

BEIJING STUDY GUIDE

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Best City in China for Studying Abroad in 2025

- A blend of history and modernity
- Abundant educational resources
- A friendly and open attitude

No.1

Best City in China for Studying Abroad in 2025

4 Centers:

Beijing's Urban Positioning
National political center, Cultural center, Center for international exchanges and Center for Scientific discovery and technological innovation

92 universities and institutes

162 disciplines have been included in the "World-Class Universities and Disciplines" construction list
Respectively accounting for 25% and 35% of the national total
The number of A+ disciplines represents 44% of the national total

3000 years Beijing's history

700,000 years of human history
Over 3,000 years of city history
Over 870 years of capital history
Beijing is the city with the most World Cultural Heritage Sites (8 sites)

"Study in Beijing" <https://english.beijing.gov.cn/studyinginbeijing>

Beijing has meticulously created the "Study in Beijing" portal website
Providing study-abroad information in nine languages: English, Korean, Japanese, German, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, and Portuguese

It facilitates international students in accessing authoritative information on academic disciplines, special programs, scholarship applications, research exchanges, cultural activities, stay and residence, and internships and employment

And offers comprehensive information on various aspects of life, leisure, and work

Top 10 Reasons to Study in Beijing (Why Beijing)

- Rich cultural heritage and the charm of a historical city
- A hub for international exchanges and the only dual Olympic city
- Home to top-tier universities and abundant educational resources
- At the forefront of technological innovation with vast development opportunities
- Excellent language environment and the top choice for learning Chinese
- Abundant scholarships and diverse policy support
- Extensive academic exchanges and broad international perspectives
- Promising employment prospects and strong global competitiveness
- Social safety and stability, providing a secure study environment
- Diverse culinary culture and convenient modern living

Theme 1

How to Choose Universities and Majors

1. How should I choose the type of program to apply for?

China's Educational System



In addition

you can choose non-degree education such as preparatory education, summer courses, Chinese language learning, short-term training, and vocational skill training.

Academic Education

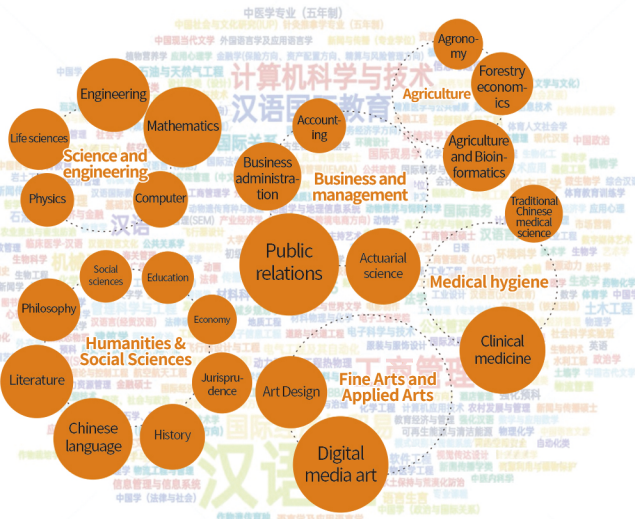
Vocational education typically lasts two to three years

Undergraduate education is usually four years

Master's education is generally two to three years

And doctoral education is typically three to four years

Popular Majors among International Students Coming to China



2. How should I choose a university?

985

An educational initiative in China to build world-class universities, with a total of 39 universities nationwide.

211

An educational project in China aiming at building a group of key universities and disciplines for the 21st century, with a total of 112 universities nationwide.

Double First-Class

A national strategy in China's higher education sector following the "211 Project" and "985 Project", aiming to build world-class universities and disciplines, with a total of 147 universities currently included.

92 universities and research institutes in Beijing that admit international students.

When faced with the many universities in Beijing, you need to factor in university rankings, major rankings, your interests, and future career plans.

University rankings can directly reflect a school's teaching quality and research capabilities. Many students base their university choices on widely recognized rankings, such as the QS World University Rankings and Chinese "985 project" universities.

In addition to having China's top two universities—Peking University and Tsinghua University—Beijing is also home to many "985 Project" universities, "211 Project" universities, and "Double First-Class" universities, which have highly prominent disciplines and rank among the world's best. You can focus on universities with strong programs in your field of interest.

But rankings are not everything; students should also consider factors such as the university's teaching style, curriculum setting, and faculty strength in their fields of interest.

At the same time, factors such as level of internationalization, special training programs, alumni networks, and opportunities for internship and employment are also considerations for many students when choosing a university.

You can learn about Beijing's universities by browsing the "Study in Beijing" website and directly access the international versions of each university's site for detailed information on the universities you are interested in.

3. How can I check the admission requirements?

On the "Study in Beijing" website, you can find all the universities in Beijing that admit international students, as well as admission information on each university's official website and WeChat official account.

By carefully reviewing the introductions to universities, majors, programs, and scholarships, you can select institutions, majors, and programs that align with your interests and academic background, while also checking specific admission requirements. The following are some common requirements:

3.1 Basic Requirements

- (1) Non-Chinese citizens holding a valid passport.
- (2) In good health.
- (3) No criminal record.
- (4) During the study period, comply with Chinese laws and regulations, respect Chinese customs, and abide by school rules and regulations.
- (5) At the time of enrollment, applicants should generally be at least 18 years old. If they are under 18 and their parents or legal guardians do not reside in China, the applicant's parents or legal guardians must appoint a foreigner or Chinese citizen residing in China as the applicant's guardian and provide the relevant documentation.

3.2 Language Requirements

- (1) If choosing a Chinese-taught program, applicants should have the corresponding Chinese proficiency (HSK scores are required, but applicants choosing Chinese language training or preparatory courses are generally exempt).
- (2) If choosing an English-taught program, applicants should have the corresponding English proficiency (IELTS or TOEFL scores are required, but native English speakers are generally exempt).



Theme 2

Costs and Scholarships for Studying in Beijing

For many students hoping to study in China, the cost of studying abroad is an important consideration.

Generally speaking, without scholarships or financial aid, the total annual cost for an international student in China, including tuition, living expenses, and entertainment fee, ranges from 80,000 to 120,000 RMB.

Of course, the cost of studying abroad is variable and depends on the school, major, and personal lifestyle.

Beijing also offers a comprehensive scholarship support system, and it is recommended to check the detailed information before applying.

1. What are the tuition and accommodation fees at Beijing universities?

The following is a general range of costs. Actual fees may vary depending on the program. This is for reference only.

Category	Language	Tuition	Dormitory	Insurance
Undergraduate	Liberal Arts category	Chinese /English 20,000-30,000 yuan	1500-3000 yuan	800 yuan / year
	Science and Technology Categories	Chinese /English 25,000-35,000 yuan		
Master's graduate students	Liberal Arts category	Chinese /English 25,000-40,000 yuan		
	Science and Technology Categories	Chinese /English 30,000-45,000 yuan		
PhD graduate student	MBA and Senior Management	Chinese /English The tuition is higher.		
		Chinese /English 30,000-60,000 yuan		
Language courses	Chinese /English	8,000-13,000 yuan		

2. What are the other living expenses?

Dining

The canteens at Beijing universities offer affordable meals, with a wide variety of dishes, from spicy hot pot to Mongolian hot pot, from Cantonese dim sum to Peking duck. You can choose from a diverse range of dishes.

Considering the religious beliefs and customs of different students, most universities have established halal canteens to accommodate the dietary needs of all students.

The prices of canteen meals are very affordable, and you can have a full meal for just 10-20 RMB!

If you want to eat home-cooked meals, some university dormitories provide shared kitchens where you can buy ingredients at a low cost and cook your own meals.



Leisure and Entertainment

While studying in Beijing, you can fully explore this city where ancient and modern civilizations intertwine. Tickets to historical sites, royal gardens, and top museums and exhibition halls are very affordable, and many are even free.

Extracurricular leisure activities such as karaoke, movie-watching, and attending performances can also be enjoyed at discounted rates through online platforms.



3. How can I find scholarship programs?

Outstanding international students will have the opportunity to receive various scholarships, covering tuition, accommodation, living expenses, comprehensive medical insurance, and international travel costs.

The types of scholarships you can apply for include:

Chinese Government Scholarship	Beijing Scholarship for International Students
Established by the Chinese government, please see: https://www.campuschina.org/	Established by the Beijing Municipal Government, please see: https://english.beijing.gov.cn/
International Chinese Teachers Scholarship	Scholarships set up by universities in Beijing
Established by the Center for Language Exchange and Cooperation of the Ministry of Education please see: http://www.chinese.cn/	Established by universities in Beijing, please see: https://english.beijing.gov.cn/

Theme 3

How to Prepare Application Materials

After selecting your desired university, program, and scholarship type, the next step is to find the application platform, prepare the application materials, and submit your application before the deadline.

1. How can I find the application websites and platforms for each university?

University official websites are the most reliable sources for detailed application information.

First, enter the official name of the target university in search engines like Google or Bing, along with key words such as "international student admissions", (for example, "Peking University international student application"). You should be able to find the official application website link in the search results.

You can also find the "international student admissions" section through the "Admissions" section on the official website of the target university.

Universities also release international student program admissions information through platforms such as the Chinese Ministry of Education and the "Study in Beijing" website.

2. Application Timeline and Notes

Please pay special attention to the application opening date, application deadline, and enrollment date of the program.

Universities set their own application timelines, so they vary. Students must refer to the official admissions information provided by the university.

Applications are generally divided into two batches: spring enrollment and fall enrollment.

The enrollment date for the fall semester is usually in September, and applications are typically open from November of the previous year to May of the current year.

The enrollment date for the spring semester is usually in February, and applications are typically open from August to December of the previous year.

3. How should I prepare the application materials?



Passport: The passport is the primary document proving the identity of a foreigner, a key document for legally crossing national borders, and a required item for university applications. After deciding to study in China, you should apply for a personal private passport as soon as possible.



Resume: The resume should be concise and clear, highlighting educational background, academic achievements, internship experience, awards, club activities, and personal skills, and should be limited to 1-2 pages.



Diploma: Original and translated copies of previous academic qualifications, degrees, and diplomas (must be translated and stamped by a certified translation agency). The translation should accurately reflect all information on the certificate, including the school name, major, and graduation date. For example: Applying for an undergraduate program requires submitting a high school diploma.



Transcript: Official transcript from the previous academic institution and its translation (must be translated and stamped by a certified translation agency). The transcript should include all subjects, grades, and credits from the entire previous academic stage. For example, applying for a graduate program usually requires a complete transcript from the first to the fourth year of university.



Proof of Language Proficiency: If applying for a Chinese-taught program, HSK scores are required; if applying for an English-taught program, TOEFL, IELTS, or other language test scores are required. Some universities may accept proof of English-taught courses.



Medical Examination Report: You can usually download the "Foreigner Physical Examination Form" from the university's application information page. You need to go to a local medical institution to complete the physical and blood tests, strictly following the items listed on the form. The results must be filled out in both Chinese and English, signed by a doctor, and stamped by the medical institution.



Study Plan/Personal Statement (for Graduate Students): Usually includes the purpose of studying abroad, academic background, study plan, and post-graduation career plan.



Others: Universities usually also require application materials such as birth certificates, financial guarantee letters, and criminal record certificates. Graduate applications usually require recommendation letters. You should prepare these in advance according to the specific requirements of the university.

4. How can I apply for a pre-admission acceptance letter? (for Graduate Students)

If you are applying for a graduate program, especially for scholarships, it is recommended to contact the university and the supervisor in advance to obtain pre-admission materials.

Pre-admission materials may include a pre-admission notice, a supervisor acceptance letter, an invitation letter, etc., usually issued by the university's international student admissions office and stamped with the university's official seal or the seal of the international student admissions department.

Theme 4

Admission Process and Acceptance Letter

1. In addition to the application materials, do I need to take any additional exams or assessments?



After submitting the application materials, you will also need to prepare for the admission assessment, which usually includes document review and academic assessment.

Document Review:

The university will review all the materials you submitted.

Academic Assessment:

If you are applying for an undergraduate program, some universities require you to take a unified academic proficiency test.

For Chinese-taught programs, you need to take a professional Chinese language exam and subject-specific basic tests (e.g., mathematics, physics, chemistry).

For English-taught programs, some majors require corresponding basic subject tests in mathematics, physics, and chemistry.

The test format is an online home-based exam, which you can take through an online exam system, usually between May and June.

If you are applying for a graduate program, the supervisor and the faculty will usually assess your academic background and research capabilities.

2. What should I do after receiving the admission letter?

Admission Confirmation: After receiving the admission letter, you need to confirm your admission within the specified time according to the instructions in the letter.

The usual confirmation methods are filling in information and submitting confirmation on the university's student system or sending an admission confirmation letter via email.

Read the Admission Documents Carefully: Admission documents usually include the admission letter, the confirmation form for foreign students coming to China, and the enrollment guide.

Admission Letter: The admission letter is the official document from the university admitting you. It will include important information such as your name, admitted major, enrollment date, and program duration.

The letter is usually bilingual (Chinese and English) and stamped with the university's seal.

Most universities send the electronic version of the admission letter via email or the application system, and you need to print it and keep it in a safe place.

If there is a physical version of the admission documents, they will usually be sent to the mailing address you provided during the application via courier.

Confirmation Form for Foreign Students Coming to China: The confirmation form for foreign students coming to China is one of the important documents for applying for a Chinese visa, mainly used to confirm your identity and study eligibility.

The confirmation form is electronic, and you will be notified via email once it is processed. You need to download the confirmation form from the link provided in the email.

Enrollment Guide: The enrollment guide includes the procedures and notes to be completed before enrollment, such as the visa application process, accommodation application method, registration time and location, and tuition payment methods.

You should carefully read the enrollment guide and complete all preparations step by step according to the requirements.

Other Documents: Other documents may include the student handbook, scholarship policy explanations, campus maps, etc., to help you better understand campus life and the learning environment.

Theme 5

Pre-departure Preparation

1. How do I apply for a visa, and which type of visa should I apply for?

You need to apply for a Chinese visa at the Chinese embassy or consulate in your country.

Allow enough time for the application and approval process. It is recommended to apply at least 1 month before your planned entry date.

If you are entering China for long-term study (>180 days), you should apply for an X1 visa and apply for a residence permit after entering China.

If you are entering China for short-term study (<180 days), you should apply for an X2 visa.

Visa application materials include a valid passport, admission letter, and confirmation form for foreign students coming to China.

For information on Chinese embassies/consulates, please visit the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/>

Note:

(1) Holders of an X1 visa must apply for a residence permit within 30 days of entering China, and are only eligible to apply for a residence permit after registering at the university. It is recommended that students come to China and register according to the specified time.

(2) The validity period of an X2 visa will be indicated on the visa page, and you can stay for the specified number of days from the date of entry.

(3) At the time of registration, you must hold an X1/X2 visa or a residence permit issued by the Chinese public security authorities. Other types of visas cannot be used to complete the enrollment process.

(4) If your previous study period was in China and you plan to stay in China between graduation and the start of the next study period, you can apply for a stay visa.

2.What else do I need to do before departure?

(1) Travel Booking

After confirming the enrollment date, you can start searching for and booking flights.

When booking, pay attention to the flight's departure and arrival times, number of layovers, and baggage allowance.

It is recommended to choose direct flights or flights with fewer layovers.

Note: Beijing has two airports: Capital International Airport and Daxing International Airport. Capital International Airport is located in the northeast of the city, about 30 kilometers from the city center.

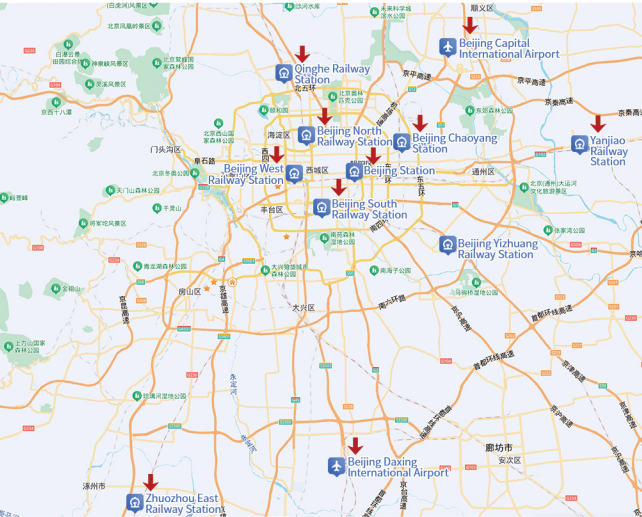
Daxing International Airport is located in the south of the city, about 40 kilometers from the city center.

There are also several train stations in Beijing, which are relatively close to the city center.

You can plan your trip reasonably based on the location of your university.

It is recommended to download the Baidu or Amap apps in advance to check local transportation routes.

STUDYING IN BEIJING



(2) Accommodation Application

Most universities in Beijing provide on-campus dormitories for international students.

After receiving the admission letter, you can submit an accommodation application within the specified time according to the university's accommodation application process.

If you choose to live off-campus, you can search for rental information in advance through real estate agencies.

When renting, try to choose reputable agencies such as Zillow or Lianjia.

If you live off-campus, you must complete the temporary accommodation registration process within 24 hours of entering China.

(3) Financial and Payment Preparation

It is recommended that you carry an international credit card in your name and 5,000 RMB in cash to cover personal living expenses for the first month after entering China.

You can also bring a small amount of foreign currency and exchange it for RMB at the airport or banks near the university. The following currencies can be exchanged in banks: GBP, HKD, USD, EUR, JPY, CAD, AUD, etc.

Preparing a bank card that supports RMB payments (with the UnionPay logo) in advance will be more convenient.

The expenses in Beijing are roughly as follows: the average price per night for a hotel room ranges from 200 RMB to 2,000 RMB; the cost per meal ranges from 20 RMB to 300 RMB.

(4) Packing Luggage

It is recommended that you carry important documents and valuables with you and keep them safe. Daily necessities can be purchased in Beijing.

In Beijing, the highest temperature in July can reach up to 38°C, while the lowest temperature in January can drop to -15°C. In August and September, which are at the end of summer and the beginning of autumn, the highest temperature is around 30°C, and the lowest temperature is around 18°C.

Theme 6

Basic Registration Process

The following are the first things you need to do when you arrive in Beijing and enter the campus:

① Contact the University in Advance

After receiving the admission letter, carefully read the enrollment guide. You should contact the university staff as soon as possible to learn in advance about informations such as the registration date, how to enter the campus, the route, and whether you need to purchase insurance in advance.

② Entry

With a study visa (X1 or X2), students can enter China and register at the university.

Please note that since the X1 visa must be changed to a study residence permit within 30 days of entry (application method is described below), it is recommended to plan your entry date reasonably to avoid the X1 visa expiring before the start of the semester.

③ Fill Out New Student Registration Documents

When registering at the university, new students must complete the new student registration form and school commitment letter according to the university's specific requirements. Please bring your passport, admission letter, and other necessary identification documents when completing the process.

④ Pay Tuition Fees

If you are a self-funded student, you must pay the tuition fees as soon as possible after registration to complete the enrollment process.

You can consult the relevant staff at the university's registration office for the specific process.

If you are a scholarship student, you need to provide proof of tuition funding.

⑤ Apply for a Campus Card

You should bring the necessary materials to apply for a campus card and go to the designated location at the time specified by the university to apply for the card.

⑥ Purchase Insurance for Studying Abroad in China

All international students studying in China are required to purchase insurance for the duration of their study period, which costs approximately 800 RMB/year. Please purchase it according to the university's requirements.

Purchasing insurance is essential for the health and safety of students studying in China. In terms of policy requirements, China has implemented a universal insurance system for international students, and international students must purchase insurance according to national regulations and university requirements.

In terms of financial security, it provides financial support in the event of high medical costs, helping to avoid financial pressure caused by emergencies.

In terms of safety, it ensures timely medical services in the event of accidents or illnesses.

⑦ Schedule a Medical Examination

If you are a newly arrived student, you need to undergo a medical examination at a designated institution.

Usually, the university will guide students to make an appointment or organize students to go to the medical institution as a group.

Since the medical examination results are necessary to apply for a residence permit, and the results usually take about 7 days, please undergo the medical examination as soon as possible to avoid the expiration of the X1 visa.

Theme 7

Integrating into Life in Beijing

The following are the things you need to know and complete to start a safe and convenient life in Beijing:

1.How do I apply for a Chinese mobile phone (communication) card?

Please bring your passport, student admission letter or enrollment certificate, and cash to the business hall of telecommunications companies such as China Mobile or China Unicom to apply for a mobile SIM card.

The SIM card will display the corresponding phone number, which consists of 11 digits in China.

2. How do I apply for a bank card?

After completing the mobile phone card and accommodation procedures, you can go to the business hall of a commercial bank to open an account and apply for a bank card.

If you are a scholarship student, some universities may only disburse scholarships to accounts at designated banks. Before applying for a card, confirm the bank with the university, and provide your bank card information to the university after applying.

When applying at the business hall, you usually need to bring: your passport (with a valid visa), admission letter or enrollment certificate, temporary accommodation registration form, Chinese mobile phone number, and pay the bank card issuance fee (if necessary). Complete the account opening application form on-site to apply for a bank card.

3. How do I complete the accommodation and information registration processes?

You can choose on-campus or off-campus accommodation.

On-campus accommodation resources are usually limited, so students planning to apply for on-campus accommodation are advised to contact the university in advance to confirm.

If you choose to live off-campus, you can stay in a hotel first and then look for a suitable long-term rental, or you can contact the university in advance for relevant recommendations.

Please complete the accommodation registration within 24 hours of moving in.

Accommodation information registration can be completed online or in person at the local police station in your residence or school area.

Online registration can be completed through the international version of the Beijing government portal website, the "Online Accommodation Registration" module in the "Beijing Exit-Entry Administration" WeChat official account, or by directly visiting the website: <https://zwfw.gaj.beijing.gov.cn/zsdj/zsdj-q/#/login>.

4. How do I set up mobile payment?

Use a smartphone to download and install WeChat or Alipay, register according to the instructions, and link an international or Chinese bank card.

Note: To link an international bank card to Alipay or WeChat, you need authorization from the foreign card issuer. Some card issuers may reject the binding request due to system constraints.

The spending limit for international bank cards linked to Alipay and WeChat is not more than 50,000 dollars per year and not more than 5,000 dollars per transaction.

Users of Alipay HK, WeChat Pay HK (Hong Kong SAR), m Pay (Macau SAR), Kakao Pay (South Korea), Touch'n Go e-Wallet (Malaysia), Hi Pay (Mongolia), Changi Pay (Singapore), OCB (Singapore), Naver Pay (South Korea), Toss Pay (South Korea), and True Money (Thailand) e-wallets can use these e-wallets to directly scan and pay in mainland China.

INTEGRATING INTO BEIJING

5. How do I apply for a study residence permit?

You can complete the application form through the online portal for foreign visa and document processing (<https://zwfw.gaj.beijing.gov.cn/tp/>), schedule a time and location for processing, and print the form, which needs to be stamped with the university's official seal.

At the scheduled time and location, bring your original passport, the stamped application form, admission letter, visa application form for foreign students coming to China, verification certificate of the foreigner's physical examination record, and a 2-inch white-background photo to the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau Exit-Entry Administration for processing.

For other specific matters, you can ask the university or visit the official website of the National Immigration Administration (<https://www.nia.gov.cn>) to check the service guide, or call the 12367 service platform for consultation.

6. How do I apply for part-time work?

If you want to engage in off-campus part-time work, you need to meet the following basic requirements and wait for the university's approval before applying for a part-time work endorsement on your residence permit. The requirements for a part-time work endorsement are as follows:

Be at least 18 years old and meet the physical requirements for the part-time work position.

A study residence permit with a validity period longer than 6 months.

No criminal record or violations of laws and regulations.

Having studied at the current university for more than one year; academic progress and attendance must meet the university's requirements.

Prepare materials such as the agreement signed with the employer and the university's proof letter, schedule an appointment to apply for the residence permit endorsement (refer to Theme 7, Section 5: How to Apply for a Study Residence Permit for the process), and submit the materials to the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau Exit-Entry Administration for processing.

In principle, international students can work part-time for no more than 8 hours per week and 40 hours per month. During winter and summer vacations, the limit is no more than 16 hours per week and 80 hours per month. For specific procedures and application materials, you can contact the university.

7. Other Notes

(1) Update your information with the university in a timely manner. If your passport, visa, accommodation address, or mobile phone contact information changes while in China, be sure to inform the responsible university teacher within 24 hours.

(2) In China, the state protects normal religious activities in accordance with the law. Collective religious activities of believers should be held in fixed religious venues officially registered and approved by the relevant local government departments. Universities respect the ethnic customs and religious beliefs of international students but do not provide religious activity venues. No religious activities such as preaching or religious gatherings are allowed on campus.

Theme 8

SETTLING IN BEIJING

1. How do I apply for a internship endorsement?

If you want to engage in off-campus internships, you need to meet the following basic requirements, and wait for the university's approval before applying for an internship endorsement on your residence permit:

Be at least 18 years old and meet the physical requirements for the internship position.

No criminal record or violations of laws and regulations.

Academic progress and attendance according to the university's requirements.

The internship must be related to your major, and required as part of the training program.

Prepare the university's letter of consent for international students to participate in off-campus internships (specifying the full name of the internship unit or company, internship duration, and content) and the internship unit's letter of consent or internship contract (the information must be consistent with the university's letter of consent), schedule an appointment to apply for the residence permit endorsement (refer to Theme 7, Section 5: How to Apply for a Study Residence Permit for the process), and submit the materials to the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau Exit-Entry Administration for processing.

2. How do I apply for a work permit?

The application is submitted online by the employer and processed by the Beijing Foreigner Work Service Window. For the service window address, please visit: <https://www.bjhwxr.gov.cn/xfw/wgrhgzx-l/gzxkswbzn/index.html>.

The following materials are required:

• A completed "Foreigner Work Permit Application Form".

• Proof of work experience.

• An apostille (for countries that have joined the "Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents") or the highest degree (diploma) certificate or relevant approval documents and professional qualification certificates authenticated by the Chinese embassy or consulate abroad.

• A criminal record certificate.

• A medical examination certificate.

• An employment contract or appointment letter (including a dispatch letter from a multinational company).

• The applicant's passport or international travel document.

• A recent passport-sized photo of the applicant taken within the last 6 months.

• Relevant supporting documents for accompanying family members.

• Other relevant materials.



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