

Peking University

NORTHWESTERN IN CHINA

CHINA: POLITICAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH IN CHINA

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY & POLICY: WANXIANG

FELLOWS PROGRAM

PROGRAM HANDBOOK 2018



Northwestern

UNDERGRADUATE

LEARNING ABROAD

Contents

The contents of this Program Handbook are meant to supplement the Orientation Guide, available in Canvas and on the ULA website:

http://www.ipd.northwestern.edu/documents/orientation-guides/2017-2018_ULAOrientationGuide.pdf

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Program Information

Program Team

There are a number of different partners and players that make important contributions to your academic, cultural, and personal experience in China.

Program Coordinators



Li-Cheng Gu

On-Site Program Director, Northwestern in China

Li-Cheng Gu has directed the Northwestern in Beijing undergraduate program since its inception in summer 2001. A native Beijinger, "Gu Laoshi" (Professor Gu, in Chinese), is adored by his study abroad students, as well as his Chinese language students in Evanston. Li-Cheng teaches in the Asian Languages and

Cultures Department and has taught several levels of Chinese language instruction. Li-Cheng earned a Master's in Australia, PhD from the University of Oregon, and has published research on a variety of topics, from language pedagogy to Chinese-American history.

As the On-Site Program Director, Li-Cheng is responsible for orienting students to the program and to academic and cultural life in Beijing, including the schedule, academic expectations, cultural adjustment, and safety and security. He also serves as an **academic adviser** and **local expert**, responsible for managing the program courses and curriculum and serving as an academic resource to practice your Mandarin and discuss program themes. Lastly, Li-Cheng is your **primary in-country emergency contact**, so if you are feeling sick and wish to make an appointment with a doctor, if you lose your passport or are pickpocketed, or if you experience any emergency incidents, Li-Cheng will help and support you to ensure your safety, security, comfort, and well-being.



Hongbing Zhang

On-Site Program Assistant & Adviser, Northwestern in China

Hongbing Zhang (PhD, University of Chicago) is Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Culture in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina. Before joining Fayetteville State University, he taught at Northwestern University and the City College of New York. Professor Zhang has been helping the Northwestern summer program in Beijing since 2006. He loves to work with Northwestern students.

Hongbing serves as both an **academic and cultural resource**. He will help you understand your host country and community and can provide assistance for any

communication gaps that may exist between different languages and cultures. He is a **secondary emergency contact**.



Q. Jane Wang

On-Site Program Director, Wanxiang Fellows Program

Q. Jane Wang is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the McCormick School of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Sciences. Her research interests are in the areas of contact/interfacial mechanics, tribology of advanced materials and novel lubricants, and design and engineering of energy-efficient surfaces.¹

As Director of the Wanxiang Fellows Program, Professor Wang is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Energy Technology & Policy: Wanxiang Fellows Program. She is responsible for orienting students to the Wanxiang Fellows program, including the schedule, academic expectations, cultural adjustment, and safety and security. She is the Wanxiang Fellows' primary in-country emergency contact while in Hangzhou.

Resources in China

Ms. Yumei Huang, International Students Division, Office of International Relations, Peking University

The staff in the Office of International Relations at Peking University can provide you with information, support, and connections to student life.

Peking University Health Science Center

The Public Health in China program is coordinated by faculty and staff at the Peking University Health Science Center.

Hangzhou Wanxiang Polytechnic (WXP)

There will be a dedicated team of academic and administrative resources available to the Wanxiang Fellows while they are in Hangzhou. These include representatives of the WXP organizing committee, instructors from WXP and the Wanxiang Group, and WXP student ambassadors. Wanxiang Fellows will receive an orientation upon arrival in Hangzhou.

¹ <http://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/research-faculty/directory/profiles/wang-jane-qian.html> (2018)

Tentative Program Schedule & Activities

Below are basic schedules of program dates for each program. A more detailed schedule will be provided when it is finalized. *Please note that activities and dates are subject to change.*

China: Political & Economic Development & Public Health in China

Sunday, June 24	Depart USA for Beijing
Monday, June 25	Arrive in Beijing Check-in at Peking University international student dormitory
Tuesday, June 26	Orientation & Campus Tour
Wednesday, June 27 – Thursday, July 19	Chinese Language Classes (morning) China in Transition: Ideology, Political Economy, Law, and Relations with the United States OR Public Health in China (afternoon) Excursions
July 20– July 23	Break
Tuesday, July 24 – Friday, August 17	Chinese Language Classes, cont. (morning) Traditional Chinese Medicine Classes OR Political Economy of Contemporary China (afternoon) Excursions
Sunday, August 19	Depart China

Energy Technology & Policy: Wanxiang Fellows Program

Sunday, June 24	Depart USA for Beijing
Monday, June 25	Arrive in Beijing Check-in at Peking University international student dormitory
Tuesday, June 26	Orientation & Campus Tour
Wednesday, June 27 – Thursday, July 19	Chinese Language Classes (morning) China in Transition: Ideology, Political Economy, Law, and Relations with the United States OR Public Health in China (afternoon) Excursions
Saturday, July 21	Depart Beijing for Hangzhou Check-in at Wanxiang Polytechnic
Sunday, July 22 – Thursday, August 2	Classes and Excursions in Hangzhou
Friday, August 3 – Saturday, August 4	Shanghai
Sunday, August 5	Depart China from Shanghai

Course Descriptions

Chinese Language: Interdisciplinary Course (All Students)

While there is no language prerequisite to participate in the China summer programs, students are required to take intensive language training while in China. Multiple levels are offered, depending on the student's skill level. The material covered during the eight week program will be equivalent to two quarters of Chinese classes at Northwestern. Students on the Wanxiang program will receive the equivalent of one quarter of Chinese. The courses will be taught by Chinese language instructors from the local university. Student who intend to continue with the language at NU or petition to use the language class towards NU degree requirements **MUST** take the language placement test as soon as they return to campus in fall.

POLI SCI 379-SA: China in Transition: Ideology, Political Economy, Law, and Relations with the United States (China: Political & Economic Development; option for Wanxiang Fellows Program)

Instructor: Tao Xie

This course aims to provide a hands-on introduction to Chinese politics, economy, and legal system, as well as US-China relations. It is intended to help students make sense of what they observe and experience, while also offering an opportunity to explore selected themes and topics in greater depth and to acquire a more visceral understanding of how institutions and processes operate in China.

POLI SCI 381-SA Political Economy of Contemporary China (China: Political & Economic Development only)

Instructor: Xin Sun

This course offers in-depth discussions of contemporary Chinese political economy, with emphasis on state capitalism, the role of state-owned enterprises in China's economic development, China as a regulatory state, social consequences, and financial reforms.

GBL HLTH 332-SA: Public Health in China (Public Health in China; option for Wanxiang Fellows Program)

This seminar consists of a series of lectures, in English, on the healthcare system and public health in China. Lectures will introduce students to the most common health problems in China, the role of government, the organization of the health care system, and issues such as environmental health, SARS, HIV/AIDS, and emergency preparedness and disaster relief.

GBL HLTH 333-SA: Traditional Chinese Medicine (Public Health in China only)

Students will learn about acupuncture, massage, and herbal remedies and the role of Traditional Chinese Medicine in contemporary Chinese culture.

ISEN 350-SA: Energy and Sustainability in China (Wanxiang Fellows Program only)

Instructor: Q. Jane Wang

In this course, which culminates in a two-week experiential program at Hangzhou Wanxiang Polytechnic, students will learn about the unique environmental challenges that exist in China and the new innovations that are being developed to respond to these challenges. The course begins during Spring Quarter at Northwestern with an introduction to the study of the environment and sustainability and a visit to the Wanxiang America solar panel assembly and production plant in Rockford, IL. While in Hangzhou, students will learn from researchers at Wanxiang Polytechnic and practitioners at Wanxiang Group, and will go on various experiential field trips, such as to a solar farm, electric vehicle factory, and energy storage stations, etc. Upon returning to Northwestern, students will report on their experience.

Academic Expectations

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and associated field trips. If you are ill and unable to attend class, you must contact your course instructor and program

director. All courses are fast paced, and missing even just one class can have a significant impact on your grade.

You may find that the academic culture in Chinese classrooms is different from what you are accustomed to at Northwestern. There may be a greater emphasis on lectures that present statistical information or facts, which you are expected to memorize, and less opportunity for in-class discussion. However, many of the instructors on the program have experience teaching American students so you may find these differences less dramatic on your program than if you were directly enrolled in PKU as a full-time student. It is your responsibility to make observations, ask questions, and engage in critical reflection on the material in conversation (both inside and outside of the classroom) with your classmates.

Refer to the **Academics** section of the Orientation Guide for more information about academic information, expectations, and policies.

Excursions, Site Visits, and Study Trips

Tiananmen Square

The center of Beijing is occupied by the famous Tiananmen Square, which translated literally means “Gate of Heavenly Peace,” a somewhat ironic name given its history. It is currently the largest square in the world. It was originally built in 1417 but was renovated after the Communist Party gained power in 1949, and it soon became a symbol of Communist power and Mao Zedong.



The Forbidden City

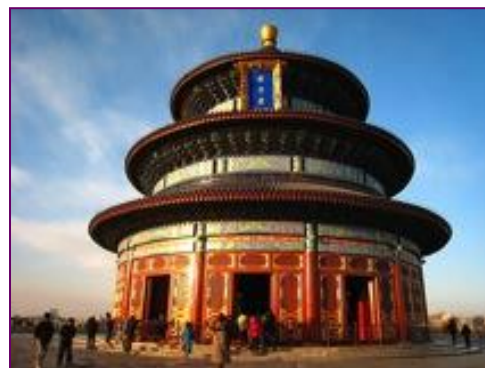
The Forbidden City is located directly in the center of Beijing next to Tiananmen Square and was the Imperial Palace during the last two dynasties, The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It is the world’s largest imperial complex and is over five hundred years old.

The Great Wall

There are lots of places to visit the wall around Beijing, but one of the more beautiful locations is called Mutianyu, and it is approximately 70 kilometers to the northeast of Beijing. It is well known for its unique fortifications, and this section is over 2000 meters long. The overall distance that the wall covers is huge; to hike the entire length of the Great Wall in all of the surviving locations would take a person over five years to complete!

The Temple of Heaven

The Temple of Heaven is a complex of religious buildings situated in southeastern urban Beijing in the Xuanwu District. After construction of the complex began in 1420, it was visited by all subsequent emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is regarded as a Taoist temple, although the worship of Heaven, especially by the reigning monarch of the day,



pre-dates Taoism. The Temple of Heaven is the grandest of the four great temples located in Beijing. The other prominent temples include the Temple of Sun in the east, the Temple of Earth in the north, and the Temple of Moon in the west.

Linlong Mountain

Enjoy a break from the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy some time with nature. This mountain area is the perfect escape from Beijing. Students taking the Traditional Chinese Medicine course will take a weekend field trip to collect herbs used in traditional medicine.

The Summer Palace

The Summer Palace, or (Yiheyuan) has long been a royal garden but was vastly enlarged and embellished for the Empress Dowager Cixi in the late 1880s. With a price tag of over 50 million USD it is a wonder of design, boasting a huge lake, hilltop views, beautiful bridges and temples as well as pavilions within its extensive gardens. Glittering Kūnmíng Lake makes up three-quarters of the park and is overlooked by Longevity Hill. The primary structure is the Hall of Benevolence and Longevity located near the east gate. The hall is home to a hardwood throne and is attached to a courtyard decorated with bronze animals, including the mythical qílín (a hybrid animal that only appeared on earth at times of harmony). Although the palace has seen times of trouble and disrepair, the marble boat used by Empress Dowager Cixi still sits on the north shore of the lake near some of the remaining Qing boathouses.

Peking University

Founded in 1898, Peking University, colloquially known as “Beida,” was the first formally established modern national university of China. With over 30,000 students, of which 7% are international students, Peking University is a premiere institution for education and research, particularly in the natural and social sciences. It is frequently ranked as one of the best universities in China.



Location

The campus of Peking University was originally located north of Forbidden City in the center of Beijing, and was later moved to the former campus of Yenching University in 1952. The campus is located in northwest Beijing, in the Haidian district, which is concentrated with many well-known colleges and universities.



Library

Peking University constructed a new library building (East Building) in 1998 to connect to the existing library, making it the largest university library in total area at the time it was built. Students will have access to the library with their Peking University student ID.

Weiming Lake

Peking University boasts some beautiful architecture and scenery. Weiming Lake (which translates to “No-Name Lake”) is a tranquil spot in the center of campus, surrounded by stone bridges, sculptures, and the Boya Pagoda, which was built in 1924.

Accommodations & Meals

Zhong Guan Xin Yuan Global Village (Beijing)

You will live in the Zhong Guan Xin Yuan Global Village, an international student dormitory on the Peking University campus. You will have a private room and share a common area with another student. In your bedroom, you will also be provided with a pillow, sheets, blankets, and pillowcase, along with standard bedroom furniture and air-conditioning. Please note that you are responsible for washing your sheets. Laundry facilities exist within the dorm.

Meals

Group lunches will be provided each weekday, either as catered meals provided during group meetings or as food credits to your Peking University ID card, which you can use to purchase food on campus. All students will be responsible for their own breakfasts and dinners. There are several dining halls and convenience stores on campus that have a wide variety of Chinese foods at very low prices. Wudaokou, a nearby neighborhood in the Haidian District, has many great and reasonably priced restaurants. (See the **Food & Water** section in the FAQs).

Wanxiang Polytechnic Student Residence (Hangzhou)

Students studying in Hangzhou will stay in the student residences on the campus of Wanxiang Polytechnic. All students will be placed in double rooms with another student on the program.

China

Chinese history and culture is both rich and complex. We encourage you to do some research about the history of your host country—before, during, and after the Chinese Civil War—as well as general country information, including the political system, geography, the economy, population, culture, and current events. Your ability to take full advantage of your time abroad will be influenced by the amount of preparation and research you do before you go, so read as much as you can! Refer to the list of resources in the **Links & Recommended Reading** section.



Fast Facts²

- Surface Area: 9,596,961 sq km
- No. of Provinces: 22
- Population: 1,379,302,771 (July 2017 est.)
- Government type: Single-party state under collective leadership
- GDP per capita (PPP): \$16,600 (2017 est.)
- GDP growth: 6.8% (2017 est.)
- Major industries: mining and ore processing, iron, other metals; machine building; textiles and apparel; armaments; consumer products, including footwear, toys and electronics
- Religions (limited degree of religious freedom is allowed): Buddhist 18.2%, Christian 5.1%, Muslim 1.8%, folk religion 21.9%, Hindu < .1%, Jewish < .1%, other 0.7% (includes Daoist (Taoist)), unaffiliated 52.2%

Contemporary China

In 1912, the first modern republic in Asia was established on Mainland China called the Republic of China. However, in 1949, after a major combat ended in the Chinese Civil War, China's territory became divided into Two Chinas, and two sovereign states each calling themselves "China" emerged:

- The **Republic of China (ROC)** was established in 1912 in Mainland China. In 1949 it acquired Taiwan while it lost control of Mainland China. It is now commonly known as *Taiwan*, and has control over the islands of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, Matsu, the Pratas island group, and a few other outlying islands.

² CIA World Factbook at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html> (2018)

- The **People's Republic of China** (PRC), established in 1949, commonly known as *China*, has sovereignty over Mainland China and the largely self-governing territories of Hong Kong (since 1997) and Macau (since 1999).

Since the program is intended to introduce you to contemporary issues in China, we encourage you to read Chinese newspapers online to familiarize yourself with current events. (See the **Links & Recommended Reading** section.)

Population

With a population close to 1.4 billion, the PRC is very concerned about its population growth and has attempted, with mixed results, to implement a strict family planning policies. In October 2015, the Chinese Government announced that it would change its rules to allow all couples to have two children, loosening the 1979 mandate that restricted many couples to one child; the new policy was implemented on 1 January 2016 to address China's rapidly aging population and economic needs.

Ethnic Groups

The PRC officially recognizes 56 distinct ethnic groups, the largest of which are the Han Chinese, who constitute about 91.6% of the total population. Large ethnic minorities include the Zhuang (16 million), Manchu (10 million), Hui (9 million), Miao (8 million), Uyghur (7 million), Yi (7 million), Tujia (5.75 million), Mongols (5 million), Tibetans (5 million), Buyei (3 million), and Koreans (2 million).

Administrative Divisions

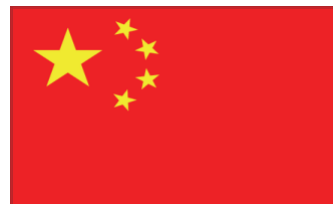
The People's Republic of China has administrative control over 22 provinces and considers Taiwan to be its 23rd province, a claim disputed by the Republic of China. There are also five autonomous regions (Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Tibet, Ningxia, Guangxi), each with a designated minority group; four municipalities (Beijing, Chongqing, Shanghai, Tianjin); and two Special Administrative Regions (Hong Kong and Macau) that enjoy some degree of autonomy. The 22 provinces, five autonomous regions, and four municipalities can be collectively referred to as "mainland China," a term which usually excludes Hong Kong and Macau.

Languages

Mandarin is the official language. It is spoken in business circles even in south China, where Cantonese is the vernacular language. More and more Chinese students and business people are learning to speak English.

Flag

The red color of the flag represents revolution, while the stars represent the four social classes – the working class, the peasantry, the urban petty bourgeoisie, and the national bourgeoisie (capitalists) – united under the Communist Party of China.²



² <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html> (2018)

Transportation

There are many modes of transportation in China, some of which are safer and more reliable than others. Below is some basic information about how to get around, but also refer to the **Health, Safety, and Security** section of the Orientation Guide for tips about safe travel.

- **Foot and bike.** Peking University's campus is lovely and easy to explore on foot. Your classes are just across the street from your dorm, and there is a pedestrian walkway above the street to avoid the heavy street traffic. Most streets around the campus are unsafe for bicycles, but if you do want to use one, locks are a **MUST**. Usually having two (the one built-in and an additional chain lock) is a much better safeguard against theft. Bike theft is rampant and should be taken seriously.
- **Subway.** The subway is an efficient, cheap, and convenient way to get around Beijing. Since the subway system is rather extensive, it is important that you make sure you know exactly where you need to get off before you board. The East Gate of Peking University subway station (Line 4) is right on campus and a very short walk from your dormitory. It costs between 5 and 10 RMB to go most places in Beijing via subway. The subway stations all have the names written in English, so it is easy to get around even if you are a beginner in Mandarin. Carry a subway map with you at all times – it will come in handy!
- **Taxi.** A taxi is a great way to get around the city and costs a fraction of what it would cost in Evanston. Here are a few tips:
 - Have your destinations written out in Chinese characters before you go anywhere, especially your return destination, since no cabbie will speak English. They will only know the names of famous buildings so having your address written is paramount.
 - Make sure that the cab has a prominently displayed license, or some other verification that the taxi is legitimate. In recent years, many new and unsafe cab services have sprung up, so don't get into the cab unless it is clearly marked. To tell which cabs are legitimate, look at the license plate. Licensed taxis all have a license number that begins with “京 B”. Licensed taxis in Hangzhou all have a license number that begins with “浙 A”.
 - There are typically price stickers displayed in the window of cabs (usually green or blue, indicating two types). The more expensive cabs have air conditioning and are better furnished. The cheaper ones usually lack air conditioning, but offer a better deal. A 30-minute ride should cost about 35 to 40 RMB (or \$4-\$5 USD). It's generally a good idea to ask how much it will cost to get to a certain place before committing to a cab, and try to use cabs that operate on meters rather than those who give you a flat fare. Avoid acting like a tourist as much as possible! This will help prevent you from being scammed.

Transportation To/From the Airport

ULA and Professor Gu will arrange a group airport pick-up and a group airport drop-off. Arrival instructions will be provided at Pre-Departure Orientation, as well as communicated by email.

If you are arriving or departing earlier or later than the group, you are responsible for

getting yourself to Zhongguanyuan Global Village at Peking University. Professor Gu will provide directions at Pre-Departure Orientation, but you should also be sure to carry **Appendix II: Survival Chinese** with you when you travel. This sheet includes two important phrases in Chinese: #3: Please call Prof. Gu at 1369-3022-111, and #6: Please take me to Zhongguanxinyuan International Student dorm at the east gate of Peking University. If your taxi driver does not know where to go, have the driver call Prof. Gu for directions.

If you arrange any personal trips that include air travel, first consult with Professor Gu about your plans. International travel can have safety and legal implications.

Visas

All students require a visa for China and can apply for their visa through the ULA office.

Communications

Keep in mind that China is 13 hours ahead of Evanston, so when calling the United States, 9:00pm Beijing time is 8:00am Evanston time. Also, despite its size, all of China is in the same time zone, so you will not change times while traveling inside the country.

Cell Phones

You will have an opportunity to purchase cell phones and local SIM cards during orientation. Cell phones in China are fairly inexpensive, and you can purchase pre-paid SIM cards and airtime credit at most supermarkets. WiFi is available in most classrooms and campus buildings so students may find it useful to use free messaging applications that use Wi-Fi such as iMessage.

Email & Internet

You will have Internet access in your dorm rooms and classrooms at Peking University and Wanxiang Polytechnic. Internet access should be normal while at Peking University if you use the Northwestern VPN downloaded on your laptop. However, be aware that if you are traveling/off-campus, you may not have easy access to Internet cafes. Also note that if you use the Internet at a hostel or hotel while traveling, you may not have regular access to many social media sites/email hosts, because China highly restricts and censors foreign websites. If you plan to travel, make sure to inform your family of your plans and the possibility that you might not have access to the Internet during the dates of your travel.

WeChat

This is an extraordinarily popular messaging service within China. Any local people you meet will want to connect with you on WeChat and the group messaging function is a common way to stay in touch with your program directors and fellow students during your time in China. WeChat also has a “wallet” function that is commonly used for payments in venues around China. As of January 2018, WeChat now allows you to link to a foreign credit card rather than a local Chinese bank account, though not all foreign credit/debit cards can be used for QuickPay.

Identity and Diversity

The sections below provide some basic information, summarized from the Diversity Network Country Diversity Climate Notes for China³, and reflections from past students about the cultural climate of China. Also refer back to the **Identity and Diversity** section of the Orientation Guide for general guidance and resources.

Cultural Adjustment: Reflections from Past Students

- *“Be prepared to grow not only intellectually but also mentally, emotionally, and physically. Many of the days are packed (even the weekends) so that can be pretty exhausting. Your extroverted side will feel very stretched until it's as thin as rice paper. Don't feel as though you have to hang out with everyone every night unless you really want to. You're not missing out if you choose to have your own alone time.”* ~Eunice Lee, 2015
- *“I think students should be aware of the current situation in China and understand restrictions placed such as the censorship of media as it will affect how they interact with locals and media in general.”* ~Shen Ferrer, 2016
- *“Don't be afraid to tell your story. It is okay to not feel okay, while abroad. Being in another country, away from loved ones is not an easy thing to do. Sometimes you're not going to feel well. And when that happens, journal it, talk to friends, call home routinely.”* ~Nina Sedeno, 2016
- *“The biggest challenge I faced was adjusting to the new culture. The first week I suffered from terrible jet lag and the following weeks I was home sick. This was my first time leaving the country so everything was quite new and different for me. I managed to overcome this by engaging with students I had things in common with and keeping myself distracted by exploring new things.”* ~Chazz McCullough, 2017
- *“I was able to push my comfort zone in a country I had never visited. I found myself questioning everything I had subconsciously accepted as the norm in every facet of life, which is a challenging process I have come to be grateful for. The intercultural experience I had during the program taught me that it is important to remember that in many cases, there is no right way of doing something”.* ~Christelle Fayemi, 2017

Gender Roles and Issues

Despite the outward appearance of gender equality, women struggle to be treated as equals in the workplace and the classroom. In addition, since attractiveness in China is often associated with being petite, some female students may struggle with “body image” issues. Because women with lighter skin are considered more attractive in China, it can also be difficult to find cosmetic products and lotions that do not contain skin-lightening chemicals, which are highly common.

Sexual Orientation and Identity

The Country Diversity Climate Notes for China indicate that “[g]enerally speaking, the Chinese culture does not accept homosexuality or bisexuality. Gay students may grapple with the question of whether they can confide in host country friends, but usually do not.” There is especially prejudice against non-heterosexual males, although there is more tolerance in larger cities like Beijing and Hong Kong. Lesbians, like most women, may have to deal with questions about boyfriends, marriage, and sex.

³ Adapted from the Diversity Abroad Network. (2018). Available in Canvas

Relationships with homosexual host country nationals can happen, but as with all cross-cultural relationships, they are not likely to be easy.

Resources:

- BBC Article: “Being Gay in China”: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8478911.stm>

Sexual Orientation & Identity: Reflections from Past Students

- *“China is less tolerant regarding different religions and sexualities but no one is openly prejudiced.” ~Jing Wang, 2015*
- *“Chinese people usually aren't very used to the idea of homosexuality. However, it only came up once in class, and our professor was pretty open about it which was cool.” ~Jocelyn Liao, 2017*

Race and Ethnicity

According to the Country Diversity Climate Notes for China, “Although China is somewhat ethnically diverse, it is highly racially homogenous. Outside China’s largest cities, most Chinese are unaccustomed to Westerners - of any race. Almost universally, the only students of color on Chinese campuses are other study abroad students. A student of color may be the only non-white “minority” in his or her group or may be working and living with individuals with no experience or understanding of their background.

“It is difficult to generalize about how Chinese may perceive students of color. Americans of Asian descent will have a very different experience than those of African descent, who will have a very different experience than those of Hispanic descent. However, students on online discussion boards about being black in China do mention experiences of overt and covert racial discrimination, from staring and hair touching to harboring prejudicial beliefs and making derogatory comments. Despite these, most students report that they feel the statements are made without menace and are the product of myth and ignorance. Students of color report having a positive experience of being black in China and look at most interactions as a chance to make a good impression and/or dispel stereotypes.

“Students of color may experience stares, overly curious or what may be perceived as inappropriate questions, or even blatantly racist statements. Disturbing as they are, such experiences should be considered in relation to the considerable probability that any offense was unintended..Some students may not be perceived as being North American; for example, African American students may be perceived as being from Africa. Asian Americans may be identified more by their cultural heritage than by their American citizenship. Current or historical Chinese relations with other Asian countries, such as Korea or Japan, may have an impact on how Asian American students are perceived. Asian Americans may have to deal with people’s higher expectations of their language-learning ability or cross-cultural adaptability.”

Resources:

- NY Times blog: “China’s Changing Views on Race”:
<http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/12/13/chinas-changing-views-on-race/>

Race and Ethnicity: Reflections from Past Students

- *“I am a black female, which is basically a very rare creature in China, so I always attracted a lot of attention and unsubtle stares from people of all ages and both genders. Usually whenever a local person would talk to me, they would ask if I was from Africa, and on occasion they would ask if I was an athlete and/or played basketball. Perhaps that seems ignorant, but it was never meant to be offensive, and I think it was always a good opportunity for me and whoever I talked with to spread cultural diversity.” ~Shanelle Glanville, 2013*
- *“Although I am not African-American, they are seen as a novelty in some parts of China, because there are so few people of color in China. While they do not have bad intentions, they might ask to take pictures with you and stare because of your skin color.” ~Francesco Guerrieri, 2015*
- *“Many Chinese citizens are intrigued by people of different races, so some of them may come up to white, black, or brown people to take photos with them.” ~Jee-Young Lee, 2016*
- *“Be prepared to be stated at or asked for pictures in some places if not Asian.” ~Allison Bryski, 2016*
- *“Students studying abroad in China should know that China does not have a very diverse population, unlike the United States. Most Chinese people may not be used to seeing people of other races or ethnicities, and sometimes they can be oblivious about how to treat others who are different from them. Chinese people may ask an African American person to take a picture with them because they’ve never seen someone with a darker skin color than them, and they might be rude to foreigners because they are unfamiliar with people of other cultures.” ~Marilyn Lu, 2017*
- *“If you weren’t white or Chinese, you would be treated differently. In China, no one talked about gay marriage/lgbt issues etc. If you’re going to China and you’re not an ethnically Chinese person, be aware that you’ll be treated differently. Because I’m white, I got the “positive” end of the racism there. Some of the Indians on our program were visibly treated poorly due to their race. China doesn’t have a history of social justice in nearly the same way the US does. In the US, we are used to being multicultural while China is years behind us in that way. Once people get to know you, they will treat you better, but for a casual onlooker who rarely sees foreigners, they’ll only have preconceived notions from which to judge you.” ~Ryan Hall, 2017*

Health, Safety, and Security

The sections below provide information about health and safety risks and resources in China, including reflections from past students. Refer back to the **Health, Safety, and Security** section of the Orientation Guide for more comprehensive information about preparing for and responding to health, safety, and security concerns.

Staying Healthy

Although the standard of health care in Mainland China has improved in recent years, it remains well below internationally accepted standards. Many hospitals have the same high-quality medical equipment found in Western hospitals, but diagnostic abilities and treatment procedures can vary greatly.

Food and Water Precautions

Tap water is considered unsafe to drink in China, so drink only bottled or boiled water and carbonated beverages. Bottled water is cheap and easily accessible. Previous students recommend buying gallon bottles to keep in your room, and using them to refill smaller bottles to take with you. When purchasing water, ensure that the lid is securely fastened and sealed. When in restaurants, avoid ice, as it may have been made from unsafe water.

Food served in restaurants should be safe, but always choose food that has been cooked while fresh and is served hot. Ask local friends to advise you of "safe" restaurants. Avoid street vendors and market food, because the standard of hygiene may be low and food may not be fresh. Do not buy pre-peeled fruit or salad. Fruit that you wash and peel yourself should be safe. Avoid shellfish. Ensure that milk and other dairy products have been pasteurized. Always wash your hands with soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before eating.

Air Quality

It is widely known that China suffers from some of the world's worst air pollution. It can be a significant problem in Beijing, so all students – especially those with asthma or other respiratory conditions – should consult their doctors prior to travel to consider the impact seasonal smog and heavy particulate pollution may have on them. Also stay alert to changes in weather conditions, monitor air quality readings, and adjust your plans and activities if conditions become unsafe. For example, students are advised not to exercise outdoors if conditions are unsafe. Information about access to indoor sports facilities at Peking University will be provided.

One resource is the air quality index (AQI), developed by the US EPA, which uses measurement of PM 2.5 particulates as an indication of air quality on the US Embassy compound in Beijing (Chaoyang district). AQI values can help inform health-related decisions: <http://www.stateair.net/web/post/1/1.html>

Safety and Security⁴

In addition to the **Standing Travel Advice** outlined in the Orientation Guide, you are advised to follow these precautions during your time in China. Also refer to the U.S. Department of State Country Information Sheet for China for safety and security guidelines: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/China.html>.

- Petty crime is common at airports, on public transportation, and in tourist locations. Be vigilant, and care for your belongings.
- Demonstrations can start without warning and potentially become dangerous. As a reminder, students are not permitted to participate in—or attend—any kind of public demonstration. In the event of severe civil unrest, students should return to (or remain at) PKU, avoid the demonstration route, and stay there until the situation stabilizes. On-site directors will contact students with information about demonstration routes, dates, and times.
- Be aware that special permits are required for entry into and travel within the Tibet Autonomous Region. Also be aware that the authorities may on occasion restrict travel to or within regions of China with little or no notice during periods of heightened political tension.
- Ensure that official documentation is in order at all times and comply with all registration requirements.
- Avoid sensitive topics of discussion, including Tibet, Taiwan, Tiananmen, the Falun Gong movement, the Communist Party, Human Rights, minority rights, democratization and religious freedom. Also be aware that items considered detrimental to China's political and social stability, including material linked to the aforementioned topics, could be confiscated by officials. These may include undeveloped films, recorded material, publications and computers.
- Entertainment areas can experience brawls and drug-related offences. Be selective when choosing nightspots, and refrain from excessive drinking. There have been reports of taxi drivers robbing drunken foreigners and dropping them off in unfamiliar locations.
- Foreigners can be targets for financial fraud, especially credit card and ATM scams. ATM transactions should be carried out at machines within bank premises or in locations with security guards.
- Criminals use various scams to make money from victims and this is a particular concern in tourist areas. There are numerous reports of foreigners having been approached by strangers and offered a drink in a bar or a teahouse, and then being presented with an inflated bill. Another very common scam is 'black taxis' overcharging their customers at night or at airports. Make sure you always know how much an activity will cost before agreeing to it.

⁴ Adapted from International SOS (ISOS):

<https://www.internationalsos.com/countryguide/safety.aspx?languageid=ENG&countryid=56> (2018) and U.S. Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/china.html> (2018)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Weather and Packing

What is the weather going to be like?

The summer months, June to August, are wet and hot with about 40% of the annual precipitation. You can expect very hot, humid days.

Is there anything special that I need to pack for my program?

In addition to the documents you are advised to pack in your carry-on (refer to the **Packing** tips in the Orientation Guide), be sure to bring **Appendix II: Survival Chinese** with you if you do not speak Mandarin.

You may also wish to bring your preferred brand of toiletry items; a few students in the past have reported difficulty finding shaving products. Some feminine hygiene products, such as tampons, can sometimes be difficult to find in China.

Food & Water

Can I drink the water?

Tap water is considered unsafe to drink. Drink only bottled or boiled water and carbonated beverages.

What is typical food?

In general, rice is the major food source for people from rice farming areas in southern China. It is most commonly eaten in the form of steamed rice. Fried noodles, noodle soup, dumplings and hot pot, stir-fry and Peking duck are some of the popular Chinese dishes, but there is great regional variety. Be advised that many dishes contain meat or animal products, and even tofu or vegetables may be cooked in animal fat, so vegetarians should always ask about the ingredients in dishes.

Is the local cuisine vegetarian friendly?

Yes. You are responsible for most of your own meals, and you can find lots of fruits, vegetables, and proteins at the supermarkets and restaurants. However, meat is also prevalent; see advice above.

Money

How much does the program cost?

See **Appendix I** for a breakdown of the program costs for your program.

Are meals included in my Program Fee?

The Program Fee includes lunch on weekdays. You are responsible for all other meals.

How much money should I plan to spend?

Refer to the student budget in **Appendix I** for an estimate of costs for additional meals and discretionary expenses. The figures included in the budget represent averages reported by past students.

Transportation

Will I be picked up from the airport?

ULA and Professor Gu will arrange group airport pickups based on students' reported itineraries. If you arrive earlier or later than the group pickups, you are responsible for getting yourself to Peking University.

What if my flight is cancelled or delayed?

Local staff and ULA have access to your travel itineraries, but if you will not arrive on your scheduled flight, or your flight will not arrive at the scheduled time, please email and call your Program Director and ULA to let us know when to expect you.

How much free time do I have? What can I expect to do outside of class?

There is free time after classes, and you will have many weekends free. Contact the Ambassadors for your program to get suggestions for things to do in your spare time: <http://www.ipd.northwestern.edu/study-abroad/student-voices/ambassadors/index.html>

Links & Recommended Reading

Program & Country Information

- China: Political and Economic Development program page: <http://www.ipd.northwestern.edu/study-abroad/explore/asia/china-political-economic.html>
- Energy Technology & Policy program page: <http://www.ipd.northwestern.edu/study-abroad/explore/asia/energy-technology-policy.html>
- Public Health in China program page: <http://www.ipd.northwestern.edu/study-abroad/explore/asia/public-health-china.html>
- NU in China blog: <http://sites.northwestern.edu/ipd-china/>
- CIA World Factbook People's Republic of China page: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html>
- Visit Beijing: <http://english.visitbeijing.com.cn/>
- The Beijing Page: <http://www.beijingpage.com/>
- Lonely Planet*: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/china/beijing>

*Note: The Lonely Planet is banned in Mainland China and may be confiscated. However, it is possible to download one or more purchased chapters from the Lonely Planet website onto your laptop.

Books

It's worth getting a good pocket guidebook to get you around Beijing. Here are a few other recommendations:

- *Peking* by Anthony Grey
A standard blockbuster from the author of Saigon
- *The Private Life of Chairman Mao* by Li Zhisui
An amazing insight into the hidden world behind the great walls of Zhongnanhai, China's 'new Forbidden City.'
- *Dragon Lady: The Life and Legend of the Last Empress of China* by Sterling Seagrave
The definitive biography of Cixi, who ruled China in the late 19th century.
- *Biking Beijing* by Diana Kingsbury
A useful selection of self-guided tours around the thoroughfares and back alleys of the capital.
- *Old Peking: City of the Ruler of the World* by Chris Elder
This book is a ragbag of period quotations and stories from old Peking.
- *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang
A fascinating family saga spanning three generations against the backdrop of China's turbulent 20th-century history.
- *Life and Death in Shanghai* by Nien Cheng
A woman's story about her harrowing years spent in solitary confinement during China's Cultural Revolution.
- *Evening Chats in Beijing* by Perry Link
A highly recommended Western view of contemporary Chinese politics.

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- *The Search for Modern China* by Jonathan Spence
A history book full of lively prose - a pleasure to read.
 - *Behind the Wall* by Colin Thubron-One of the best recent travel books written about China.

Health & Safety

- US Department of State Country Guide for China:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/China.html>
- World Health Organization: China: <http://www.who.int/countries/chn/en/>
- CDC: Health Information for China:
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/extended_student/china
- GeoBlue Health Insurance: <https://www.geo-blue.com>
- Smart Traveler Enrollment Program: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

Appendix I: Cost Breakdown

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IN BEIJING, SUMMER 2018

China: Political & Economic Development (Beijing, China)

Public Health in China (Beijing, China)

Program Cost Information

FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN	
PROGRAM FEE	
<p>Tuition: \$5,620 The tuition fee covers all program expenses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lectures and instruction for four courses field visits and excursions to locations in/around Beijing (including all related travel costs) Chinese visa 	\$7,700
<p>Room & Partial Board: \$2,000 Room and board covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lodging at the Zhong Guan Xin Yuan international dormitory at Peking University lunches served during weekdays <p>Students are responsible for covering the costs of all breakfasts, dinners, and weekend meals.</p>	
<p>GeoBlue Health Insurance: \$80</p>	
<p>STUDY ABROAD ADMINISTRATIVE FEE Students participating in this program are exempt from the Study Abroad Administrative Fee.</p>	\$0
TOTAL FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN	\$7,700

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS	
<p>International Airfare Students are responsible for making arrangements to fly round-trip to Beijing, China, on the dates provided. Cost estimates are based upon travel from Chicago. International airfares vary greatly based on the point of departure, carrier, and type of ticket purchased as well as volatility of airline industry pricing. Students may choose to take advantage of frequent flyer or other airline awards available to them, which could significantly lower their travel costs.</p>	\$2,250
<p>Books & Supplies</p>	\$200
<p>Discretionary Expenses Personal expenses vary based on individual spending habits and budgets. Discretionary expenses represent an average of the amounts reported by previous students and include meals, non-program transportation, and other incidentals. Students who plan to do personal travel outside of the program location should estimate an additional \$500-\$1,000.</p>	\$2,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS	\$4,450

TOTAL STUDENT BUDGET (Fees + Estimated Additional Costs)	\$12,150
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For more information about billing, finances, and financial aid for study abroad, please refer to the Money Matters section of the Study Abroad Guide or contact Krista Buda Bethel (krista@northwestern.edu) in the Financial Aid Office. Also refer to the Withdrawal Policies for Northwestern-Sponsored Programs for information about refunds in the case of withdrawal or dismissal.

**ENERGY TECHNOLOGY & POLICY:
WANXIANG FELLOWS PROGRAM (Beijing/Hangzhou, China), SUMMER 2018
Program Cost Information**

FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN		
PROGRAM FEE		
Tuition: \$2,900 The tuition fee covers all program expenses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures and instruction for three courses • field visits and excursions to locations in/around Beijing (including all travel costs) 	\$3,900	
Room & Partial Board: \$1,000 Room and board covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lodging at the Zhong Guan Xin Yuan international dormitory at Peking University • lunches served during weekdays in Beijing Students are responsible for covering the costs of all breakfasts, dinners, and weekend meals while in Beijing.		
STUDY ABROAD ADMINISTRATIVE FEE Students participating in this program are exempt from the Study Abroad Administrative Fee.	\$0	
TOTAL FEES CHARGED BY NORTHWESTERN		\$3,900

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS		
Books & Supplies	\$200	
International Airfare Students are responsible for making flight arrangements to Beijing and from Shanghai on the dates provided. Cost estimates are based upon travel to and from Chicago. International airfares may vary based on the point of departure, carrier, and type of ticket purchased as well as volatility of airline industry pricing. All students will receive an airfare credit on their student accounts in this amount. (See Wanxiang Fellowship Support below.)	\$2,250	
Discretionary Expenses Personal expenses vary based on individual spending habits and budgets. Discretionary expenses represent an average of the amounts reported by previous students and include meals, non-program transportation, and other incidentals. Students who plan to do personal travel outside of the program location should estimate an additional \$500-\$1,000.	\$1,300	
TOTAL ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COSTS		\$3,750

TOTAL STUDENT BUDGET (Fees + Estimated Additional Costs)	\$7,650
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WANXIANG FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT		
International Airfare (<i>account credit</i>)	\$2,250	
Train from Beijing to Hangzhou (<i>covered cost</i>)	\$100	
GeoBlue Health Insurance (<i>covered cost</i>)	\$60	
Visa Fees (<i>covered cost</i>)	\$140	
TOTAL WANXIANG FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT		\$2,550

TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS (Fees + Estimated Additional Costs – Wanxiang Fellowship Support)	\$5,100
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For more information about billing, finances, and financial aid for study abroad, please refer to the Money Matters section of the Study Abroad Guide or contact Krista Buda Bethel (krista@northwestern.edu) in the Financial Aid Office. Also refer to the Withdrawal Policies for Northwestern-Sponsored Programs for information about refunds in the case of withdrawal or dismissal.

Appendix II: Chinese Characters

1

Survival Chinese 中文指南

1. I am American.

我是美国人。Wǒ shì měi guó rén 。

2. I am an international student at Peking University.

我是北京大学的留学生。Wǒ shì běi jīng dà xué de liú xué shēng 。

3. Please call Prof. Gu at 1369-3022-111.

请给我的老师顾教授打电话：1369-3022-111.

Qǐng gěi wǒ de lǎo shī gù jiāo shòu dǎ diàn huà.

4. Please take me to hospital.

请带我去医院。Qǐng dài wǒ qù yī yuàn 。

5. Please call police for me.

请帮我叫警察。Qǐng bāng wǒ jiào jǐng chá 。

6. Please take me to Zhongguanyuan International Student dorm at the east gate of Peking University.

请带我去北大东门中关村留学生宿舍。

Qǐng dài wǒ qù běi dà dōng mén zhōng guān xī n yuán liú xué shēng sù shè.

7. How much is it?

多少钱？Duō shǎo qián ？

8. Too expensive.

太贵了。Tài guì le 。

9. Can I take pictures?

可以照像吗？Kě yǐ zhào xiàng ma ？

10. Where is the bathroom?

厕所在哪儿？Cè suǒ zài nǎ er ？