

GLOBAL EDUCATION OFFICE  
REVES CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY



BEIJING SUMMER HANDBOOK

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# VISA INFORMATION AND BUDGETING

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- **Visa**
  - The visa is an adhesive stamp that will be placed in your passport and is necessary for entry into China. The Global Education Office (GEO) will use an outside organization to batch process your visa. You **MUST** have your passport, which is good at least 6 months beyond the completion of the summer program, **BEFORE** completing the paperwork for your visa. If you do not have your passport or do not complete the necessary paperwork by the designated deadline, you will have to get your visa yourself by going to the nearest Chinese Embassy. The Program Director /Reves Center will hand out the necessary paperwork for you to complete during a meeting or spring course. Students will mail in their application, passport, and additional documents to Tiger Wu at Cville Visa Service in DC.
  - Please note that the visa fee is not included in the cost of the programming.

## BUDGET

- Your budget for incidental expenses will depend on your personal taste and the amount of independent travel you intend to do before or after the program. For basic expenditures in Beijing, such as lunch and dinner, we recommend that you budget approximately \$125-\$175 per week, plus extra money for shopping and traveling. It is probably possible to live for considerably less than this, but there is lots to do in Beijing and you should allow yourself funds to take advantage of the city's offerings. Naturally, if you plan to do a significant amount of shopping and/or traveling, you should budget accordingly. Students reported spending \$500-\$1,500 throughout their time in Beijing depending on personal taste and the amount of extra travel. The average budget for students was \$1,000.
- The Chinese visa costs \$130 for American citizens, plus a processing fee. Please note that you are responsible for covering this expense.
- Water is not potable in China, and it is advised that students purchase bottles of water for both drinking and for brushing teeth. Water is readily available in dormitories and in the cafeteria.
- Students will need to purchase tissues for use in the bathrooms outside of the university. Most of the academic building have western toilets, but probably not toilet paper in some restrooms.
- Students are able to purchase meals for relatively little money in the student cafeteria.
- The subway has a flat fare of 2 Yuan for a single ride. Taxis are also readily available, and quicker – but more expensive.

# TRAVELING TO BEIJING

NOTE: You are responsible for your own travel arrangements to and from Beijing

## **AIRPORT PICK-UP**

You are responsible for your flight arrangements to and from Beijing. Beijing Normal University will make arrangements to pick up students if they arrive on the first day of the program.

The program faculty member will provide more details in meetings or on Blackboard. Students must leave the U.S. on June 15 or 16 to arrive on June 17th. (Depending on their departure airports, students need to leave on June 16, or even June 15, to arrive at Beijing on June 17. When booking air ticket, students need to double check the arrival date/time to make sure they arrive on June 17th, local time in Beijing).

It is advised that students travel in pairs, if not larger groups. Use the Blackboard site and share flight information, or plan travel arrangements during the one-credit course.

As soon as possible following your arrival, remember to call your family to let them know you have arrived safely. This will not only save them from worry, but also help the Global Education Office and Beijing Normal University from receiving panicked phone calls regarding your whereabouts.

# COURSEWORK

During your stay in Beijing, you will study at:

## **Beijing Normal University (BNU)**

Beijing Normal University, a key university under the administration of the Ministry of Education, is a renowned institution of higher education known for teacher education, education science and basic learning in both the arts and the sciences. The university's predecessor, the Normal College of the Imperial University of Peking, was founded in 1902. Over the years, the school has been home to a large group of renowned intellectuals and scholars, who have promoted culture and stimulated education, to name a few: Li Dazhao, Lu Xun, Liang Qichao, Qian Xuantong, Wu Chengshi, Li Jinxi, Chen Yuan, Fan Wenlan, Hou Wailu, Bai Shouyi, Zhong Jingwen, Qi Gong, Hu Xiansu, Wang Kunren and Zhou Tingru.

Among the national key universities built during the time of China's Seventh and Eighth Five-Year Plans, Beijing Normal University is acknowledged as one of the nation's first ten key universities.

The main campus (North Taipingzhuang Campus) of Beijing Normal University covers 172.64 acres that serve as an important place for the university to carry out educational activities. The school has 22,000 full-time students, including 8,900 undergraduates, 11,300 graduates and 1,800 long-term international students. The campus has 1 education faculty, 22 schools and colleges, 2 departments and 36 research institutes (centers). The library boasts over 4.1 million volumes and some 17,300 GB of digital resources, with 1,400 GB e-books.

# EXCURSIONS & ACTIVITIES

## **OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL TRAVEL OPTIONS**

There will be group excursions as part of the program. Details will be provided prior to departure by the professor leading the program.

It is NOT recommended to travel outside of China since your visa will not allow for re-entry. Program director's approval is needed if student must travel for the purpose of research after submission of detailed travel plan.

# HOUSING AND MEALS

## **HOUSING**

Students live in the Student Dormitory at BNU for the summer. The students will be in double rooms with a shared bathroom. There is a public kitchen for students to use. Students will also have access to the library. In keeping with the policy of the W&M Office of Residence Life, the Reves Center does not offer housing for the family of any students participating in W&M-sponsored study abroad programs. Also, family members or friends may not participate in any program activities or excursions. If you have family or friends who want to visit you while abroad it is recommended they do so after the completion of the program.

## **MEALS**

Students are provided with a meal stipend so students can eat on campus in the student cafeterias or off campus in nearby restaurant.

# COMMUNICATION

The GEO provides local cell phones for all students on William & Mary summer programs with *homestays*. Students that are not participating in a program with a homestay are responsible for researching and arranging their communication plan.

## PLACING INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

See the “Handy Information” section for a time zone conversion chart before you call!

**Calling Beijing from the United States:** Dial 011-86+10+ phone number.

**Calling the United States from Beijing:** Dial 001+ phone number.

## Emergency Numbers

General Emergency / Police: 110



# HEALTH & SAFETY

## IMMUNIZATION

You are encouraged to consult the Center for Disease Control to verify which vaccinations are recommended for prolonged stay in China:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/china.htm>. Remember to consider any travels you might want to undertake while abroad for the semester or the year. If you prefer to talk to someone in person about the currently recommended immunizations, you can call Travel Health of Williamsburg at (757) 220-9008 (located at 287 McLaws Circle), or consult with a physician in your area who has some expertise concerning immunizations for international travel.

**THINK CLEAN:** Here are some things to keep in mind as you prepare to visit China:

1. Some people feel that it is better to bring one's own chopsticks when eating out or traveling, if it is convenient. Plastic ones are relatively easy to keep clean.
2. Although restaurants in China generally sanitize the glassware, in general, you may feel better about drinking directly from the beverage bottles or cans.
3. Wash your hands before meals. The leading cause of food poisoning is staph, a skin bacterium. It is also vital that you protect against hepatitis. Be sure your hands, chopsticks and bowls are clean.
4. A few additional precautions:
  - Footwear: It is suggested that upon arriving in Beijing you buy rubber shower shoes or sandals to wear in the shower at the dormitory; do not go barefoot anywhere. Some parasitic diseases which are significant public health problems in China are transmitted through tiny wounds in the feet. Others are airborne and absorbed by inhalation. While these are usually picked up by those who work out of doors, it is best to be careful.
  - Disinfectants: Since tap water in Asia is not chlorinated or sterilized, you should not drink the tap water. Ask your director if brushing your teeth with tap water is safe. For the same reason, don't order ice water in restaurant.
  - You will find that cuts and abrasions get infected more easily than they do at home and are harder to keep clean. Take any cut or scrape seriously and apply antiseptic ointment regularly until the injury is healed.

**A NOTE ON POLLUTION:** In recent years, students have also strongly suggested that you should pack a good quality mask to battle against the present pollution in Beijing. It is very likely that at some point during your stay in Beijing that will come down with some respiratory cold/cough. Having a mask can help with this. In addition, if you have asthma or a weak respiratory system, it is important to talk with your physician and bring necessary medications/inhalers with you to China.

For the duration of the program, the Director is always available to assist students in obtaining medical care. Useful information on preparing for medical emergencies before you go abroad is provided at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/health.html>.

## TRAVEL & COUNTRY INFORMATION

We encourage all students to research their study abroad destination. Be sure to read up on Chinese history, culture, and current events before your arrival. Knowing as much as possible about where you are going will not only make you more comfortable during your time in the country, but will also allow you to talk more knowledgeably with your teachers and new friends.

# BEIJING



Few cities in the world besides Beijing have served as the political and cultural center of an area as immense as China for so long. The Encyclopedia Britannica describes it as “one of the world's great cities,” and declares that the city has been an integral part of China’s history for centuries; there is scarcely a major building of any age in Beijing that doesn't have at least some national historical significance. Beijing is renowned for its opulent palaces, temples, and huge stone walls and gates. Its art treasures and universities have long made the city a center of culture and art in China.

Beijing, a municipality directly under the Central Government, is the capital of China and the country’s political, economic, and cultural center, as well as a famous historic city. Located on the edge of the North China Plain, Beijing is the second largest city in the country with a population of more than 12 million. The establishment of Beijing as the capital by four feudal dynasties makes the city the most concentrated place of China’s scenic spots and historical sites. As a cultural center, Beijing has many top research institutions and universities, in addition to numerous museums and libraries, and has the greatest number of professionals. With no doubt, Beijing is one of the best places to study and visit in China.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## REVES CENTER CONTACTS

You may call the Reves Center and its advisors at the numbers below between 8am and 5pm (Virginia time), Monday through Friday. In case of an emergency that falls outside of these times, please call William & Mary Campus Police at +001 (757) 221-4596. Campus police will then forward your call to the correct person or office.

**Global Education Office Advisor:** Laura McDonald ([lbmcDonald@wm.edu](mailto:lbmcDonald@wm.edu)) +001 (757) 221-2003

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P. O. Box 8795  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795  
Fax – (757) 221-3597

\*To call the U.S. from abroad: 001+ (Area Code) + phone number

# NOTES



Pictures from Campus:



