



Australian Government

AddChina +

and see where the path takes you

Undergraduate Toolkit





“This year marks 45 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and China. The deep and growing bilateral relationship is complemented by the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement, which is opening up new market opportunities for businesses from our two countries. The next decade will see this relationship continue to grow.

Firsthand experience of Chinese culture, language and society is becoming increasingly important as employers in Australia and globally seek China-savvy graduates who can develop meaningful professional relationships and networks.

I strongly encourage young people looking to engage with China in the future to make the decision to ‘Add China’ to your program of study.”

—MS JAN ADAMS AO PSM

2016–present Australian Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China

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**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS**
Beijing

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1.INTRODUCTION

More Australian students are broadening their skillset and investing in their future by “Adding China”. Whether you have already attained fluency in Mandarin or can only say nǐhǎo, there are numerous options available for formal and informal study in China.

This toolkit presents some of the many options for Australian students considering undergraduate studies or research in China.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Key Facts



The **Chinese economy is making a major transition** to a more service and consumption-driven economy. Rapid urbanisation, higher disposable incomes, and the growth in the size of the Chinese middle class is also leading to greater demand for Australian products and services, including healthcare, education, tourism and food and beverage.



China's top universities are quickly rising up the global rankings and the world's most reputable universities are establishing an on the ground presence in China, including many Australian universities that have established joint programs in partnership with Chinese institutions.



China is already the **second most popular destination for Australian students** studying overseas, and with the implementation of the New Colombo Plan, China is expected to soon become the most popular destination for Australian students.



A decade ago, the **tech scene in China** was looking grim but young start-ups are now turning heads and attracting overseas investment. As their products and services succeed abroad, Chinese entrepreneurs are acting locally but thinking globally.



Collaborative projects and events in **art & design** continue to expand through the proactive work of organisations such as the Australia China Art Federation, Beijing Design Week, Creative Asia, the Australian Embassy in Beijing and architecture firms from both countries.



Australia prioritises its trade and regional security relationship with China. **China is Australia's largest two-way trading partner.** The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has four posts in Mainland China. The Embassy in Beijing is one of Australia's largest Embassies.



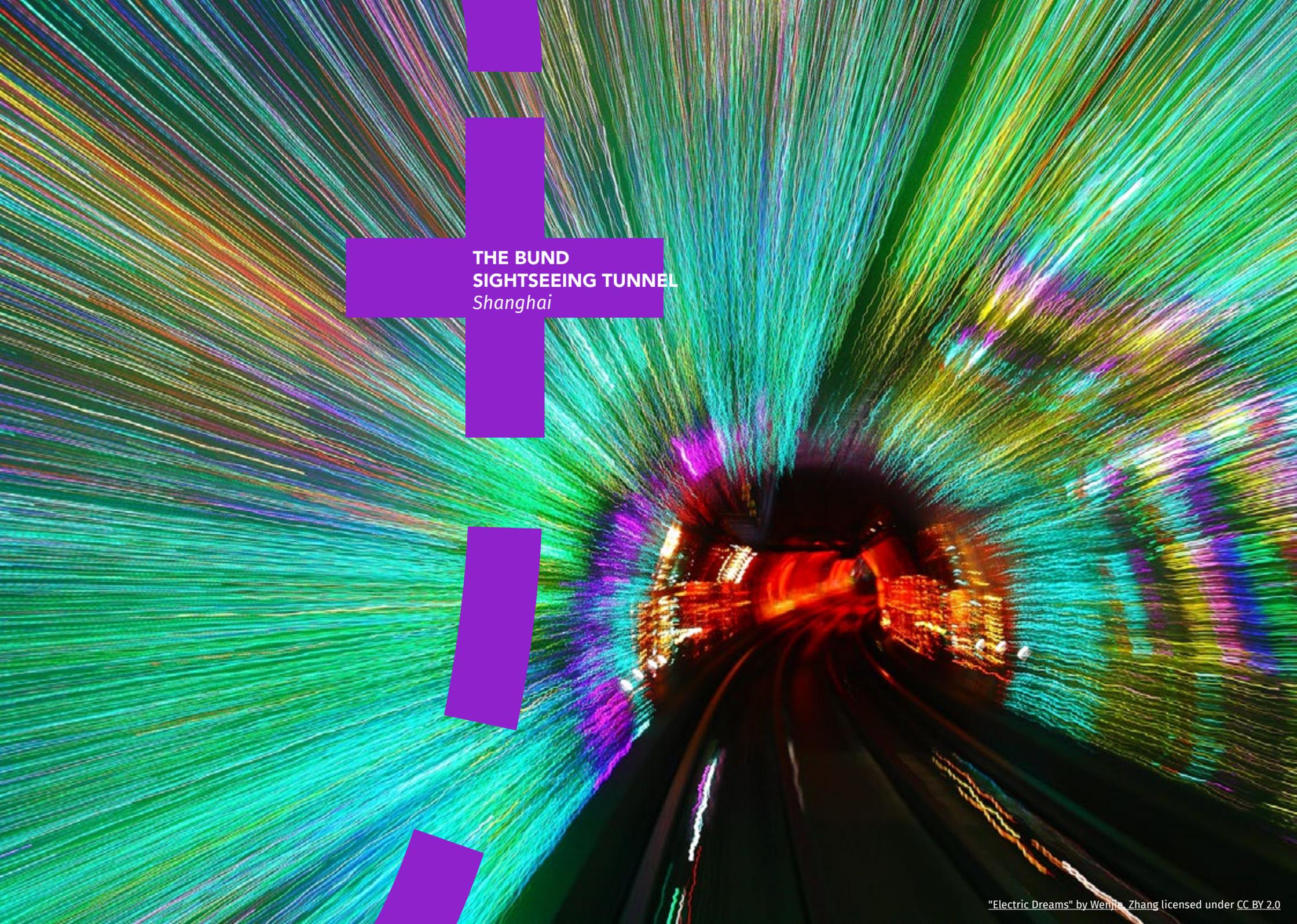
The China Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) has reduced barriers and tariffs for bilateral trade and is opening **new opportunities for Australian companies in a wide range of industries** including agri-business, mining, financial services, education, healthcare and construction.

“I went to China to embark on a journey to learn the language of one of the oldest and most fascinating cultures in the world and haven’t looked back since. While there are obvious career benefits to learning Chinese and about Chinese culture, I think the greatest benefit I’ve reaped from traveling to China is being able to live amongst an amazing culture and people and experience it all first hand in their own language.”

— **BEN THOMAS**

2015–present	Masters of Secondary Teaching RMIT
2014	Diploma of Languages RMIT
2014	President of RMIT’s Young Australian Ambassadors Delegation to Tianjin
2014	Recipient of University Mobility in the Asia Pacific scholarship to China
2014	Recipient of Australian Asian Association award for achievement in Chinese studies
2012	Confucius Institute scholarship to study at Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
2011	Bachelor of Fine Art





**THE BUND
SIGHTSEEING TUNNEL**
Shanghai

2.CHOOSING YOUR PATH

2.1 International Partnerships

If you've already started studying at a university in Australia, the easiest way to 'AddChina' is through studying at one of your university's partner institutions in China.

Studying in China via an exchange or study abroad program will help you to:

- Transfer credits to count toward your degree in Australia
- Find scholarships, such as the New Colombo Plan scholarship
- Access other forms of government support (such as an OS-HELP loan)

The best place to start your search is your university's Study Abroad Office or International Exchange Office. Your faculty or language department may also have a contact person for international partnerships.

Below are examples of places you can go to for more information:

- [!\[\]\(0f48f43ebd21f231a458c96216dbf4d1_img.jpg\) The University of Melbourne Global Mobility Office](#)
- [!\[\]\(ba0878532603d6e0b20c60ffb7475d12_img.jpg\) La Trobe University Study Abroad Office](#)
- [!\[\]\(0a70dbd9915c9ea99c6f238a2c711f53_img.jpg\) The University of Sydney Study Abroad Office](#)
- [!\[\]\(76511d025e9c8b0592325ddba91331d4_img.jpg\) The University of New South Wales Global Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(4ecf357067dff2cd4f65e9b71acfab07_img.jpg\) The Australian National University Global Programs Office](#)
- [!\[\]\(bdcc6b43570ac03740a9b9fceebadffe_img.jpg\) Monash University Study Abroad Office](#)
- [!\[\]\(19e7888cfa74401aed481c3fe14d7758_img.jpg\) The University of Queensland Abroad Program](#)
- [!\[\]\(f030a72b34d8705fb3a85bf642ca0dcf_img.jpg\) RMIT Mobi](#)
- [!\[\]\(302a53aa762c1c37ba80a26a4d8595c8_img.jpg\) Swinburne University Study Abroad Exchange](#)
- [!\[\]\(cc6426c2424de94bccb97122f1010e5f_img.jpg\) University of Technology Sydney Global Exchange](#)
- [!\[\]\(e6c9a425b59d6581d047c5bc4ecaae35_img.jpg\) Macquarie University Student Exchange](#)

2.CHOOSING YOUR PATH

2.2 Transferring Credit

After you've completed your initial research, you should meet with the relevant faculty advisor at your university in Australia to ensure your studies in China are able to earn credit towards your degree. If your university has a partnership with the university in China it is much easier to establish credit equivalency.

Insight thanks to →

Katrie Lowe

2011

BEng, BA, University of Technology, Sydney

2010–11

Visiting scholar, Tsinghua University

2010

Prime Minister's Australia-Asia Endeavour Award

Getting credit for Tsinghua University honours thesis

08/09 to 09/09	Identified and secured agreement for two Tsinghua University professors to co-supervise my thesis. This required many emails, referrals and queries answered about the level of support and resources I would require.
09/09	Acquired a formal letter on official Tsinghua University letterhead to confirm supervisor agreement.
03/10	Submitted/mailed my application as a visiting student to the Foreign Student Affairs Office, Tsinghua University. Application included the letter from my secured Tsinghua supervisors.
04/10	Called Tsinghua University to confirm status of application. I was advised my papers would be ready by August.
03/10 to 06/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found a third co-supervisor from UTS. • Enrolled in both UTS capstone (thesis) course and Tsinghua University. Normally a student would suspend enrollment at the home university and apply for recognition of credit. It may have delayed my graduation and I would only get a pass/fail grade in the course instead of a specific grade, so I enrolled in both courses.
07/10 to 08/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrived in China to attend language courses prior to beginning thesis work. • Met with supervisors at Tsinghua, confirmed semester start and end dates and finalised proposed alternate assessment submission time table.
08/10	Enrolled in Autumn semester at Tsinghua.
09/10	Finally started semester and thesis.
12/10	Submitted thesis for combined assessment by UTS and Tsinghua University.
01/11	Received assessment grading from UTS (based on combined UTS and Tsinghua University marks)
05/11	Graduated!

2.CHOOSING YOUR PATH

2.3 Designing Your Own Program

If you aren't currently enrolled in an Australian university, or if your institution doesn't have a partnership with a suitable university in China there are alternative paths available including:

1. Independent study at a university in China as a non-degree student. If you already attend university in Australia, you may be able to apply as a fee-paying study abroad student and arrange a credit transfer separately.
2. Independent study at a Chinese university as a degree-seeking undergraduate student.
3. Independent study at a private language institute as a short-term language student.

Keep in mind that the majority of Australian scholarships for study in China, including the New Colombo Plan, only offer funding for students seeking credit towards their undergraduate degree in Australia.

2.4 Can I Spend a Gap Year in China?

Another option to 'AddChina' is to go to China on a gap year to volunteer or study Chinese. There are scholarships available for studying Chinese language via the Confucius Institute and the Chinese Government Scholarship Program, ([see page 25](#)) but take note that funding for these scholarship programs commences in September (for the Autumn Semester). Visa regulations rule out direct work, including for those hoping to teach English to earn money on their gap year ([see more about visas on page 30](#)).

2.CHOOSING YOUR PATH

2.5 I Want to AddChina





“The expanding Chinese economy and international outlook sees Chinese and Australian companies increasingly valuing firsthand China experience and Mandarin skills. Australians that have an understanding of China, Chinese culture and people will position themselves to take advantage of opportunities in an ever-changing global market place. The China-Australia Chamber of Commerce is a strong supporter of efforts to enable Australians to enhance their China know-how – playing a central role in providing and building those necessary connections between China-Australia education, business and government. It is paramount that Australians gain academic and professional experience in China now to ensure they are prepared for future employability.”

— **TRACY COLGAN**

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2014–2017 | Chair, AustCham Beijing |
| 2000–present | President and Managing Director, Kamsky Associates Inc. |
| 1999–2000 | Postgraduate Studies in Chinese Literature, Renmin University and Wuhan University
– Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia-China Council Scholarship |
| 1985–1992 | B.A (Hons) and B.Comm, University of Melbourne |



**THE BUND SEEN FROM
WAIBAI DU BRIDGE**
Shanghai



“My recent trip to Jiangsu Province with Melbourne’s Confucius Institute allowed me to further broaden my understanding of the mysteries of China. After living and studying in China for quite some time already, I find there’s still always something new to learn and experience. I would highly recommend other young Australians to take the plunge and experience the adventure of living and studying in China.”

— **BRETT STONE**

2015–present	Business Development Manager at Sherry Link Communications
2015	Jiangsu Cup Award Recipient - Confucius Institute
2012–2013	Kunming School of Languages - Government Scholarship
2012	Young People Without Borders Program - China

3. STUDY OPTIONS

3.1 Chinese University Language Programs

The most common study option for undergraduate students to study in China is to enrol in a Chinese university language program. These programs are organised as a 16 to 18 week semester, with a minimum of 20 contact hours of class per week. More and more universities now also offer a 3 to 6 week winter semester, from January to February, or a summer semester, from July to August.

Compulsory classes in the morning generally focus on grammar, reading comprehension, listening and writing. Elective classes commonly offered in the afternoon are Chinese Calligraphy, the Chinese Economy, Chinese Society & Culture, Chinese History and Chinese Foreign Policy. Compulsory morning class sizes are typically 10 to 20 students and elective class sizes vary more widely.

Although it is not always straightforward, it is possible to enrol in non-language subjects taught in Chinese with local students. If you are enrolled on exchange or studying abroad, you will need to liaise

with your home and host university and verify your language credentials via a Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì (HSK) test. This option is worth pursuing for Chinese background speakers, or those who already have high fluency.

Average day for a language student at a Chinese university

8:00 to 8:50 Chinese Listening Class

9:00 to 9:50 Chinese Grammar Class

10:10 to 11:00 Chinese Reading Comprehension Class

11:10 to 12:00 Chinese Spoken Class

12:00 to 2:00 Lunch

2:00 to 4:00 Optional elective class

6:30 Dinner

Evening 1-2 hours of set homework

3. STUDY OPTIONS

3.2 Specialised Language Programs

As an alternative to mainstream language courses taught at Chinese universities, there are a number of specialised language programs with much smaller class sizes (1 to 3 students), which generally enforce a language pledge or commitment to only speak Chinese during the program. These programs are efficient pathways for native English speakers to rapidly develop high-level Chinese language abilities. Some programs also allow students to tailor their classes to individual interests, such as law, economics, medicine, or science.

These programs do not always have cooperative agreements with Australian universities, meaning credit transfer can be difficult to manage and tuition fees can also be steep.

Some well-known intensive programs are:

- [!\[\]\(cdce662f57d331b9c731fe0ee23c85fa_img.jpg\) CET Academic Studies](#)
- [!\[\]\(9e7178ca683a79b8864467de617e3033_img.jpg\) Princeton in Beijing](#)
- [!\[\]\(c41f328ee3f1f85a86cd8cc363c1074f_img.jpg\) Inter-University Program \(UC Berkeley-Tsinghua University\)](#)
- [!\[\]\(eb2adf7f60fb6feccb7368b72bd559bb_img.jpg\) IES Abroad](#)
- [!\[\]\(5a4cd3d4e3f3a317064c0af2fc802069_img.jpg\) The Beijing Center](#)
- [!\[\]\(186fe3cec10a4d52afa8c8c2c696a13d_img.jpg\) The Chinese Language Institute](#)



“Deciding to study in Chengdu has changed my life. I couldn’t have imagined the amount of opportunity available in China’s Southwest! It really is the new frontier of Chinese development and internationalization. I have great hopes for the coming years.”

— JESSIE GLASS

2014–present Chinese language study, Southwest University for Nationalities, Chengdu
2017-2013 Bachelor of Arts, Melbourne University

3. STUDY OPTIONS

3.3 Private Institutes

Chinese language programs offered by small, private institutes are usually more flexible in regards to study duration and study dates, and the quality of teaching is also usually very well regarded. Smaller class sizes and one-on-one tutoring at private institutes also generally allows students to tailor their classes to specific interests. The downside is that these programs provide limited visa support, do not offer scholarships and cannot transfer credit.

Some well-known private language programs are:

- 🔗 [Keats School](#) (Kunming)
- 🔗 [Beijing Global Village School](#) (Beijing)
- 🔗 [That's Mandarin](#) (Beijing and Shanghai)

3.4 Programs Taught in English

Many of China's best universities now offer subjects taught in English, especially for summer and winter programs, as well as at a postgraduate level. English-taught programs at Chinese universities don't always enjoy the same levels of administrative support and the English language competence of staff can be variable. International universities based in China such as New York University Shanghai and the University of Nottingham Ningbo are more expensive but reliable options. There are a large number of Sino-Australian joint programs delivering Australian qualifications in China in partnership with Chinese universities.

Undergraduate students seeking an English-taught program in China at a Chinese University should consult their home university in Australia and contact the international department of the Chinese university for more information.

3.5 Undergraduate Degrees in China

Australian students can complete a four-year undergraduate degree at a Chinese university. Undergraduate degrees in China are almost always taught in Mandarin Chinese. Students can enroll via the Chinese Government Scholarship Program or as a fee-paying student.

For foreign students who are not proficient in Chinese, there may be an additional year of pre-degree Chinese language studies. Due to the complex study structure, large class sizes, and limited recognition of a Chinese undergraduate degree, this is not yet a common study path for Australian students.

3. STUDY OPTIONS

3.6 Study Australian University degrees in China

Victoria University

Victoria University has partnered with a number of Chinese universities to deliver Victoria University courses in China. Although these programs are primarily designed for Chinese students, there are also opportunities for Australian students to take a semester of study or undertake a summer/winter program. Taking a semester in China will require significant academic and visa planning. If you are interested to take part of your study in a Victorian University degree on a Chinese campus, contact '[Victoria Abroad](#)' – the Victoria University Mobility office.

China Partner	Characteristics	VU Courses Offered
<p>🔗 Liaoning University</p> <p>Shenyang, Liaoning Province (in north east China approximately 4.5 hours fast train from Beijing)</p> <p>Shenyang is a modern city of approximately 8 million people.</p>	<p>Liaoning University is a comprehensive university highly ranked in north east China. Victoria University and Liaoning University has established a joint institute - Asia Australia Business College (AABC).</p>	<p>Bachelor of Business, majors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting Banking & Finance International Trade
<p>🔗 Henan University</p> <p>Kaifeng, Henan Province (in central China approximately 3 hours fast train from Beijing)</p> <p>Kaifeng is one of the oldest and most historic cities (and a former capital) in China. Kaifeng has approximately 5 million people.</p>	<p>Henan University is a comprehensive university in central China. The joint program is in collaboration with the university's International Education College, the college also delivers programs from America and Germany.</p>	<p>Bachelor of Business, majors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting International Trade <p>Bachelor of Information Technology, major in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web and Mobile Application Development
<p>🔗 Central University of Finance & Economics</p> <p>Beijing, Capital City of China.</p>	<p>Central University of Finance & Economics is one of the top 10 finance universities in China. The joint program is in collaboration with the university's School of International Trade & Economics.</p>	<p>Bachelor of Business double major in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Trade/ Financial Risk Management



**DRAGON SCREEN
AT BEIHAI PARK**
Beijing

“Despite studying Chinese throughout high school, nothing could have prepared me for my year abroad in Beijing. The sense of adventure in every day activities and the opportunities you are presented with do not exist back home. Living in China was a challenge but the most enjoyable year of my studies that gave me a glimpse into my future! I can’t wait to get back.”

— RYAN CUNNINGHAM

2016	New Colombo Plan Scholar, University of Hong Kong
2015–present	Australia China Youth Association Business Development Director
2014	Confucius Institute Scholarship, Tsinghua University
2012–2016	Bachelors of Commerce/Languages, Adelaide University



4. CHOOSING WHERE TO STUDY IN CHINA

4.1 China's Diversity

Each province in China has its own distinctive culture, food, dialects and rhythm of life.

China extends from the Gobi desert in the northwest to Harbin's famous ice festival in the northeast; to a tropical climate similar to Thailand in the southwest, and the cosmopolitan commercial hub of Shanghai on the east coast.

For an optimum environment to learn Mandarin, it is best to choose a location where Mandarin is widely spoken such as Beijing, Tianjin, Shandong and Northeast China. There are many different dialects throughout China — from Cantonese in Guangdong, to Shanghainese and the Wu language family in and around Shanghai. Despite regional variance, Mandarin is the standard language for education and business. However, day-to-day interaction is often spoken in the local dialect and the pronunciation of Mandarin is less 'standard' in many cities.

While Mandarin in other locations such as Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu may deviate slightly from Standard Mandarin, this will not prevent you from speaking fluent and understandable Chinese. Also, other cities further from Beijing such as Chongqing and Shenzhen offer important trade connections for Australia. Intimate knowledge of the culture and having on-the-ground contacts in these cities may help your future career. Choosing to study away from tier one cities such as Beijing and Shanghai may also help to improve your language study as there are likely to be fewer English speakers and English speaking foreigners. Australian universities are increasingly developing new partnerships with universities in smaller cities such as Hohhot in Inner Mongolia and Zhengzhou in Henan province.

4.2 Other Factors

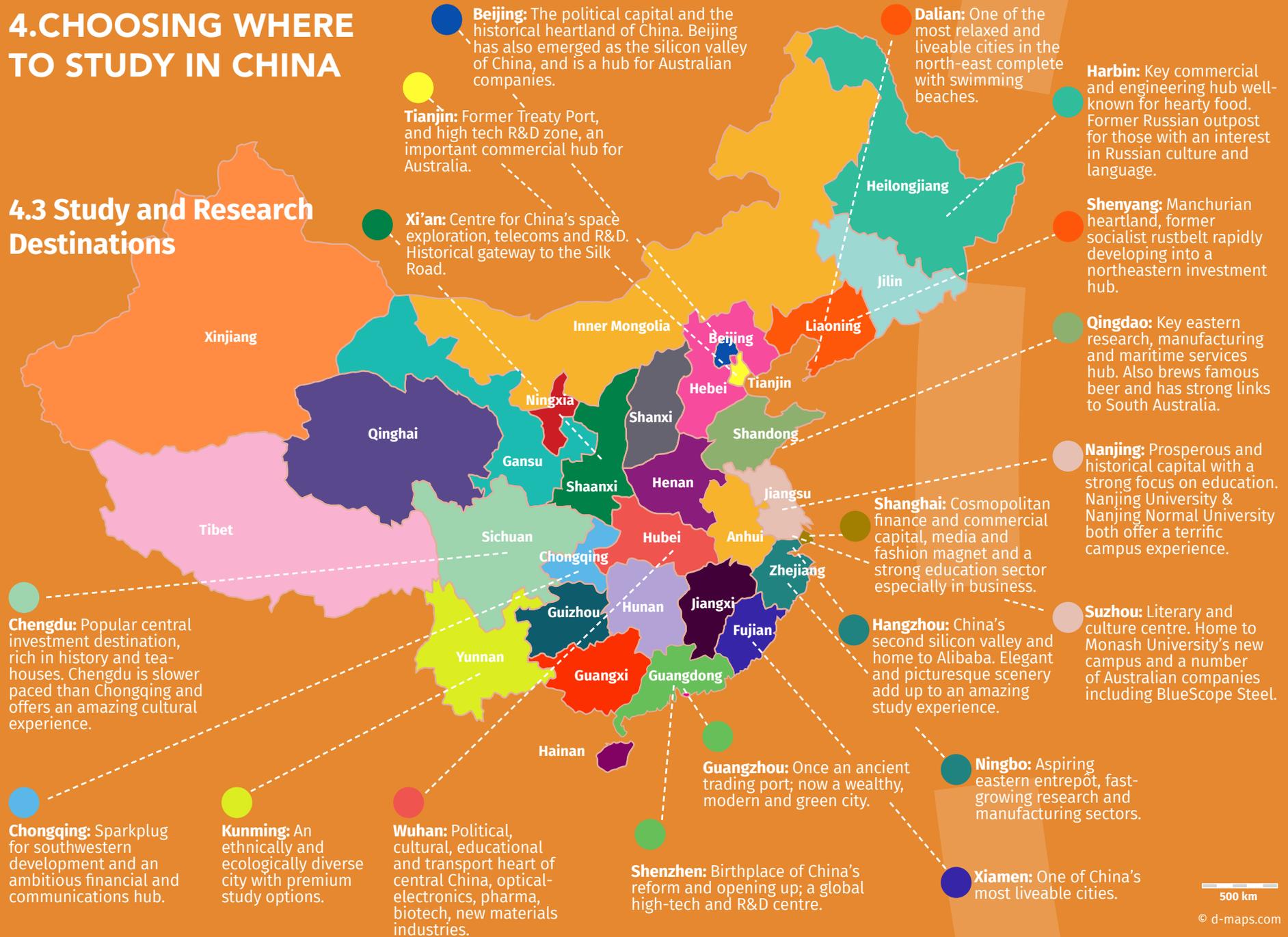
Climate, cost of living and environmental standards are important aspects to consider. You can find more information by searching on [Wikipedia](#), comparing cities on an [air quality index](#), asking general questions on

[Quora](#) or on China expat forums (such as [The Nanjinger](#) and [The Beijinger](#)), and by talking to your Chinese classmates in Australia.

The cost of living, including rent and taxis, is typically more expensive in major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, whereas other cities such as Chongqing are still relatively cheap for food and transportation.

4. CHOOSING WHERE TO STUDY IN CHINA

4.3 Study and Research Destinations



4. CHOOSING WHERE TO STUDY IN CHINA

Although the majority of international students in China study in large metropolitans such as Beijing and Shanghai, there are increasing opportunities and study options in other regions in China, for example South China.

4.4 South China

Guangdong Province:

- [Sun Yat-sen University](#)
- [South China University of Technology](#)
- [Guangdong University of Foreign Studies](#)
- [Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine](#)

Shenzhen:

- [Tsinghua University Graduate School at Shenzhen](#)
- [Shenzhen University](#)

Fujian Province:

- [Xiamen University](#)

Hunan Province:

- [South Central University](#)



“Three years ago I took the plunge to quit my job in Australia and come to China to study Chinese. To say it’s been a learning experience of a lifetime would be an understatement. The longer you stay in China, the more you realise how much there is to learn about the language, the culture and their customs. My most cherished take away from this experience would be the life-long friendships I’ve formed with the Chinese people I’ve been fortunate enough to meet along the way.”

— **DARSY O’NEILL**

2014–present Bachelor of Chinese Language, Sichuan University
2008–2011 Bachelor of Biology, Central Queensland University



5. CHOOSING THE RIGHT UNIVERSITY

5.1 Rankings

China's top universities are improving in quality and rising in global and regional rankings. Tsinghua University and Peking University are the two most prominent universities and both aim to become top universities globally.

China's most research intensive group of universities is known as the China 9 League. The members of the C9 League are Fudan University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Nanjing University, Peking University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Tsinghua University, University of Science and Technology of China, Xi'an Jiao Tong University, and Zhejiang University.

Rankings such as the QS University Ranking system and the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) – formerly known as

the Shanghai Jiao Tong Index – are also guides to the prestige and international standing of universities in China. However, foreign students should be aware that rankings usually reflect the number of academic citations, or more subjective indicators of reputation, and do not usually gauge programs offered to international students. Discipline-specific course quality and language programs are also not necessarily captured in overall rankings.

Top-ranked universities typically have more established language programs and therefore have more levels of proficiency and electives from which to choose. 'Normal Universities' (universities focusing on pedagogy) in China are also well-regarded by foreign students for the quality of Chinese teaching. Among the most popular are Beijing Normal University, East China Normal University, Nanjing Normal University and Yunnan Normal University.

5.2 Location

Most Chinese universities have multiple campuses, and many universities in China are migrating to new campuses further away from city centres. Downtown

campuses generally offer greater access to social activities and entertainment, as well as scenic and cultural spots. You should therefore take the time to research the location of your shortlisted university and relevant department/language centre. Running an online image search can be useful to get a feel for the campus and local surroundings.

5.3 Fees

Tuition fees at top ranked universities, including Peking University, Tsinghua University and Nanjing University, are typically 30% to 50% more expensive than programs offered by less prestigious universities. You can find quality language programs with a similar structure in middle-sized cities like Wuhan, Chongqing and Changsha.

For students studying on exchange this is usually not an important consideration as they are exempt from paying local tuition fees and instead pay tuition fees to their home university in Australia.

**THEATRE
PERFORMANCE**
Xi'an



6. UNIVERSITY AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

6.1 Key Dates

The academic year in China officially starts in early September. University enrollment and scholarship applications are typically accepted from January to April. As many Australian universities are on vacation for part of this time, it's best to start liaising with your Study Abroad Office and preparing scholarship applications as early as September or October the year before. Language and exchange students however can usually opt to commence their studies in the Spring Semester (late February).

6.2 Chinese Government Scholarships

The China Scholarship Council (CSC) offers a variety of scholarships for international students to complete coursework or language studies at a Chinese university. The most relevant CSC scholarship for Australian students is the Chinese Government Scholarship Program. This program offers funding for one year of language instruction at a Chinese university and/or full funding for both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in China.

Confucius Institutes in Australia offer similar scholarships including degree and short-term programs but only for programs relating to the aims of individual institutes, including Chinese language, Chinese language teaching, Chinese medicine, or

Chinese history and philosophy. Consult your local Confucius Institute for more details on application dates, scholarship scope, duration and partner universities in China. Note that you do not have to be enrolled in a Confucius Institute or an affiliate Australian university to apply.

The Chinese Government and Confucius Institute scholarship programs both cover tuition, registration fees, a once-off settlement subsidy and accommodation (usually a dual shared dormitory for non-postgraduate students). These scholarships also include a monthly stipend and cover fees for laboratory experiments, textbooks and outpatient medical service.

Though they may not advertise them widely, state, city level government, and individual universities also offer similar scholarships.



“Studying at Peking University is an extraordinary experience. I couldn’t recommend it highly enough. From a student’s perspective, I would suggest applying for some of the many Chinese Government scholarships, researching the programs offered by your university, and speaking to peers who have already studied in China. I would also commit to a longer time period so as to maximise your progress in Chinese.”

— **LUCY MCFARLANE**

2015–2016	Peking University, Chinese Government Scholarship
2015	Intern, Asian Agribusiness Consulting Beijing
2011–2016	Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies/Bachelor of Laws, Chinese (Mandarin), Asian Politics, The Australian National University

6. UNIVERSITY AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

6.3 The New Colombo Plan



NEW COLOMBO PLAN

Connect to Australia's future - study in the region

The Australian Government has committed more than AUD \$100 million to fund the [New Colombo Plan](#) in its first five years. The program is divided into two categories:

The prestigious **New Colombo Plan Scholarships** support Australian undergraduates to undertake semester-based study and internships or mentorships in the Indo-Pacific, including Mainland China. The program is open to Australian undergraduate students from 18 to 28 years old seeking to transfer credit towards their degree at an Australian university. The program offers students up to AUD \$67,000 for study of up to one academic year, plus internships of up to six months. Students must be nominated by their Australian home university and nominations by Australian universities typically open mid-year. Successful recipients can commence studies from January 1st to December 31st the following year.

The **New Colombo Plan Mobility Grant** funds Australian universities to implement short and long-term study, internship, mentorship, practicum and research programs in China for undergraduate students. Universities are able to include some students aged over 28 in the mobility program. The NCP is supporting a collaboration between the Australian Technology Network of universities (ATN) and China's tech company Huawei for the "**ATN Huawei Seeds for the Future project**" to provide two-week intensive industry focused program for Australian students, with exposure to technology R&D, manufacturing and global commerce in China.

In both cases, undergraduate students should contact their Study Abroad Office or relevant faculty at their home university for application details.

6.4 Other Australian Scholarships

Other independent foundations provide funding for Australian students to study in China, for example the [Walter Mangold Trust Fund](#), the [Westpac Asian Exchange Scholarship](#) and the [Euan Crone Asian Awareness Scholarship](#). It is also worth

asking local Rotary Clubs about district and global grants.

Some Australian state governments and local councils also have scholarship programs. For example, the Victorian State Government offers the [Hamer Scholarships](#) through the Victoria-Jiangsu sister-state relationship. Check your city or state government website for more information.

Scholarships, mobility grants or research grants managed by universities are another source of funding, as are department and faculty-level scholarships.

6.5 Financial Assistance

If you are enrolled at an approved Australian higher education provider and wish to undertake part of your study overseas, you may be eligible for an Australian Government OS-HELP loan for the portion of your overseas exchange. OS-HELP loans are available to Commonwealth supported students who want to study overseas, whether this study is covered by a formal exchange agreement or not. Contact the student administration of your education provider for more information, or visit the [OS-HELP web page](#).



**BEIJING
NATIONAL STADIUM**
Beijing

7. LIVING IN CHINA

7.1 Accommodation

Most Australian students opt for dormitory accommodation on campus for at least their first semester studying in China.

Dorm life in China can be a lot of fun but international students are not always guaranteed a private room and cooking options are limited. It is recommended that students arrive early to secure dorm accommodation, especially for single rooms. Many students stay in a hostel when they first arrive (average AUD\$10 to \$15 per night) or find accommodation on [Airbnb](#) (starting at AUD\$15 per night) and search for shared accommodation once in-country. Staying at a hostel close to campus is also an excellent way to find future housemates.

To find accommodation off-campus (including shared apartments and homestay accommodation), expat websites such as [The Beijinger](#) are your go-to resource but be wary of scams. It is recommended that students look for other foreigners on expat websites looking to fill a vacant room in a share house, or alternatively go to a major brick and mortar real estate agent. The [Australia China](#)

[Youth Association \(ACYA\) WeChat groups](#) in major cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing are also useful for sourcing accommodation and housemates. More information on housing in China can be found through [Asia Options](#).

7.2 Non-curricular Activities

There are many non-curricular opportunities available in China to complement your studies, help you gain leadership experience, extend your networks or push your language skills.

- 🔗 [Australia China Youth Association Chapters](#) (Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing)
- 🔗 [Australia China Young Professionals Initiative](#) (Beijing and Shanghai)
- 🔗 [China-Australia Chamber of Commerce](#) (Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Qingdao, Shanghai and Tianjin)
- 🔗 [China-Australia Millennial Project](#)
- 🔗 [China Bridge Speaking Contest](#)
- 🔗 [Leizhou Volunteer Trip](#)
- 🔗 [Marco Polo Project](#) (Regular events throughout China, see website for further details)
- 🔗 [Mentor Walks](#) (Beijing and Shanghai)
- 🔗 [Young China Watchers](#) (Beijing and Shanghai)

7. LIVING IN CHINA

7.3 Travel Insurance

Your travel agent or Study Abroad Office can recommend reputable insurance providers. You should ensure that you buy travel insurance in Australia before you leave. It is also important to register your itinerary on [Smart Traveller](#) before you depart. Scholarships also sometimes include travel insurance.

7.4 Visa Information

For those studying at a university in China for one or more semesters, you will need to apply for a study visa (X category) once you've been accepted into your course. It's best to prepare well in advance. For your visa application you will need to provide documentation including an acceptance letter from your university in China, a health check and a valid passport. This is a single-entry, temporary visa that must be converted to a multi-entry residence permit within 30 days of arrival. Heavy fines are imposed on those who miss this deadline or overstay their visa. For those studying at private language schools or studying at universities for short-term programs

(including summer programs) you will need to liaise with the organising institution for advice on the appropriate visa. Check the Chinese Embassy website for details, as requirements can change. You will also need to register with the neighbourhood police once you arrive in China within 24 hours. This process is automatically done on your behalf if you stay on campus or at a hotel.

7.5 Employment Visa

Current regulations for a work visa (Z category) require two years of relevant full-time work experience in your home country. As of publication, it's not possible to transition from a full-time student to employment without meeting this requirement.



**THE GREAT WALL
OF CHINA**
Jinshanling

8.FURTHER RESOURCES

Although the AddChina process may seem daunting at first, starting early will make it easier and there are a wide range of resources to help you on your path.

Speak to as many people as you can, including faculty advisors, your Chinese department, and your Study Abroad Office, as well as any teachers or friends who have studied, worked or lived in China, as well as Chinese students studying at your university in Australia.

“China is one of those places that is hard to quantify without using a lot of clichés. If you are looking for a place that will constantly challenge you both personally and professionally, I highly recommend China as both a study and work location. The importance of China to Australia’s future can never be overstated and the invaluable insight that living and working in China will give you is incredibly important to not only future employability, but also to overall personal growth.”

— **BRADEN ROWE**

2015 Industry Engagement Associate AustCham Beijing
2015 Tsinghua University, New Colombo Plan Scholar
2013–2015 BBus Griffith University



8.FURTHER RESOURCES

8.1 Links

- 🔗 [Asia Options](#): Asia Options is a free online guide for Australians to explore educational, professional and leadership opportunities in Asia.
- 🔗 [Australia China Youth Association \(ACYA\)](#): With chapters across Australia and China, ACYA connects youth in China and Australia through events and other initiatives, and is a fantastic platform to gain leadership experience, develop your professional network and connect with other current or recent Australian students in China
- 🔗 [Australian Studies Centres in China](#): The Australian Studies Centres in China operate as academic institutes for the study of Australian history, politics, international relations, economics, society, culture and literature. See also the [Peking University Australian Studies Centre](#).
- 🔗 [China's University and College Admission System \(CUCAS\)](#): A for-profit service, offers application services, consulting, scholarship opportunities, and other supplementary services.
- 🔗 [Chinese Forums](#): A useful forum for information on scholarships, especially the [Chinese Scholarship Council \(CSC\)](#) and life in China.
- 🔗 [International Group](#): An Australian Government department facilitating international collaboration and partnerships in order to support mobility and the global exchange of knowledge. The group currently manages the Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships.
- 🔗 [Lonely Planet Forum](#): For general information on weather, lifestyle and culture, as well as non-academic opportunities in China.
- 🔗 [Marco Polo Project](#): Fantastic online resource and offline network for Australians to connect with Chinese students in language and literature related activities.
- 🔗 [New Colombo Plan](#): The New Colombo Plan program offers Australian undergraduates new opportunities for prestigious scholarships and grants for study and internships/mentorships in the Indo-Pacific region.
- 🔗 [Numbeo](#): See a comparison of living expenses between Australia and China.
- 🔗 [Quora](#): Quora is a question-and-answer website where questions are asked, answered, edited and organised by its community of users.
- 🔗 [Study Assist](#): OS-HELP Loans and Study Overseas.
- 🔗 [Study Overseas](#): An Australian Government website with information on scholarships, grants, student loans and a range of services and support to help Australian students study overseas.
- 🔗 [UNESCO internships](#): For the opportunity to intern at UNESCO's Beijing office, apply through UNESCO's internship application system, select "Asia and the Pacific" and then "Beijing".



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ASIA
OPTIONS

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