend you to carry local currency with you when you arrive or exchange money at the airport or customs. The maximum amount of cash you can bring to China without declaration is 5,000 USD (or equivalent in another currency) or 20,000 RMB.

## **PingAn bank card/campus card**

On the first day at the campus, you will apply for a PingAn bank card (debit card). It also functions as your campus card. **(1) As a bank card**, it can be used to transfer money, do online purchase, etc. **(2) As a campus card**, it can be used to pay for food in canteens, pay for dormitory electricity and water, etc.

You may also choose to open another bank account at a larger bank, such as Bank of China which can provide a wider range of international transaction service. But they normally require more documents from students (including police registration form and valid residence permit, which would take weeks to get).

## **ATM**

ATMs are widely accessible to the public in China, but only the ATMs of major banks will allow withdrawal from foreign bank accounts bound with Visa or Mastercard: Bank of China, China Construction Bank, ICBC and HSBC.

**The nearest Bank of China ATM locates next to the McDonald's at PKU dormitory area.** We recommend you to contact your bank before you come to China to make sure that you won't have any problems when you attempt to withdraw money from an ATM in China.

## **Bank transfers**

Wire money transfers may take up to one month (and at least one week) to be processed. Make sure that you have enough money when you are waiting for your money transfer. When making a transfer, pay attention to all the information of both sender and receiver's banking accounts. The transfer will be denied if the information you provided is incorrect.

## **Mobile payment (Alipay and WeChat pay)**

Mobile payment is everywhere in China. Most of the small transactions in mainland China are made electronically through an e-wallet linked to phone applications such as **WeChat and Alipay**, including charging for dormitory electricity and water fee. Foreigners can download and install WeChat or Alipay APPs and follow the instructions to input foreign or Chinese mobile phone numbers for account registration. When binding an international bank card to Alipay or WeChat, it is necessary to obtain authorization from the foreign issuing bank. (More information can be found from <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/4kX32MQ2WUA-Fv2f6LBsg>)

## **Western Union/Wise**

Online services like Western Union or Wise can provide fast money transfer service. Students who have difficulty transferring money or accepting their foreign wire transfer from a Chinese bank can use this service.

Wise: <https://wise.com/home>

Western Union: <https://www.westernunion.com/us/en/home.html>



## 2 Arrival Expenses

You may need to pay the following expenses after you arrive in China:

- Taxi ride from airport to campus around 100 RMB.
- SIM Card from China Mobile or China Unicom, first-time payment around 100 RMB.
- WIFI package from China Mobile or China Unicom, around 300 RMB per year.
- Campus card: Suggest loading with at least 100 RMB at first.
- Hot water and electricity: Top up via e-campus card system on WeChat
- Dormitory furnishings: expenses vary (bed sheets, trash bins, pillows, etc.)
- Living expenses: about 2,000-3,000 RMB/month, depending on your lifestyle
- Dormitory Fee: 1320 RMB/month

## 3 Visa and Travel

**Full-time students** will enter mainland China with X1 visa, and need to apply for Residence Permit within 30 days of entry, for guidelines and materials, please contact the International Office. Residence permit allows unlimited entries within the time period.

**Exchange students** normally enter mainland China with X2 visa, which is **single entry visa**. Currently, students with X2 visas cannot apply for the Residence Permit. **However, most exchange students make travel plans and apply for an additional entry after they arrived in Shenzhen.** By doing so, you will be able to leave mainland China during your study time.

## 4 Student Insurance

As international students in China, you are required by law to enroll a local insurance plan. The Ministry of Education requires students enroll in the Ping An Insurance plan, which covers accidental injuries, hospitalization (if you need to stay in a hospital for at least one night), and death. The cost is 400 RMB/semester, 800RMB/year. **Students must purchase before they enter mainland China.** For more information, please check the website <https://www.lxbx.net/>

### FAQ

1. Q: What should I do if I had an accident and need to go to the hospital?

A: **Before going, please call the insurance company** to inform them about the accident so that it'd be easier to apply for insurance claims later. (number:400-810-5119). Be sure to take your passport with you when go to the hospital and remember to keep the medical record and receipt with you.

2. Q: How to apply for claim?



A: ① You need to download the Insurance Claim form from the website, fill them in and send to International Office, IO will apply for school stamp and get this form stamped. ② After you receive all your treatment and have all the necessary materials (Claim form, copy of passport info page and visa, receipt, medical record, etc.) with you, you should send the electronic version of your documents to [lp@lxbx.net](mailto:lp@lxbx.net) for review at first. ③ If your materials are approved, then send them to the following address:

收件人：来华项目组

电话：400 810 5119

地址：北京市西城区金融街 23 号平安大厦 9 层

You will get your reimburse within a week, but it may take up to a month if your medical expenditure is high. (**Notice:** the insurance plan cannot fully cover your treatment fee, you can follow the official Wechat account named 来华留学生保险 to find more information regarding the insurance coverage. You can also find details related to insurance claim by browsing this webpage: <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/UR30ePyx-5wZLR7jhbMCnw> ).

3. Q: Can I apply for advanced payment if I need to receive inpatient treatment?

A: Yes, you should send a application form, picture of your passport information page, and other related materials to [rycy@lhgj.net](mailto:rycy@lhgj.net). You should consult the insurance company 1-2 days before you are discharged by the hospital by calling 4008105119. The company will inform you details about discharge procedures. For more information about inpatient treatment and advanced payment, please check [https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/6F9vDxDF\\_suNUDJuPVpoTQ](https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/6F9vDxDF_suNUDJuPVpoTQ)

## 5 Living Costs

In general, the living expense in China is much lower and more affordable than those in North America or Western Europe. However, some students can also find it comparatively high living cost in Shenzhen. Besides Shanghai and Beijing, Shenzhen is the third most expensive city in China. Students should be aware of the consumption level and allot your money appropriately when studying at PKU Shenzhen.

***Below is a brief list of up-to-date Shenzhen prices:***

Meal on campus: 10-25 RMB

Meal (per person) in an average Chinese restaurant: 20-50 RMB

Fancier Chinese restaurant: 100-250 RMB

Western meal: 60-250 RMB

Fast-food: 20-30 RMB

Chinese beer: 5 RMB (supermarket)

Beer/drink in an expat bar: 35-60 RMB

Taxi (20 Minutes): 30 RMB - 10 RMB for the first 2km, then 2 RMB per extra 2.4 km.

Subway ticket: 2-8 RMB

Public bus ticket: 2-5 RMB



## 6 Accommodation

All international students will live in PKUSZ Dormitory **Building 6A**, which is newly built and put into use in July 2022. We recommend students to live on campus, but it is not required. The dorm rooms are around 18 square meters, with a private bathroom and a balcony. All rooms are equipped with: air conditioner, bed (1.2\*2 meters), thin mattress, chair, desk, wardrobe, bedside table, curtain. There is no kitchen or cooking area in the building. Washing machines, dryers, gym, ktv, multi-media room, piano and so on are available at B1 of building 6A.

(**Notice:** Basic beddings are available but very limited at the campus shop, we encourage you to buy beddings, mattresses, and other dorm essentials online (Taobao App) or from IKEA. International Office & Student Ambassadors will be happy to assist you with online shopping if needed. We will also arrange off-campus shopping to IKEA during the orientation.)

Accommodation Type	Single Room
Per Month	1320 RMB
Per Semester (6 months)	7920 RMB

Accommodation fee must be paid upon your arrival at the Campus Service Center. The rent is 1320 RMB/month, and students normally pay for 6-month-rent per time (Water and electricity are not included and need to be paid separately through e-campus card system on WeChat, the office and SA will advise you during the orientation week). Depending on your daily usage, the electricity fee is typically 100-200 RMB/month (for peak A/C season); it is around 50 RMB when the weather is cool; the cost may vary depending on seasons, as well as your own usage. For water, the fee is around 50 RMB/month for cold water and 10RMB.month for hot water.

Students may live off campus. The school doesn't provide accommodation outside the campus and you will be responsible for negotiating your own off-campus housing. Please do your police registration as soon as you moved to a new place. For guidelines, please contact the international office.

## 7 Academic Calendar

The Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School Academic Calendar can be found [on PKUSZ Website\(https://english.pkusz.edu.cn/\)](https://english.pkusz.edu.cn/). Please note that PHBS have our own academic calendar, but the public holiday schedule is the same.

PHBS course syllabus can be found from <https://english.phbs.pku.edu.cn/academics/coursesandexams/>

Courseplan varies from each year, it depends on the arrangements of school and the schedule of the professors.

Confirmed courseplan will be sent one or two weeks prior to course selection period.



## 8 Weather

Shenzhen has a warm subtropical climate. The weather in Shenzhen is mild and dry in winter, with average temperatures of 11-16C (51-60F). The rainy season in Shenzhen lasts from April to October and reaches its peak in the summer. It is very hot and humid in summer, with temperatures 29-36C (80-95F).

## 9 Packing List

You will be able to find almost everything you need in China. Clothes, toiletries, shoes, and cell phones are relatively inexpensive.

### *Some recommendations on what to bring to China:*

- *Lightweight clothes.* Inexpensive clothes can be found, but most international clothing brands are comparatively expensive in China. Besides, it is hard to find clothes in larger sizes. There are also many affordable tailors.
- *Cosmetics and personal hygiene products.* Foreign brand cosmetics are typically more expensive. Take a few samples of your favorite brands because you may have some difficulties in getting access to the same products in China. *Mementos and photos* from home
- *Small gifts.* Sending gifts is an important part of Chinese culture. Chinese friends will be thankful if you brought some souvenirs from your countries.
- *Bug Spray, sunscreen, antiperspirant.*
- *Prescription or name-brand medications.* You may not be able to find the same brand of medication in China. It is helpful to bring basic medicines, such as ibuprofen, cold medicine, anti-diarrhea medicine, etc.
- *Books* in your native language or an electronic book reader

You should always keep your passport with you. According to Chinese law, foreigners should have their passport on the person in any case (photocopy does not count).

## 10 Communication

**DO PREPARE FOR INTERNATIONAL DATA PACKAGE FOR SMOOTH TRANSFER TO CAMPUS AND TO KEEP CONTACT WITH THE OFFICE.**

### **SIM Card**

The two major Chinese mobile network providers, China Unicom and China Mobile have multiple stores in Shenzhen. Students will register with China Mobile or China Unicom for a SIM card upon their arrival on campus (please have your admission letter and passport prepared to get student discount plan). If students for some reason did not get their sim card on the registration day, they can visit the nearest China Mobile store to get one (please be aware that not every shop has the right to issue sim cards to internationals, the



store below is the nearest one available):

Name: 中国移动（壮丽营业厅）

Address: 广东省深圳市南山区壮丽商厦1楼

### **Internet**

New students can enjoy free campus wifi till the end of August. After that, they need to purchase on-campus internet service. The price is usually 300RMB per year. There are three options from China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom, of which China Mobile and China Unicom stalls will be available on campus during the registration day.

China Mobile: 13715195653

China Unicom: 18682254278

China Telecom: 18938867066

### **VPN**

Many major online services and popular websites are blocked inside China, including Facebook, Instagram, Google Maps, gmail, Netflix, HBO, BBC, YouTube and so on. Before your arrival in China, we strongly suggest you do proper research and prepare for VPN before coming to China.

### **WeChat**

WeChat is a multi-purpose messaging, social media, and mobile payment app developed by Tencent, a Chinese technology company. It was first released in 2011 and has since become one of the most popular social networking platforms in China and beyond. WeChat is an important tool for receiving course-related materials, communicating with staff&faculty, paying for service&goods, etc. It is safe to say that without WeChat, one can barely survive in mainland China nowadays.

## **11 Mental Health**

Culture shock can be an unexpected issue when living in a foreign country. Many foreigners experience a certain degree of culture shock unconsciously. Living in China can pose new challenges even for seasoned travelers. Be prepared that your experiences might not always match your expectations. If you feel like you need help, here are a few options:

### **PKUSZ Campus Counseling Service**

**Location:** PKUSZ Building B 403

**Hotline:** 0755-26032104

**Email:** [pkupsy@pkusz.edu.cn](mailto:pkupsy@pkusz.edu.cn)

**Fee:** Free of charge

**Book Appointment:** download forms by scanning the QR code in this article: <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/dhONzyjAHgfrlvrjXckqQ> OR send email request to [pkupsy@pkusz.edu.cn](mailto:pkupsy@pkusz.edu.cn)

### **Kangning Hospital 深圳市康宁医院**

**Address:** 深圳市罗湖区翠竹路 1080 号 Shenzhen, Luohu District, Cuizhu Rd.1080



## International Office

IO staff are happy to talk with you about culture shock struggles and life in general. We are not professionals but we are always there to listen and give you guidance on how to access professional help if needed.

## 12 Books, Movies, Information Sources Lists

We encourage you to start learning Chinese, keeping up to date on Chinese news, reading books, and watching movies about China after you come to PKUSZ. Things that push you out of your comfort zone can be rewarding and enlightening. Here are some resources to get you started!

### Recommended Book List:

- China in the 21st Century, Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom and Maura Elizabeth Cunningham
- The Geography of Thought, by Richard Nisbett
- Peter Hessler's China Trilogy:  
*Country Driving: A Journey Through China from Farm to Factory*  
*Oracle Bones: A Journey Between China's Past and Present*  
*River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*
- Dreaming in Chinese, by Deborah Fallows
- Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in New China by Evan Osnos
- Only Hope: Coming of Age Under China's One-Child Policy – Vanessa L. Fong

### Recommended Movie List:

- The Last Emperor (1987) by Bernardo Bertolucci  
Tells the life of Puyi, the last emperor of China and the fall of the imperial China
- Shower (1999) by Zhang Yang  
Follows a family who runs an old fashioned bath house in modern China
- Red Sorghum (1987) by Zhang Yimo  
Follows a woman's life after being arranged to marry a man who runs a rural sorghum distillery.
- Still Life (2004) by Jia Zhangke  
Depicts a small town about to be destroyed for the 3 Gorges Dam project.
- Youth (2017) by Feng Xiaogang  
A young troupe of military acrobats and performers face the challenges of growing up, the threat of war with Vietnam, and the decline of the Mao era in China during the 1970s.

### News, Blogs and Shenzhen Expat Websites:

The Nanyan (PKUSZ school blog): [thenanyan.com](http://thenanyan.com)

Chinafile: <http://www.chinafile.com/>

Shenzhen Daily: <http://www.szdaily.com/>

SupChina: <https://supchina.com/>

That's Shenzhen: <http://thatsmags.com/shenzhen/>

SixthTone: [sixthtone.com](http://sixthtone.com)



## 13 Learning Chinese

PKU Shenzhen offers Chinese courses for enrolled students. Chinese courses are covered by tuition. Learning Mandarin can help you to understand local culture and relieve the potential culture shock. Workload of this course is not intensive, so students who hope to further improve their language skills can find language exchange partners. More advanced classes will be offered if the minimum quota of students is met.

*In addition, we recommend investigating these resources:*

*Chinese Pod:* A great online resource of podcasts and lessons. This was one of my main resources for studying Chinese, but they went through a transitional phase in 2017. There is a large selection of free lessons for you to check out to get a feel for the service. I have found it far more productive than a traditional textbook.

<http://chinesepod.com/>

*Mandarin Corner:* HSK videos, listening practice for multiple levels. Also insights into Chinese life and many other resources. Created by a Shenzhen local.

<https://mandarincorner.org/>

*Yellow Bridge:* Character dictionary, lots of beginner and advanced readings, flashcards, and other helpful resources

<https://www.yellowbridge.com/>

LINE Dictionary: My go-to online Chinese dictionary

<http://ce.linedict.com/dict.html#/cnen/home>

## 14 Orientation

In order to help international students acclimate to PKU Shenzhen and China as a whole, PHBS organizes an Orientation specifically for new students from overseas.

*Among other events, Orientation will include:*

- PHBS Info session
- Campus tour
- IKEA Trip
- Health Check (for residence permit)
- Cultural shock session
- Survival Chinese & Chinese Apps 101
- Legal Lecture & Telecom Fraud
- Shenzhen Excursion
- .....



## 15 Getting to Know the Staff

**Mao Na** (*Director of International Office*)

[maona@phbs.pku.edu.cn](mailto:maona@phbs.pku.edu.cn)

Areas of assistance: Academic affairs, Admissions, Student Affairs, Career Development, Marketing.

**Joyce Guo**

[jguo@phbs.pku.edu.cn](mailto:jguo@phbs.pku.edu.cn)

Areas of assistance: Academic affairs, Graduation, Alumni.

**Yi Yin**

[yyin@phbs.pku.edu.cn](mailto:yyin@phbs.pku.edu.cn)

Areas of assistance: Student affairs, Visa, Curriculum, Exchange.

**Lisite Deng**

[lisite@phbs.pku.edu.cn](mailto:lisite@phbs.pku.edu.cn)

Areas of assistance: Admissions.

**Daria Gurianova**

[dariagurianova@phbs.pku.edu.cn](mailto:dariagurianova@phbs.pku.edu.cn)

Areas of assistance: Marketing, Website.

**Audre Bi**

[audrebi@phbs.pku.edu.cn](mailto:audrebi@phbs.pku.edu.cn)

Areas of assistance: Student Affairs, Career Development, Marketing.

