

2016 Chinese Winter Camp

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

REGISTRATION

1. How can I get registered?

Study Abroad Office online application

Go to “Global Partner Programs” under Forms & Applications on www.studyabroad.sc.edu

Confucius Institute

Fill your application form and submit to Tiejun Zhang, Welsh Humanities Office Building Room 601

Pay your registration fee to Sandra Sabo, Office Manager, Welsh Humanities Office Building Room 611

PASSPORT & VISA

(Participant must prepare a valid passport)

1. Does Confucius Institute offer visa service?

We don't provide visa service. But usually you will get a group discount if participants all go to the same agent.

LUGGAGE

1. What are the baggage limitations?

International flight from US to China:

You have to check with the airlines. We recommend you travel with only one checked bag and one carry on bag.)

Domestic flight in china:

The maximum Carry-on baggage allowance for each economy class passenger is 5kg (approximately 11 lbs). All passengers can carry on only one piece. The size may not exceed 20x40x55cm. Carry on baggage in excess of the limit is subject to an excess baggage fee and must be carried as checked baggage.

Adult and children are entitled to a free **checked** baggage allowance of 20kg (approximately 44 lbs) for economy class while traveling on domestic airlines in China.

We recommend traveling light in order to navigate airports, buses, and trains with ease.

MONEY

1. How much spending money should I bring?(Approximate Exchange rate: \$1=6.67RMB)

You are expected to pay your meals by yourself. Usually, it will take about 5-10RMB for breakfast and 15-30RMB for lunch or dinner. Many students like to eat together and share the dishes in which they can taste more dishes and reduce the cost. You should pay by cash because most of the restaurants within the campus do not accept credit/debit card.

2. How much currency should be exchanged before departure?

You may have to contact the main branch of your bank if you wish to exchange some money ahead of time. Otherwise, it is not necessary to exchange money before departure. You will be able to exchange

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USD to RMB at Beijing Capital International Airport through the Bank of China or at the Industry and Commercial Bank of China on BLCU campus.

3. Should I bring a credit/debit card? Which cards work the best?

A Visa or Master card can be used in most supermarkets and department stores. Remember there could be extra service fees charged to your card if you use it. Check with your bank before you leave the U.S.

CLIMATE/ CLOTHING

1. What is the climate like in China?

Temperatures in December will be between 29°F—35°F. It will be cold, so you will want to pack warm clothes. Dorms, classrooms and buses will be air conditioned.

2. What types of dress clothing are needed?

You should bring at least one dressy outfit for dinner/opening ceremonies, and graduation. This can include a pair of dress pants and a nice shirt. Coats and ties are not necessary.

3. What type of shoes should I bring?

You may spend some time walking, so comfortable solid shoes are recommended. (Chaco, Teva, or Reef brands are a great travel option. They are versatile and easy to pack.)

CALLING CARDS/PHONES

1. How can I use calling cards or phones while in China?

Some of the US Tel company like At& T may can be still workable in China, but the fees can be very high. If you like, you can buy a new SIM card with a number which can be used in China and your friends and parents can call you since the phone call fee from US to China is usually lower than the call from China to US. There are many kinds of calling cards available too. BLCU teacher will suggest the best card to purchase once you have arrived. You may want to contact your cell phone provider to discuss other options before leaving the U.S.

ELECTRONICS

1. Is it needed to bring adaptors for electronics?

You will need to use adaptors to plug in any electronics. Voltage is 220 in China (compared to 110 in the U.S.).

2. Can I leave valuables safely in the dormitory/hotel rooms?

While the environment is very safe in Beijing and the host Province, you will want to use logical precaution to protect your things. Leave important and more expensive items in locked rooms only. Leave irreplaceable things at home.

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FOOD AND DRINK

1. What foods should I NOT eat?

Sometimes, the name of the dish in some restaurants may confuse you about the ingredients, so ask before you make orders, especially if you are allergic to something.

2. Can I drink tap water?

You **should NOT** drink tap water. The water may be clean, but the minerals are very different and may react with your immune systems. Bottled water can also be purchased on campus and in local markets.

MEDICATION

1. Are all medicines self administered?

BLCU has a clinic on campus which can provide general medicines. But if you need special medicine, please bring all medicine in original bottles and with a note from doctor in the U.S. in case of an emergency. You may want to bring extra prescriptions with you for important medicines. Pack all medicines in carry on luggage.

2. What types of drugs are recommended?

You should consider packing general over the counter medicines such as antihistamine, decongestant, antidiarrhea, motion sickness, headache, cold, etc.

3. If I get sick, what should I do?

You should alert the team leader if you feel ill. First aid kits will be available at all times, and BLCU will provide transportation to local clinics or hospitals in case of an emergency.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. How do I do the laundry?

Usually there are several automatic washing machines in the dorm so you can buy the washing coin and do the laundry.

2. Are there any internet access or international phones that I can contact my families or the parents be able to contact me if needed?

BLCU has computer rooms where you can log onto the internet and send emails to your families and friends. There is wifi in the lobby of the dormitory building. Also there are phones in dormitory.