



Personal Information

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Host University: Fudan University, Shanghai, China

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Exchange Experience

Shanghai, China

China is the most populated country in the world with a population of over 1.3 Billion. Its capital is Beijing and it is one of the biggest countries in the world in terms of total area and land area. As well known, China is one of the fastest developing countries in the world and its economy and global influence is expected to continue growing in the near future, as it continues to become a global power.

Shanghai, one of the largest cities in china, is a huge and international city with a population of over 24 Million residents. It is an amazing city with many universities, sites and international companies based in Shanghai. Shanghai, is also the home for the world's second highest building – the "Shanghai Tower" and has a vibrant nightlife.

The Host University

Located in Shanghai's Yangpu province, Fudan University is one of the most prestigious and selective universities in Shanghai, and is consistently ranked in the world's top 100 most academic universities.

The campus, which is located about half an hour drive from the center from people's square, is home to over 30,000 students, and covers a huge area of over 2 443 200m².

The university, hosts numerous social activities for students, and includes, a career center, university sport teams, a foreign student office and several restaurants and stores, within the university campus. In addition to constant activities organized by the university, the foreign exchange office also usually organizes a trip, to visit Chinese companies outside of Shanghai. The trip I took part in, which was designated only for foreign exchange students was an amazing experience, included 2 overnight stays at 5 star hotels and was sponsored, almost as a whole by the university.



Courses and Professors

I personally took 4 courses over a period of 3 months and was also able to travel a bit in between. The courses, which were conducted in the English language usually included group presentations and assignments, which were assigned to mixed groups of both Chinese and foreign exchange students. The grade, usually reflected attendance and participation in class and so the active participation, of all students contributed significantly to the learning experience.

The lecturers, included both leading experts/business leaders from China, and international lecturers. in my case from Germany and Norway.

I personally recommend taking the "Power and Negotiation" class, which provides practical experience in negotiation that can be used and implemented in both business and everyday life.

Accommodation

The university has a foreign exchange dormitory at favorable rates (additional information can be found at <http://www.fso.fudan.edu.cn/en/house.htm>). However, as there are many foreign exchange students and only limited spots I was not able to secure a spot at the dorms. Instead, I stayed, at first, at a nearby motel near the university, and after rented an apartment which was about an hour away from the university (by Metro). I found living in an apartment in Shanghai to be a good experience, however it is important to note that proximity to metro line 10 is important and that many other students which only rented the apartments for a period of 3-4 months were forced to forgo their security deposits to accommodate the short term lease, as most owners were interested in at least a 1 year lease.

Visa

Entering China required a Visa. To the best of my knowledge Israeli students are usually issued a 1 time entry Visa for a period of up to 180 days, based on documents sent from the university. However, after arrival, it is possible to apply for a residence permit which allows students to travel outside of china and return without limitations. Many foreign students which applied for such residence permit, traveled to Thailand, the Philippines and other neighboring countries.

Transportation

The city's Metro service is both easy, cheap and comfortable to use. Taxis are also cheap as well (about 50 RMB for an hour drive). However, most drivers do not know a single word in English and so in order to communicate, one must always keep a picture of the destination's address on the phone which includes the address in the Chinese language.

Most addresses (in Chinese language as well) can be found using the website www.SmartShanghai.com which is one of the most handy websites to use in shanghai and also includes an apartment listing.

One should also keep in mind that the use of google and Facebook is currently banned in China and so in order to access them, one would have to install a VPN app/program prior to arriving in China. I personally recommend using Express VPN, which can be installed on both a computer and a smart phone and costs only a few dollars a month.

Insurance and Health Services

The university, requires making a basic student insurance policy in China. I personally did not use it or other health services and so cannot provide additional information.

Living expenses and Night Life

Living expenses in China are relatively cheap but that may defer substantially based on the quality of life. Traditional Chinese food maybe be purchased for as low as 10-15 RMB and for example, a meal at McDonald's, costs about 17-25 RMB. Western food may cost more, with prices more similar to Israel and Europe.

In terms of night life, Shanghai is an amazing city, with a vibrant night life. Most Bars and clubs are located in the city's French Concession and offer a very western experience. Numerous Karaoke bars are also spread around the city and offer a nice experience as well.

Massages can be found in almost every corner and cost anything between 50 and 600 RMB. I would personally recommend spending a bit more in order to avoid the "Bad ones".

Tips

Language – Most of the older generation, does not speak English well or at all. That may require either using translation apps or using a Chinese friend to help you from time to time. Many restaurants have an English menu even though the staff does not speak English at all.

Communication and Internet – I recommend buying a local Sim card for both calls and Internet. As most stores do not include an English speaking salesman, I recommend visiting the Samsung Store on East Nanjing road for such a purchase.

WeChat and WhatsApp – even though WhatsApp works in china, most people use WeChat. This app is amazing and can be used to form groups, share images and location and make Audio/Video calls.

Currency and Exchange – The local currency is the RMB (also known as Chinese Yuan). RMB can be withdrawn at ATMs (there is one in almost every Metro station) or exchanged from Dollars at many hotels.

General experience

My Chinese experience was an amazing experience that included meeting many people and gaining many friends and connections. Even though China is not an easy place to live (see also references above about language and internet use), it has both traditional and western elements and can be served as a basis for gaining invaluable knowledge regarding the Chinese culture.

China is also a beautiful country that includes mountains, ancient villages and temples to visit. I took several organized trips that included international participants and served as a very good travel experience.



More Photos

