



Peking University - Guanghua School of Management (GSM) Business School Exchange

Notes of Guidance for Exchange Students

Please check information on the host university's website for accuracy

Peking University (PKU) is a national university. The campus is known as "Yan Yuan" (the garden of Yan) and is situated at Haidian District in the western suburb of Beijing. It is near to the Yuanmingyuan Garden and the Summer Palace. The average temperature in Beijing is 11.8 °C, with cold snowy winters (-15°C) and the warmest month is in July (up to 40°C).

The Guanghua School of Management (GSM) was established in December 1993 through the merger of the Department of Economics and Management (part of the school of Economics), and the Center of Management Science, It was originally called the Peking University Business School and its name was changed in 1994 to honour a generous donation from the Guanghua Education Foundation in Hong Kong.

There are more than 200 student-organised associations and a range of student activities to satisfy the different demands of local as well as international students. Each year there are several festivals and activities which are regarded as main campus events eg the New Year's Eve Celebration, or the International Cultural Festival. <http://english.pku.edu.cn/CampusLife/>

The Division of International Students Office organises cultural events, trips and tours around the city. Each department also organises extra-curricular activities and students are encouraged to participate. Sports and recreation facilities include stadiums for soccer, baseball and a gymnasium for basketball, badminton, tennis etc. athletics and swimming.

Further info: http://www.gsm.pku.edu.cn/index/en/index_en.html

The Division of International Students handbook is available at <http://www.isd.pku.edu.cn/upload/2011102114293317135488.pdf>

Study Dates

<http://www.isd.pku.edu.cn/elistnews.jsp?id=148>

Registration and orientation are in the last week of August with class sign-ups and lectures beginning in the first week of September.

Semester 1: September – January

Semester 2: February – end of June

Academic Work

Selection of Courses

International exchange students should complete 30-40 units during their exchange year or a maximum of 20 units per semester. This will mean attendance at classes of up to a maximum of 16 hours per week.

Exchange students must register in person for classes at the relevant department. The GSM cannot guarantee places on all its Business courses taught in English due to popular demand, however, exchange students can also take some language courses and possibly one or two courses taught in another department, subject to availability. Details of available courses are on the website but currently only in Chinese.

Attendance is recorded at all lectures, examinations and any other forms of academic activity. Students absent for one third or more of a class will not be permitted to sit the exam and will receive a 0 grade for the course. The normal pass grade is 60%. Class participation, assessments, tests etc. are included in the final grade.

Your final course selection must be agreed with your School and any course changes made whilst you are away must have your School's approval. Please ensure that you keep in regular contact during your year abroad.

Medical Insurance/Health Certificate

All international students must purchase medical insurance and submit a copy of their health plan and a Medical Insurance Certificate Form to the Division of International Students Office on the day of registration. Students will not be permitted to register without this documentation. All students must obtain a Health Certificate which is also required in order to apply for a Residence Permit (see section on Visas below). This Certificate is available from the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau. Health certificates from other bodies must be verified by the Beijing Bureau.

The Peking University Campus Hospital and the Peking University Third Hospital are both accessible to students at PKU.

Housing

On-campus housing is available at the Shao Yuan Student Dormitory or Zhongguanyuan Global Village. Students who live on campus must abide by the rules and regulations of their residence. On-campus housing is only available from the date of registration. Students arriving early must therefore make their own accommodation arrangements. The Division of International Students' Office can also provide students with information regarding off-campus housing. All on-campus accommodation has internet access.

Estimated Cost of Living

Ren Min Bi (RMB) is the currency in China. The unit used for the RMB is Yuan and it has the smaller denominations of Jiao and Fen (1 Yuan = 10 Jiao = 100 Fen).
£1.00 GBP = 9.75486 CNY (Chinese Yuan Renminbi).

Estimated costs in 2008 (approximately):
Accommodation: 30,000 RMB/year
Food: 10,000 RMB/year
Transportation and other miscellaneous costs: 5,000 RMB/year

There is a post office on campus besides the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. There are a number of other banks located near to PKU eg the Bank of China, the Bank of Beijing.

When you are travelling in China, you must carry your passport and your destination must be open to visitors as there are a number of prohibited areas/regions that require prior approval from the Chinese authorities. Find out more about travel and tours at the Ctrip travel websites: <http://www.ctrip.com> and <http://destinations.ctrip.com/Destinations/DestinationGuides.asp>. These websites also provide students with the information needed to plan their itinerary, book travel tickets and hotel rooms.

There are many public buses that stop at PKU, which makes it convenient for students to get around the city. <http://www.bjbus.com> is an interactive website to help navigate the city via public transportation. Taxis are also readily available on and around campus and cost around 2RMB per kilometre.

Grants and Loans

If you are in receipt of a maintenance grant and/or a student loan, you should inform the awarding body that you have been selected to participate in the exchange. You may request that payment be made early. The awarding body will need payment instructions, namely details of a bank account into which it can be paid directly, or a nominated individual to whom cheques can be posted. Do not forget to obtain the necessary grant or loan application forms for the following year.

Visa

You will require a student visa, also sometime known as 'X' visa to study in China for a period of more than 6 months. The Student visa or 'X' visa is only valid for 30 days after your arrival. You must then apply for a Residence Permit within the 30-day period to obtain legal status in China. Various documentation is required, see the Division of International Students handbook for details:

<http://www.isd.pku.edu.cn/upload/2011102114293317135488.pdf>

This documentation, together with the Visa and Residence Permit form must be submitted to the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau.

Safety

Beijing is a relatively safe city and PKU a secure and well-guarded campus. Nevertheless, it is not advisable to carry around your passport or large sums of money. The Student ID Card and a photocopy of your passport are sufficient for most purposes. We hope your stay at your exchange destination will pass without any undue incident with regard to your safety. However, as you will be staying in a different environment and culture, you should be prepared to take necessary precautions if appropriate. We would advise you to consult with the Division of International Students Office on your arrival and also look at the following website which will give you up-to-date government information on the country you will be visiting <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/>

If you find yourself without any access to cash, without your passport, or in any other serious kind of trouble, the British Consulate will try to help. In the unlikely event of you being arrested for a serious offence, insist on the Consulate being informed; a consular officer who can advise on local procedures etc will contact you as soon as possible.

Please also inform the International Office and your Director of Studies of any problems relating to your health or safety whilst on your study abroad exchange.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Some destinations may be more accessible than others for disabled students. If you require any adjustments due to disability or specific learning difficulties and you wish to study abroad please contact the Business School in the first instance (adjustments@business-school.ed.ac.uk). We will liaise with you and the Student Disability Service at Edinburgh to explore the help available at your host institution. It would also be helpful if you discuss this with your Director of Studies and the Student Disability Service.

Contacts

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These notes are for guidance only. We have tried to keep them up to date, but it is very difficult to do so without your input. So, if you can keep notes of any inaccuracies in this information we should be glad to hear of them on your return to Edinburgh. Any other observations and impressions about your stay will also be useful and will help those students who participate in the exchange in future years.

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