

CHINA PRE-DEPARTURE & ARRIVAL GUIDE

GOING TO CHINA?

Your checklist before departure and during your first days in China

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PART 1

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

1. DOCUMENTS

Keep your important documents together in your hand luggage.

ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Chinese visa
- ☐ University Admission Letter
- ☐ JW201/JW202, where applicable
- ☐ Scholarship documents, if applicable
- ☐ University registration instructions
- ☐ Accommodation information
- ☐ Flight booking
- ☐ Medical documents, where required
- ☐ Academic certificates
- ☐ Academic transcripts
- ☐ Passport photographs
- ☐ Other university-required documents

DIGITAL COPIES

Save secure digital copies of:

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ Admission Letter
- ☐ JW201/JW202
- ☐ Academic documents
- ☐ Medical documents
- ☐ Flight ticket
- ☐ Accommodation information
- ☐ Emergency contacts

Keep copies accessible offline as well.

2. CHECK YOUR VISA

For study:

X1 VISA

Generally for study in China for **more than 180 days**.

X2 VISA

Generally for study in China for **no more than 180 days**.

For X1 visa applications, current Chinese visa guidance requires the Admission Letter and JW201/JW202.

3. FLIGHT PREPARATION

Before purchasing or confirming your flight:

- ☐ Confirm university registration date
- ☐ Confirm the permitted arrival period

- ☐ Check your airport
- ☐ Check baggage allowance
- ☐ Confirm accommodation opening/check-in arrangements
- ☐ Confirm airport pickup arrangements, if provided
- ☐ Save university contact details

Do not arrive significantly earlier than permitted without confirming accommodation and university arrangements.

4. MONEY & BUDGET

Prepare enough funds for your initial expenses.

Possible expenses include:

- University fees
- Accommodation
- Food
- Transportation
- SIM/mobile service
- Daily necessities
- Medical expenses
- Residence permit procedures
- Personal expenses

If you have a scholarship, understand exactly what it covers and what remains your responsibility.

5. WHAT TO PACK

CLOTHING

- ☐ Weather-appropriate clothing
- ☐ Comfortable shoes
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Basic everyday clothing

China has different climates across regions, so check the weather of your university city before packing.

PERSONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Prescription medication, where applicable
- ☐ Basic first-aid items
- ☐ Personal essentials
- ☐ Small stationery items

ELECTRONICS

- ☐ Mobile phone
- ☐ Laptop/tablet
- ☐ Chargers
- ☐ Power bank
- ☐ Appropriate travel adapter

PART 2

BEFORE BOARDING

Use this final checklist:

- ☐ Passport in hand luggage
- ☐ Visa checked
- ☐ Admission Letter packed
- ☐ JW201/JW202 packed, if applicable
- ☐ University contact saved
- ☐ Accommodation confirmed
- ☐ Flight confirmed
- ☐ Family informed

- ☐ Emergency contact saved
- ☐ Important documents backed up
- ☐ Sufficient funds arranged

PART 3

ARRIVING IN CHINA

STEP 1 — ARRIVE SAFELY

After landing:

- ☐ Collect luggage
- ☐ Check passport and belongings
- ☐ Connect with your university/airport pickup if arranged
- ☐ Travel to your accommodation

STEP 2 — ACCOMMODATION REGISTRATION

If staying in a hotel, the hotel normally handles accommodation registration.

If staying in a private residence or other accommodation outside a hotel, foreigners are required to complete accommodation registration.

As of **21 September 2026**, the National Immigration Administration has expanded online accommodation registration nationwide for foreigners staying somewhere other than hotels.

Registration should generally be completed **within 24 hours after arrival at the residence**.

Online registration is available through official NIA channels, including the **NIA Government Service website, NIA 12367 App, WeChat mini program and Alipay mini program**, while offline registration remains available.

Always follow the current local instructions.

STEP 3 — UNIVERSITY REGISTRATION

Go to the university's designated international student/admissions office according to the registration instructions.

You may be required to provide:

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ Admission Letter
- ☐ JW201/JW202, where applicable
- ☐ Passport photographs
- ☐ Medical examination documents
- ☐ Other university-required documents

Current university registration guidance commonly includes accommodation check-in, fee payment, student registration, health procedures and residence permit procedures.

STEP 4 — MEDICAL EXAMINATION

For students entering on an X1 visa, health examination procedures may be required.

Some students complete the examination before departure; others may complete or verify it after arrival according to local requirements.

Bring:

- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Medical examination documents
- ☐ Blood test results, where applicable
- ☐ Admission Letter
- ☐ Required photographs
- ☐ University instructions

The exact procedure depends on the university and local authority.

STEP 5 — RESIDENCE PERMIT

An X1 visa is for long-term study, but it is not the document that normally serves as the student's long-term residence authorization after entry.

Current Chinese guidance states that X1 holders must apply for a study residence permit **within 30 days of entering China**.

Do not leave this until the last minute.

Follow your university's international student office instructions.

STEP 6 — MEDICAL INSURANCE

International students studying in China for more than six months are generally required to have the applicable medical insurance arrangement.

Your university will normally provide instructions for purchasing or confirming insurance.

Current official university-registration guidance states that students studying for more than six months must purchase medical insurance in China.

PART 4

YOUR FIRST WEEK

UNIVERSITY

- ☐ Complete registration
- ☐ Attend orientation
- ☐ Collect student ID
- ☐ Confirm class timetable

- ☐ Meet the international student office
- ☐ Learn campus rules

ACCOMMODATION

- ☐ Confirm your room
- ☐ Check facilities
- ☐ Save your address
- ☐ Learn dormitory rules
- ☐ Save accommodation contact information

DAILY LIFE

- ☐ Obtain SIM/mobile service
- ☐ Set up appropriate payment methods
- ☐ Learn local transportation
- ☐ Locate supermarket
- ☐ Locate pharmacy/medical facilities
- ☐ Save emergency contacts
- ☐ Learn your route to campus

PART 5

KEEP THESE DETAILS WITH YOU

UNIVERSITY

University: _____

International Student Office: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

ACCOMMODATION

Address: _____

Contact: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

YOUR FIRST 30 DAYS

WEEK 1

Arrival & Registration

University registration
Accommodation
Medical procedures
Basic necessities

WEEK 2

Academic Setup

Classes
Student ID
Campus orientation
Transportation

WEEK 3

Daily Life

Banking/payment arrangements

SIM/mobile

Shopping

Local transportation

WEEK 4

Settle In

Academic routine

Campus activities

Local services

Long-term planning

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

KEEP YOUR PASSPORT SAFE

Your passport is an important identity and travel document.

CHECK YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

Do not allow your visa or residence permit to expire.

FOLLOW UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTIONS

Every university can have different registration procedures.

KEEP DOCUMENTS UPDATED

If your passport, address, university, program or other relevant information changes, ask your university and the relevant authority what procedures are required.

DO NOT RELY ON OLD INFORMATION

Visa, immigration, university and scholarship procedures can change.

Always check the latest official instructions.

FINAL CHECKLIST

Before considering yourself fully settled:

- ☐ University registration completed
- ☐ Accommodation registration completed
- ☐ Medical requirements completed
- ☐ Residence permit completed, where applicable
- ☐ Insurance arranged
- ☐ Student ID received
- ☐ Classes confirmed
- ☐ Mobile service arranged
- ☐ Emergency contacts saved
- ☐ Important documents safely stored

WELCOME TO CHINA

Your journey does not end when you receive your admission letter.

It begins when you arrive.

Prepare carefully. Follow official instructions. Keep your documents safe. Stay informed.

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From Application to Arrival

Divine Consultants — Supporting students throughout their China education journey.

Information in this guide is general and may change. Always follow the latest instructions issued by your university and the relevant Chinese authorities.