A PRIMER

STUDY IN CHINA

JOURNEY TO THE EAST

Studying in China is a daunting but rewarding experience. You will get front-row seats to global events while living in a country that is as historical as it is transformative.

You will be joined by the best and brightest that China has to offer, given their eminently selective admissions process. Be prepared for a demanding workload from a rigorous curriculum led by some of the world's leading subject-matter experts.

It might be challenging, but you will not have to go at it alone. The strong Singaporean student community in China frequently organises events and get-togethers to offer support and respite amidst our hectic schedules.

This information booklet was also put together through the efforts of Singaporean students in China to give you a better glimpse of what life here is like. We hope you can join us!

HIGHLIGHTS

Network and Learn

Exposure to thought leaders from around the world, with ample exchange opportunities with internationally renowned colleges. Forums are commonly held in both English and Mandarin.

Be at the Cutting Edge of your Chosen Field

Expect a heavy academic workload from a rigourous curriculum led by leading subject-matter experts. Leading universities also have abundant resources for students to pursue their interests, such as Tsinghua's X-Lab startup accelerator.

Immerse in the Culture of a Civilisation

Most faculties offer classes that aid in familiarising students with the history of a given field. You will be well-equipped to draw links between China's cultural context and how it engages with the rest of the world.

CHALLENGES

Speaking in Mandarin

The language can take some getting used to. Getting weird looks from locals is a rite of passage. Practice makes perfect!

The Great Firewall

Access to popular websites such as Instagram and Wikipedia is curtailed. You will quickly acclimatise to alternatives like WeChat and Weibo.

Learning Styles

There is a stronger emphasis on memorisation in examinations here. However, seminar-style classes that allow for more discussion are on the rise after student feedback.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Beijing Fitness University?

This is the name Tsinghua is sometimes jokingly referred to, as passing fitness tests is an undergrad graduation requirement. Sports meets are a big part of campus life in most Chinese universities!

Count on a Singaporean

The Singaporean student community is always ready to help. Information such as course curriculums is sometimes not updated on English versions of school websites, so don't hesitate to ask us!

E-Payment Wizardry

Most merchants, even roadside stalls, prefer accepting payments through apps like WeChat Pay or AliPay. You will be assisted by your university in setting these up so you'll be good to go.

TAKE IT FROM US

BRYAN FOO

2018 PSC Scholarship (Foreign Service)
Undergraduate, International Politics
Peking University

My education experience in China has been both meaningful and eye-opening. Through our classes, I am able to get a better understanding of the Chinese perspective - how it views the world and itself. The best and most organic way to understand the Chinese culture and lifestyle is to spend time in China. There are many other things to look forward to in China - the seamless and cashless payment systems, affordable and quick food delivery, travelling scenic and diverse landscapes. Also, it's the best way to brush up one's Chinese language abilities!

MOCK YI JUN

2016 PSC Scholarship (Foreign Service)
Postgraduate, Management Science (Global Affairs)
Tsinghua University

With a population of 1.39 billion[1] and 18.69%[2] of the global economy - China is a world of its own, and no country will have a larger impact on our generation. Studying in China has been an eye-opening experience, and there is no better place to be if Asia is the place you hope to live and work.

YUKI CHONG

2017 PSC Scholarship
Undergraduate, Liberal Arts (World History)
Peking University

Being in Beijing for the past two years has been one of the most fulfilling and challenging experiences of my life. From examinations in Mandarin and classes on fields I was completely unfamiliar with (e.g. Theoretical Marxism and Chinese Archaeology), to the everyday interactions with my Chinese peers and my growing sensitivity to the cultural nuances of Chinese society, these are experiences and perspectives that I believe are simply unique to this country and very much irreplaceable elsewhere.

JONATHAN KOH

2018 PSC Master's Scholarship
Postgraduate, Law
Peking University, School of Transnational Law (Shenzhen)

One quickly realises that there is a strong sense of duality in China. The country's ardent desire to surge upward in economic and technological quarters is matched only by its cultural and historical sensitivity. I have had the privilege of witnessing this firsthand during my time in China. Professors and policymakers alike make a conscious effort to ensure Western traditions, though ubiquitous, are not unthinkingly emulated.

Studying in China demands a different frame of mind, as parameters are reset and assumptions questioned. My time here has trained me to wield a comparative, cross-cultural lens when analysing issues and this has made an invaluable difference to my outlook.

[1] Source: World Bank for the year 2018

[2] Source: Statista.com for the year 2018