A Dartmouth Student’s Unofficial Guide to the China FSP and LSA+

(Originally compiled in 1998 by Brad Evans ‘98)
Rewritten in 2012-14 by Dennis Ng ‘12

Between 2002 and 2012 this handbook was updated at various times by:
Ben Steele ’02, Matthew Ippolito ’02, Tony Hao ’06, George Leung ’07, Jiayi Hao 08, Ziye Lin ’09, Carey Li ’09, Yueyue Guo ’09, Joseph Huston ’10, Hallie Treadway ’10, Grey Cusack ’11, Dennis Ng ’12, Sebastian Prieto La Noire ’12, Jane Cai ’13, and James Bo Peng ‘14
To Professor Hua-yuan Li Mowry (毛老师 Mao Laoshī) who started the China FSP and LSA+ and over the past 30 years has transformed them into such successful programs, and who has served as a professor and mentor for many students of Chinese at Dartmouth since 1975

“At its best, China is an epic country of sprawling, breathtaking spectacle with some of the most extravagant and ambitious monuments ever constructed by mankind. At its worst, China is a third-world country in which millions of ill-dressed people push and shove their way down the heavily polluted streets of hideous, ramshackle cities, thinking of little else beyond how to survive in the continuing and unpredictable social experiment that is Chinese life. It has much in common with other impoverished, over-crowded nations, plus a few quirks of its own.”

Peter Neville-Hadley, China: The Silk Routes
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Introduction 3
- A Letter to Students 4
- A Note From Brad Evans ’98 5
- Using the Guidebook 6
- Tips for a Successful FSP/LSA+ 6
- Courses in Beijing 7
- Role of the Director’s Assistant 8

### Preparing for the FSP/LSA+ 9
- Health Preparations 10
- Visas 12
- Travel Arrangements 13
- Packing for China 15
- Money and Communications 18
- Pre-Departure and Aboard Your Flight 19

### In China 21
- Arriving at the Airport/BNU 22
- First Few Days in Beijing 27
- Health and Safety 28
- Appropriate Conduct 30
- Sample Daily Schedules 31
- Cultural Activities, Chinese Language Table, and Saturday Trips 32
- Residential Life at BNU 34
- Money and Communications 35
- Getting Around in Beijing 37
- Eating and Drinking 41
- Shopping 43
- What NOT to Bring Back to the United States 47
- What to See and Do in Beijing 48
- Consular Services 53
- Meeting Dartmouth Alumni 54
- Travel Around China During the FSP/LSA+ 54
- Travel After the FSP/LSA+ 56

### After Returning to Dartmouth 59
- Continuing Your Studies In Chinese 60
- The Chinese Language House 60

### At a Glance 61
- Important Contact Information 62
- Restaurants and Dishes 64
- 51 Things To Do During the FSP! 80
Introduction
A Letter to Students

Dear Students,

Congratulations on being accepted on the Summer FSP or Fall LSA+! The China FSP/LSA+ in Beijing is a wonderful opportunity for you to continue learning Chinese and to get to know the world’s most populous nation from within. Now is an especially exciting time to visit as China re-develops itself during its emergence as a global power. It may be the first time you visit China, your third seeing Beijing, or your first leaving the United States, but regardless, there will be much in store for you during your three months in China. With enough preparation for the trip abroad, you will be ready to jump into the action by studying daily in a natural language laboratory. Learning from top-notch instructors at Beijing Normal University (BNU), interacting with locals in Beijing, studying with each other, and meeting Chinese ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, or Tibet are just a few of the countless ways the FSP/LSA+ promises to be an eye-opener.

As Brad Evans ’98 emphasizes in his letter on the next page, this is by no means a comprehensive guide like Lonely Planet or Frommer’s, nor is it meant to be. It is a good reference with information especially relevant to Dartmouth students. It is best used in conjunction with information guides provided by the Director, the Director’s Assistant, the Off-Campus Programs office, and Dick’s House. The key to a successful term is to be well prepared for the trip: review your Chinese, make sure you are set with your vaccinations, understand the health environment in Beijing, and use this guide along with other literature.

Also, please understand that China is changing all the time and things quickly become outdated. The information in this guidebook is accurate at the time of writing and Dartmouth College and I shall not be held responsible for incorrect or outdated information.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work that Brad did as DA and as author of the previous guidebook, which was given to all FSP students up until Fall 2011. It helped many students on their FSPs, was revised by subsequent DAs and former FSP students, and served as the basis for this new guide. Because much has changed since it was written in 1998, a new guidebook will hopefully suit the needs of both the FSP and the LSA+. Special thanks to James Peng ’14, a student on the Summer 2011 FSP and the DA on the Fall 2012 LSA+, for his help with editing and his great suggestions. Thank you also to Michael Cooper ’12, who I had the pleasure of studying with on the FSP in Fall 2010, for his recommendations and assistance with some logistics after my last return from China; likewise to Rachael Siegel ’14 for assisting with proofreading. And thanks in advance to the future DAs for revising this guidebook and for their efforts in making the FSP/LSA+ an enjoyable experience for all. Xuèshēngmén, I hope you find this guide useful in preparing for your trip, while in China, and after you return to Dartmouth.

Dennis Ng ’12
March 29, 2013

Student, Fall 2010 FSP
Director’s Assistant, Fall 2011 and Summer 2012 FSPs
A Note From Brad Evans ’98, the author of the original FSP Student Guidebook

First things first: there’s a lot that’s not in here, and a lot that may have changed or will be just plain wrong by the time you arrive in Beijing. This book is intended to be a guide to some of the things that can help you as a Dartmouth student on the FSP, and unfortunately can’t be a guide to the whole of Beijing or of China. There are a bunch of books already available doing that job, and doing it a lot better than I certainly could.

More importantly, though, you’re going to Beijing in order to see for yourself what China is like. That’s the point of the FSP—to allow a better understanding of Chinese society and culture, and of what it means to be Chinese right now. It’s not an LSA, or you would have gone instead of taking Chinese 3. Hopefully, you’ll come back with not only a greatly improved set of language skills, but also more of a sense of what’s happening on the other side of the world.

That said, you should also go to Beijing to have a good time. It’s a big roller coaster of a changing place right now, and there’s a sort of exhilaration in just being somewhere where that’s happening. Having been on one Beijing FSP as a student and another as a DA, I can say that the changes over the three-year gap between the two were staggering, if not a little bit frightening. Hang on and enjoy the ride.

I hope this guide provides you with some useful information on your own trip to China, and that it’s a productive and enlightening one. Zhù nǐ yǐlù shùn fēng!

Brad Evans ’98
September 1998
Urumqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China

As presented in the handbook Brad Evans wrote for the FSP, which was given to all FSP students up to Fall 2011
Using the Guidebook

The Guidebook is divided into several sections, including an important one about preparing for the FSP/LSA+ and another with information about life in China. Some topics may appear in both sections, but this is intentionally done to make clear what is important at different stages of the FSP/LSA+. For example, a section about money appears in both in the “Preparations” and “In China” sections. In the “Preparations” section, I discuss how you should set up your accounts to allow for easy cash withdrawals in Beijing, and in the “In China” section, I go into what exactly you should do to get money.

Tips for a Successful FSP/LSA+

As you know, the FSP and LSA+ are great programs and students go on them for many different reasons. Everyone’s hopes, expectations, and objectives are different and as a result, no two students’ experiences are the same. That said, your mileage may vary: how the programs turn out will largely depend on how you approach them.

Most importantly, you must prepare well for the FSP/LSA+. The Program Director and the Director’s Assistant will work hard in the months leading up to the FSP/LSA+ to make sure you have the tools to succeed. It is important for you to attend all meetings and to be proactive in your preparations. Follow all deadlines and recommendations, and start preparing early.

While you want to have fun in China (and you certainly will!), please remember that you are primarily there to study. Your classes and FSP/LSA+-related activities come before personal sightseeing in Beijing, although there will be time for that. And there are ways to combine both! After you are accustomed to the pace of your classes, you can hop around town to study at different cafes or watch movies and performances, for example. The possibilities are almost endless and the FSP/LSA+ will be what you make of it.

If you are on the LSA+, please review your Chinese lessons over the summer. There is no need to preview new lessons. Reviewing your Chinese will allow you to retain what you learned the previous year and adapt to the quick pace of classes in Beijing.
Courses in Beijing

You will take three courses in Beijing. For the summer FSP, two of these will be language classes and the third will be a culture class. For the fall LSA+, all three will be language classes.

For all courses, your professors will expect you to show up on time (preferably a few minutes before the start) and be prepared for an engaging, interactive class. Please be respectful. Eating prior to the start of class and during breaks is fine, but it is not during class. Drinking is fine at all times.

Language Courses:

The language courses will all be taught by professors of BNU. All the BNU professors are experienced in teaching Chinese to foreign students. Quite a few of them have actually taught at Dartmouth.

FSP second year (二年级 èr niánjí) students will take CHIN 22 and 23.
LSA+ second year students will take CHIN 22, 23, and 31.

FSP third year (三年级 sān niánjí) students will take CHIN 31 and 32.
LSA+ third year students will take CHIN 31, 32, and 33.

LSA+ Fourth year (四年级 sì niánjí) students will take CHIN 41, 42 and 43. This class will not be offered every year, depending on how many fourth year students are on the program. However, students wishing to take fourth year Chinese may opt to take a separate, more advanced course with other international students.

Classes meet everyday. Daily oral quizzes (听写 tīngxiě) are given at the start of class and tests are given on Friday. Tests consist of a written portion and an oral portion. In addition, there are essays due each week on Wednesday. One textbook lesson is taught each day for the first half of the term. Depending on the textbook used, the pace may change to two lessons per week in the second half of the term.

Office hours will be offered twice a week. Instructors will often require students to attend for extra help or to practice with conversation.

Culture Course:

All FSP students will take CHIN 11 and the topic will vary per term. The class is taught by the Dartmouth professor directing the FSP.

The workload will be heavy. Please allow enough time to study and manage your time well. While you will want to spend time exploring the city, your classes come first.
Role of the Director’s Assistant

The Director’s Assistant (DA) is the liaison between students and Beijing Normal University. The DA has numerous tasks throughout the term, but an important one is to help students adjust to life in Beijing and facilitate social aspects of the FSP/LSA+. If you encounter any problems during the term or need advice and suggestions, feel free to see the DA.

Of course, your DA is there to help you before the trip starts and throughout the entire during of your term in Beijing. However, your DA can’t do everything for you. There are many things that are your responsibility: for example, putting money on your dining card and making/canceling appointments at International SOS in a non-emergency situation. Your DA will help you to the best of his or her ability, but don’t be surprised if you get “no” for an answer if you ask him/her to do the aforementioned tasks.

Your DA may also accompany or direct you for certain tasks, but will not directly do them for you. A good example is getting help with cell phone problems at China Mobile. When students had phone problems, I accompanied them to the store but I let them talk to the clerks. Of course, this is not because I couldn’t speak the language, but because getting used to daily living in Beijing is the responsibility of each and every student on the FSP/LSA+. It is also important for students to gain the confidence to talk in Chinese to improve their language skills and achieve a sense of independence.
Preparing for the FSP/LSA+
Health Preparations

Your health is of key importance at all times. You probably have many questions and these will be addressed in health and safety meetings by the Director, the Off-Campus Programs Office, and Dick’s House. Like all other FSP/LSA+ meetings, these are mandatory; your participation on your program will be jeopardized if you fail to attend them.

In addition, you should schedule an individual travel consultation at Dick’s House for free. At your consultation, you will receive information specific to your program and receive the necessary immunizations, diagnostic tests, and prescriptions for medications. You will receive a tuberculosis skin test prior to leaving for China and should get another one several weeks after you return. To make an appointment, call the Dick’s House appointment office at (603) 646-9401 (6-9401 on campus). There are limited spots available so make your appointment well in advance.

In the past, the following immunizations were recommended:
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Typhoid (oral form recommended – effective for five years; a shot is also available but is effective for only two years)
- Hepatitis A, B, and C
- Influenza and avian influenza (may not be available until August at pharmacies, or September at clinics; available for reasonable cost at International SOS Beijing clinic if you want to get one after arrival)
- Tetanus or booster within the past 10 years
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (chicken pox; immunity also obtained from illness)
- Optional: Japanese encephalitis and rabies
  - The Japanese encephalitis vaccine is expensive and is recommended if you are taking trips into the wilderness on your own
  - An effective alternative is a DEET-containing insect repellant

Some vaccines, like typhoid and Japanese encephalitis, may not be regularly stocked by all doctors but are available at Dick’s House.

Recommended medication/health products:
- Cipro for bloody/severe diarrhea (prescribed by Dick’s House)
- Imodium AD or Peptol Bismol
- Advil, Tylenol, or aspirin for fever reduction
- Diamox for prevention/treatment of high altitude illness for trips to Tibet (LSA+)
- Malaria pills for trips to Yunnan and Guizhou (some FSPs)
- Sunscreen for the LSA+ trips to Tibet due to intense solar radiation at the clear-weathered, high altitude
- Hand sanitizer, preferably in closeable bottles for trips
- Cold medication like Dayquil/Nyquil or Robitussin
- Plan B medication: of course, for female students
- Glasses, or contact lenses and contact solution
- Any medication/medical devices you regularly use like inhalers

Again, please bring enough of all the medications you usually take, such as asthma inhalers. Also bring contact solution, feminine products (if applicable), deodorant, lotions, and any other health products you regularly use as these may be difficult to find in China and can be of varying quality/effectiveness.

Before leaving for China, you should also verify with your insurance company what procedures will be covered during the FSP/LSA+. Some plans cover only emergency care. Retain all receipts for claims (your insurance companies will translate them if necessary).

In China, you will be covered by Dartmouth’s subscription to International SOS (ISOS), a travel services provider that can provide advice before leaving the US, medical advice during your stay in China, health care at its clinic in Beijing, and even emergency evacuation. An ISOS membership card will be given to you at the OCP Health and Safety Meeting. If you misplace the card in China, you can reprint one by logging onto the ISOS website with the membership number. Note: the ISOS is not a substitute for health insurance and you are responsible for all costs. If you have trouble paying for your care at the ISOS Clinic, you can charge care to a credit card or work out a payment plan with them.

For more detailed information for health risks in China, please consult the “Health Information for Travelers to China” on the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/china.htm](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/china.htm). You should also consult the International SOS website for additional health and safety information by using the membership number on your ISOS card.
Visas

Most students, including all US citizens, will require student visas (F-type) to enter China. The Director or the DA will require you to submit personal information and will work with BNU to get your invitation to study in Beijing and a Chinese visa JW-202 form.

Dartmouth has had a long relationship with Feti Travel in Boston (see Travel Arrangement section for contact information). For the summer FSP, the Director will send in student passports and applications; for the fall LSA+, you will apply on your own due to the entry guidelines set by China.

Requirements are subject to change at the whim of the Chinese Embassy and Consulates, but at the time of writing, the following documents are needed to apply for a visa:

- Passport valid at least 6 months after entry into China (mid-January for the summer FSP and mid-April for the fall LSA+) with at least 2 blank visa pages; blank endorsement pages are not acceptable substitutes for visa pages
  - Make sure it is signed
  - If you need to apply for a passport, you can do so at the Hanover post office. You can renew a passport or have pages added to it in person at the post office or by mail if it was issued when you were at least 16 years old.
- Completed typed electronic visa application forms
- One passport photo
  - Available at CVS ($9.99 for 2 photos and $0.29 for each additional photo) or Hanover Post Office
  - A good way to save money is to take the photo yourself and print it using the passport photo tool on the Kodak machines at CVS; 2 photos can be obtained for as low as $0.25
  - **Please get at least four additional photos.** You need to hand two of these to the DA in Beijing for your student ID and your “graduation” certificate. Additional copies will help if you lose your passport.
- If you are a former citizen/resident of the PRC, Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan, you will need to include your former passport if you have not previously applied for a visa
- Photocopies of BNU invitation and JW-202 (originals will be collected by the DA in Beijing) and the passport information page
- Check for $180 made out to Feti Travel if you are applying through them (the fees are subject to change at anytime)
- Copy of your airline ticket

If you are on the LSA+ and are applying through Feti on your own, please send in your package using Certified Mail or other traceable service. **Allow at least one month for the process.**

Alternatively, you can also apply on your own at the Chinese Embassy in Washington or at the Chinese Consulates (New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston). Please note that the application forms may be different at various facilities – the electronic application forms must be used at the New York Consulate. The fee is $140 payable by credit card or money order for regular service that takes 4 business days; add $20 to expedite it for pickup in 2 days. Same day service is offered at some facilities for an additional premium.
Travel Arrangements

Students are responsible for making their own travel plans following the dates provided by the Director. Feti Travel is a helpful resource for booking airline tickets. The advantages of booking through Feti is that the agency will try to arrange students to arrive in Beijing at similar times to facilitate pickups, and the prices they offer are in line with what online agencies like Orbitz charge. Of course, you are free to book from any source, including online agencies like Orbitz, Expedia, Vayama, and Travelocity, or directly from the airlines. When using the online agencies, you can sometimes find lower prices by narrowing searches to specific airlines, especially partner carriers (e.g. American and Japan Airlines, or United and Air China); this is due to quirks in the algorithms. For the best fares, try to book your tickets a month and a half to two months in advance.

Feti Travel Contact Information:
Tiffany Lo (or Lily Zhuang, Owner)
65 Harrison Avenue, Suite 402
Boston, MA 02111
Tel. (617) 451-0606
Fax (617) 451-0060
fetitravel@yahoo.com

Nonstop flights to Beijing are available from the following cities in the United States:
- New York: Air China, daily
- Newark: United, daily
- Chicago: American and United, daily; Hainan (scheduled)
- Dulles, VA (Washington, DC area): United, daily
- Detroit: Delta, daily
- Houston: Air China (scheduled)
- Los Angeles: Air China and United, daily
- San Francisco: Air China, daily
- Seattle: Delta and Hainan, daily

Regardless of where you book your tickets, we recommend you arrive on the first day of the FSP/LSA+ and discuss travel plans with your fellow students to arrive on the same flights or at similar times. This will help facilitate airport pickups. While all students will be met at Beijing Capital Airport, BNU will provide a shuttle bus if there are at least 5 students arriving at similar times (e.g. within a 3 hour window).

Be aware that typically you lose a day when crossing the International Date Line. For example, most flights leaving from the US for China on Friday will arrive on Saturday, and some others may arrive on Sunday due to long layovers. Check the dates carefully as each change may cost $250. When choosing flights, also know that fees to check a second bag can add up to $200 to the cost of your trip: United and Delta now allow only one free checked bag per passenger in economy and charge up to $75 for the second. At the time of writing, American and
most other airlines still allow two checked for free on transpacific routes. All airlines charge for the second bag on transatlantic flights, and these can get expensive very quickly: Swiss International Air Lines, for example, charges an exorbitant $200 for the second bag weighing up to 50 pounds.

Make sure you provide your full name as shown on your passport, your correct date of birth, and correct passport number. *Any mistakes in personal information may prevent you from flying and may cost you.* To expedite your check-in, it also helps to add a frequent flier number. If you do not have a frequent flier account with your airline or a partner airline, consider signing up for one as your longhaul flight to China allows for quick mileage accrual.

After you have made your travel plans, please **send your complete itinerary to the DA.** Include the number of the arrival flight and all connecting flights so if you are delayed due to a late or canceled flight, the Director and DA can easily track you. Airlines frequently adjust their schedules and flights booked even a month in advance can be changed. While airlines or agencies typically notify customers of any changes, make sure you reconfirm your flight details with your airline 72 hours prior to departure and promptly let the Director and DA know of any changes.
Packing for China

With some airlines charging up to $200 for a second checked bag within the 50-pound weight limit, it is helpful to pack light. Besides, you probably want to save space to bring home gifts and other souvenirs. At the time of writing, American and most other airlines still allow two free checked bags on transpacific flights originating in the US. Most airlines limit the weight of each bag to 50 pounds. Expect to pay at least $100 for overweight or oversized suitcases. Again, pack light!

Fortunately the cost of living in China is still very inexpensive, despite the appreciation of the Chinese yuan in recent years. You can purchase most toiletries, clothes, and other daily use items in China, allowing you to pack lightly and replace items if you forget to pack them. However, while the brands may be the same, the product formulas may be different. If you prefer a certain kind of shampoo, for example, feel free to bring it with you. Typically a selection of familiar brands like Head and Shoulders are available, but these will cost more than their Chinese counterparts.

Blankets, pillows, sheets, towels, water boilers, drinking glasses, and cups will be provided by BNU. Cell phones will be provided by the FSP/LSA+, although you may choose to bring a personal unlocked phone; to use your phone in China, you can often call your cell phone carrier for an unlock code by explaining your international travel.

If you bring only one suitcase and need an additional one when traveling back home, you can buy them for reasonable prices in Beijing. Refer to the Shopping section.

Here’s a suggested packing list:

Documentation
- Passport and copies of both your passport information page and visa
  - Keep the copies in separate locations in your luggage
  - These make it easier to replace your passport if it is lost or stolen
- Copies of your flight itinerary if you purchased an e-ticket, or your paper ticket
- Medical insurance card
- International SOS card or a printout
- Dartmouth ID card for discounts at some locations
- Credit card for purchases and payment in emergencies
- Debit or bank card for purchases and cash withdrawals
  - If you have multiple credit/debit cards, bring them in case transactions are declined on one card
- JW-202 visa form and BNU invitation to study; these will be collected by the DA

Clothing
- 10-14 shirts (short-sleeved for the summer FSP or a combination of long and short-sleeved for the fall LSA+. Beijing is hot and humid in the summer and will become much cooler starting October)
- 3 or 4 pairs of shorts during the summer and a pair or two in the fall
- 1-3 pairs of jeans or cargo pants
- Underwear, socks
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Umbrella
- Backpack or knapsack
- Jacket/coat for the fall LSA+
- Formal clothing (optional)

These are only suggestions: you can easily purchase quality, inexpensive clothing in Beijing

Health/hygiene
- The medication/health products listed in the Health Preparations section
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- Tampons and sanitary napkins
- Prescription for new glasses in China; glasses are really cheap and are of good quality. See Shopping section for more information.
- Deodorant: this may be difficult to get in China.

Books, electronics, and other items
- All required course books
- Money clip
- Power adapters (although these can be bought at BNU for less than $2)
- Voltage converters
  - Most laptop adapters and camera chargers do not require a converter. Read the label to make sure. If the label specifies that the input is 100-240V, it does not require a voltage converter. Electronic shavers are more likely to require one.
- Camera and memory cards
- iPod or other MP3 player
- Sunglasses
- Journal
- Novels or other comfort items in case you get homesick
- Laptop
- Ethernet cable (can be purchased cheaply in Beijing)
- Guidebooks: one for Beijing specifically and another for China
  - Lonely Planet and the Rough Guides are recommended. Frommer’s Beijing is good, especially for its walking tours, but Frommer’s China is not recommended due to many gaps in its coverage.
  - While Lonely Planet guidebooks are available at the Wangfujing Bookstore (王府井书店 Wāngfǔjīng shūdiàn), the Foreign Language Bookstore (外国语言书店 wàiguó yǔyán shūdiàn) the Beijing Book Building in Xidan (北京图书大厦 Běijīng túshū dàshà), and the Zhongguancun Book Building (中关村图书大厦 Zhōngguāncūn tǔshū dàshà), ones for Beijing and China are surprisingly difficult to find. Guidebooks by smaller, lesser-known publishers for Beijing and China are available. These should be also available at the excellent Pageone Bookstore in 国贸(Guómào) and the 24-hour branch in Sanlitun Village.
- A Chinese dictionary or phrasebook
- If you have an iPod Touch, tablet or smartphone, it is recommended you download an English-Chinese dictionary. Helpful features include being able to enter text by pinyin or by writing characters on the screen. The Qingwen dictionary is highly recommended if you have an iPod Touch, iPhone, or an iPad. Helpful features include being able to enter text by pinyin or by writing characters on the screen. It’s available on iTunes for $4.99
- A box of cereal or two (available in China, but at higher prices and the variety is limited): good for breakfast before class at 8 AM or just for munching on during the day
Money and Communications

All About Money

All students should plan on buying (exchanging) some 人民币 Rénmínbi (RMB/Chinese Yuan) prior to arrival in Beijing, especially if you are arriving late at night. Buying US $100 worth of RMB (~620 元) should be enough. You will need 200 元 for your key deposit in Xinsong, as well as some money (80-100 元) if you are taking a taxi to BNU from the airport. Buying foreign currency takes about a week at most banks. Please plan this in advance to get a more favorable rate than at airports. If you end up not having enough time, Travelex in airports in the US and in Asia offer less favorable rates. You may also make withdrawals from ATMs at Beijing Capital Airport.

In China, Bank of America customers can withdraw cash at China Construction Bank (中国建设银行 Zhōngguó jiànshè yínháng) ATMs without any fees due to their partnership. If you are not already a Bank of America customer, you should strongly consider signing up for a free student account to take advantage of this. Other banks like Citibank and HSBC also have ATMs throughout Beijing, but not nearly as many as China Construction Bank and most likely do not have any in the BNU area (at least I have not yet found a Citibank ATM nearby).

Additionally, you should have a credit card to use in China in the event of an emergency. Most stores will accept cash only, but an increasing amount of vendors are accepting credit cards. Debit cards are often accepted, but in the past PINs have not been recognized and transactions have been declined. Prior to leaving the US, you should notify your credit card company that you will be in China for three months. Save your credit card receipts to compare the charges to your billing statement. Again, if you have multiple credit/debit cards, bring them in case transactions are declined; of course, safeguard your cards as you would cash.

Internet Access

Internet is available in the dorm at BNU, but to access many websites (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and sometimes Skype), you should install the Dartmouth Virtual Private Network (VPN) at gateway.dartmouth.edu prior to entering China (although you still can do it in China if you forget). The VPN allows you to access the Internet as if you were on the Dartmouth campus. In addition to gaining access to censored websites, you can also take advantage of library databases on the VPN. To get onto the VPN in China, go to gateway.dartmouth.edu each time you connect to the Internet.

Since the Internet in the dorm is wired, each roommate should bring an Ethernet cable, preferably a longer one to reach desks and beds. Of course, you can purchase cables cheaply in Beijing, most conveniently at the supermarket on campus.

Mail

In Beijing, letters and packages are delivered directly to Xinsong (in most cases). Letters and packages sent by airmail can take anywhere from 7-15 days to receive depending on the processing times by Chinese customs. That said, if you do need something quickly from the United States, USPS Priority Mail is an affordable option to cut days from the regular delivery time. Of course, FedEx, UPS, DHL, USPS Express Mail, etc. all have global options and will get there much faster than ordinary airmail.
The following is your address at BNU; please share it with your friends and family. Fill in your Chinese name and your room number, and email or print out the address for your parents and friends. Either format is fine, but if the sender chooses to use the Chinese format, China should be written clearly in English.

English:

Student Name (Include Chinese name if possible)
Dartmouth Foreign Study Program
Xinsong Dormitory Room #
Beijing Normal University
19 Xinjiekouwai Dajie
Haidian District, Beijing 100875
China

Chinese:

100875 中国北京市
新街口外大街19号
北京师范大学
新松公寓
达慕思大学
(Room #)号房间
(Student’s Name in English, or Chinese if possible)
China

Pre-Departure and Aboard Your Flight

Before Leaving:

- Make sure you have everything you need for your trip. A few sets of clothes, medicine, your Chinese books, etc. Install the Dartmouth VPN if you haven't already done so.

- Make a copy of your passport and Chinese visa and send it to the director, DA, and your parents. Doing so will make it easier to get replacements if you lose your passport. You should also make paper copies of them and keep them in separate locations.

- Register with the US Department of State online for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at https://step.state.gov and include the cities that you will be visiting.

- Share the FSP/LSA+ website URL with your parents, as well as Xinsong’s address

- Confirm your ticket with your airline (it is not required by most airlines nowadays, but it does not hurt). Make sure your reservation has your frequent flier # to streamline check-in and to accrue miles.

- Notify your banks, credit card companies, etc. that you will be in China

- Choose your seats carefully for your flights. Not all seats are equal in comfort, and it is important to arrive well rested

En Route

- Familiarize yourself with Beijing; this could be as simple as looking at a guidebook map while you're flying to Beijing

- Get some rest. Avoid caffeinated or alcoholic drinks, and stay hydrated with soft drinks

- Get up and stretch once in a while to avoid deep vein thrombosis
- Set your watch to Beijing/China local time (12 hour difference from Eastern Daylight Time; all locations in China officially adhere to Beijing time, from Lhasa and Urumqi to Harbin)
In China
Arriving at the Airport/BNU

At the Airport

After your many hours of flying, you will arrive at Beijing Capital Airport (北京首都机场 Běijīng shǒudù jīchǎng), the busiest in Asia. The airport is a modern and traveler-friendly facility, especially if you arrive at the new Sir Norman Foster-designed Terminal 3, which was built in time for the Beijing 2008 Olympics. Signs in English and Chinese will guide you throughout the terminal.

Onboard your flight prior to arrival, you will receive an arrival card from the cabin crew to fill out before landing. Present the card with your passport to the immigration agent, and retain the departure card, which you will need when exiting China. After clearing immigations, claim your luggage, and briefly check your bags for any damage; any damage or missing bags should be reported to the airlines at this point. Then go through the green line at customs because you should have nothing to declare. The customs agents may ask you to put your luggage through an x-ray machine but this is just a routine process.

You will now be at the arrivals hall where the DA or someone else from the program will meet you as previously arranged. Typically the DA will hold up a sign to make it easy to spot him/her. If you are arriving at the airport around the same time as other students, you may be taken to BNU by a shuttle bus. Otherwise, you will take a taxi with the DA, and you will be responsible for the fare. If you need to head to a different terminal to meet other students, someone will meet you before taking a free intra-terminal airport shuttle bus.

Heading to BNU

The following instructions for taking a taxi at BNU should not be needed but are here for your information (for example, if you decide to arrive in Beijing prior to the start of the FSP/LSA+):

After leaving the arrivals hall, find the official taxi lane following signage. The lane is clearly marked and will usually be filled with other travelers. Just stand in line and an attendant will direct you to the next available taxi. DO NOT FOLLOW ANYONE ELSE OFFERING RIDES. If asked something like “要不要车?” or “want taxi?” a simple 不要upytero or two will work. These drivers of 黑车hēichē (black/illegal cabs) will charge unreasonable amounts to get to BNU.

After getting into the cab, tell the driver clearly that you want to get to 北京师范大学东门 Běijīng shīfānshì dàxué dōngmén (East Gate of Beijing Normal University). Say this clearly because Beijing also has Capital Normal University (首都师范大学shǒudū shīfānshì dàxué) and Peking University (北京大学běijīng dàxué), both of which can be confused for BNU if the destination is not spoken clearly or is misinterpreted. The driver should know where you are trying to get to, but if not, tell him that the East Gate of BNU is reached by driving south from 北太平庄 (say 北太平庄往南走Běitāipíngzhuāng wǎng nán zǒu) on 新街口外大街Xīnjīěkōuwài dàjiē. You can also describe it as between the Third and Second Ring Roads (三环路和二环路的中间sānhuánlù hé èrhuánlù de zhōngjiān) on 新街口外大街xīnjīěkōuwài dàjiē near 学院南路xuéyuàn nánlù. When you get to the East Gate, you should see a brightly lit McDonald’s. Be aware there is a 10元 charge for highway toll and an additional 2 or 3元 fuel surcharge.
Ask the driver to drive into the gate to Xinsong Dorm (新松公寓xīnsōng gōngyuàn). If the BNU security guard does not allow this, explain to the guard that you have a lot of luggage. If that fails to work, Xinsong can be reached by walking through the east gate past a long string of bikes and an outdoor ATM. At the second driveway (un-gated), make a left. You should see a large courtyard and a very tall building (新主楼xīn zhǔlóu, the BNU Library) to your right. Continue walking past the parking lot and at the first driveway, make a left. You should see a gray granite tablet labeled Xinsong. See below for a map to help get to Xinsong, and see p. 26 for a map of the BNU campus.

The following options are not recommended for your initial arrival at PEK but are good cheaper alternatives for heading to the airport for your return flight. The cheapest option is to take an airport bus into the city. Take Line 4 to 北太平庄 (Běitāipíngzhuāng) for 16元 and then transfer to a taxi for 10元 during the day or 11元 at night for a two minute ride. Alternatively, take the Airport Express. If it is before 11 PM, take it to 三元桥 (Sānyuánqiáo) for 25元 and take a taxi, or transfer to a Bagou-bound train (开往巴沟的列车 kāiwǎng bāgōu de lièché) for 2元. Get off at 牡丹园 (Mǔdiányuán) and take a taxi from here for 10元 during the day or 11元 at night for a five-minute ride to BNU. Otherwise, take the Airport Express to 东直门 (Dōngzhímén) and take a taxi to BNU. The driver may drop you off across the street from the east gate in this direction, so let him you would like to get off directly in front of the gate or suggest getting off at the south gate.

This map may help the driver:
At BNU

At BNU, you will be living at 新松公寓, one of the dorms designated for international students.

Upon arrival, check in at the front desk (前台qiántái). Tell them that you are a student of 达慕思大学 dámūsī dàxué or just 达大 dàdà. Present your passport and 200元 for your room deposit. **Hold onto this receipt to make your move-out much easier.** After checking in, take the elevator up to your room and relax! You’ve made it safely to Beijing! After taking this in, consider making a phone call to your parents to let them know you have reached the program site: you may use the DA’s cell phone for this.

Your rooms are one-room doubles with private bathrooms. All rooms have LCD televisions, refrigerators, air conditioners, phones, and other basic amenities. Your rooms will be serviced daily by young maids, usually from the countryside. The maids (服务员fúwùyuán) will empty your trash, mop and sweep your floors, and, once a week, change your towels and linens, although you can ask them to do so at any time if soiled. If any problems develop in your rooms, let the 服务员 know. Please get to know your 服务员 and treat them with respect and dignity. They are quite nice and will be more willing to help you depending on how you treat them.

There are public bathrooms, laundry machines, and a kitchenette on the first floor, and a snack bar on the second floor:

- To do laundry, buy a 洗衣卡xǐyīkǎ for 70元, 20元of which is a deposit. Tap the card on the reader to activate the machines; the reader will indicate how many washes you have left. Each card is good for 10 washes. To buy more washes, just hand over 30元 to the front desk fúwùyuán and trade in your fob for a new one. The laundry room also has a very weak drier. I recommend against using it as you will probably need several cycles to dry a load of clothing. Each cycle costs the equivalence of two washes. To dry clothes, just hang them up in your room. BNU provides each student with 3 clothes hangers in their closet, and the FSP/LSA+ can provide plenty more. If the FSP/LSA+ runs out of hangers, you can buy more very easily and cheaply at nearby stores.

- The kitchen has a microwave oven, a large sink, and hot plates.

- The snack bar is open from 7 AM to 2 AM daily and has a nice assortment of drinks, snacks, dorm supplies, and stationery. There are also some imported snacks/drinks, but expect to pay a premium. There are also computers and a printer for your use. Remember, though, the DA has a printer in his/her room, along with a scanner and a laptop.

The front desk staff is helpful, providing services each day from 7 AM to 11 PM. They can provide directions to places in Beijing, make and receive faxes (传真chuánzhěn) for you for a small fee, and do small photocopying jobs (复印fùyìn), also for a small fee.

The program has many supplies that students can borrow/use. Here are just a few of them: clotheshangers, books (including guidebooks for China, Beijing, and Shanghai), chess sets, basketballs and pumps, badminton equipment, Ethernet cables, cell phones, a microwave oven, a DVD player, a Canon scanner, a Nikon D90 dSLR camera, a notebook PC, and a laser printer, among others. Many of these items were donated by students and you may do the same with any items you think will be helpful for future students.

The program will also have bottled water dispensers in most rooms. **Do not consume tap water.** Stick to bottled water. Drink as much bottled water as you would like, and use it to brush
your teeth too. While boiled tap water is safe, use the hot water from the dispenser or boil water using your room’s water boiler.

Your dorm has a number of safety measures in place. At all times, your dorm will be monitored by a security guard. One is stationed at the entrance, and others will periodically make rounds. Please remember to take your key with you and lock your doors when leaving your room and before sleeping. Each student also has a safe. To open it, use your safe key and the combination, available from the front desk. Provide your room/bed number and ask for the保险箱密码 bǎoxiānxiāng mímă.

**Be aware!** Any damages to items in the room are likely to result in fines. If you choose to put up photos or posters, know that each patch of adhesive left on the wall results in a fine of 50元. Other charges for replacements of damaged items are more reasonable. There is no way to argue your way out of paying.
First Few Days in Beijing

Adjusting to Beijing

After getting picked up at the airport, you probably want to start exploring Beijing to see the sights and to practice your Chinese with 北京人. Hold on! Remember that you have 3 months in China and that you will have time to get to see the city.

The time needed to get used to life in Beijing varies by person. The issue that will affect almost everyone will be jetlag. You may feel tired, yet may not be able to fall asleep due to the time difference and unfamiliarity with the extra firm mattresses prevalent in China. To combat jetlag, refrain from consuming alcohol or caffeinated drinks aboard your flight and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of soft beverages. After arriving in Beijing, try to have a normal day, and avoid taking naps even if you are tired. A good way to do this is to find a café to study or by having fun with friends. Most students will experience effects from jetlag for about a week, but a few may continue to be jetlagged for another week or so.

In addition, you probably will not be used to the food and may have traveler's diarrhea as a result. Take Imodium or Peptol Bismol to control the symptoms, which should be only mild inconveniences at first. Stay hydrated by drinking a lot of bottled water or boiled water; avoid alcoholic drinks and, more difficult for some, caffeinated drinks. Be sure to carry a roll of toilet paper with you at all times as it will usually not be available in restrooms except in higher-end facilities. Pay attention to what you eat: try sticking to larger restaurants and bakeries/cafes. Avoid street food until your traveler’s diarrhea subsides, and then eat street food only if it is prepared and served hot in front of you.

An opposite problem that may occur is constipation. If you are lacking bowel movements or are having hard stool, make sure to drink plenty of water and include high-fiber food in your diet (e.g. vegetables and fruit). Wash and peel your fruit before eating.

That said, you should take this advice in stride and you will soon get used to life in Beijing. Everyone, including the program director and the director’s assistant, will need some time to adjust. If you do feel homesick, use it as an opportunity to get to know your fellow students by getting together to study or finding something else fun to do. See the director or DA at any point if you have questions or just want to talk.

Administrative Tasks

The first few days will be very busy for everyone. Your DA, in conjunction with the program director and the International Students Office at BNU, will be working to get your student IDs and dining cards, set up your cell phones, and provide Beijing transportation cards (一卡通Yīkǎtōng). At the request of the DA, please provide two passport photographs and a 20元 deposit for the dining card. If you need photos, you can visit the on-campus photo studio next to small grocery store just north of the library (see campus map on p. 26) for 学生证相片xuéshēngzhèng xiàngpiàn. They can take the photo for you or you can provide your own. At the end of the first week or at the start of the second, your DA will distribute your student IDs and dining cards (see p. 40 on how to use your dining cards). The DA will also be collecting your JW-202 forms and invitation to study at BNU.

See p. 34 on setting up cell phones and Internet connections.
Health and Safety

Beijing and most areas in China are quite safe for foreigners, but be aware of your surroundings at all times. You are outside the bubble of Hanover, NH.

As foreigners, be aware that you may stand out and attract attention. Much of it will be due to intrigue: if you are red-headed or are extra tall, some Chinese people may strike up a conversation with you, take pictures of you or with you, or just stare at you. If you speak English or look foreign, you may be called 老外lǎowài. In general, do not take these personally. However, you should be assertive (but not offensive) and not get stepped on. If you do experience harassment, please speak to the Director or contact a Dartmouth resource: Counseling and Human Development at (603) 650-1442 or Dick’s House at (603) 650-1400. Dartmouth’s Department of Safety and Security (S&S) can also transfer you; their number is (603) 646-4000. While harassment is never acceptable, preventive steps can be taken. Try to be culturally sensitive. For example, showing a lot of bare skin may not be well received by local people, so dress appropriately.

It is fine to talk about politics, but do not criticize the government or make any statements that could get you into trouble (e.g. anything about Tibet freedom movements or even the Tian’anmen incident of 1989). Remember, you do not have to praise anyone but please do not show any disrespect. Know that it is strictly prohibited to unfurl any banners in public squares like Tian’anmen or the People’s Square in Lhasa, and that uniformed or plainclothes soldiers will approach you in seconds.

You should also be cautious of your belongings and avoid displaying excessive signs of wealth. Leave your passport at Xinsong (despite Chinese law requiring you to carry it at all times; carry a copy instead) and carry only as much money as you need each day. A money clip may help. Be vigilant of pickpockets, especially in crowded areas like train stations.

At all times, you should carry a cell phone with you and ensure that it has enough minutes. Especially at the start of the program, try going around with friends. Avoid going out by yourself, especially late at night. If you are traveling alone or with new acquaintances, always let someone know your whereabouts. Tell your classmates, the DA, or the director who you are traveling with, where you are going, and when you plan to return.

One risk that affects foreigners and native Chinese people alike is road hazards. Pedestrians do not have the right of way. Traffic is bad in Beijing, and usually there is always one lane of traffic that is not required to stop, even at a red signal. Pay attention to cars and bikes (which may come at you from any direction, even on sidewalks) and be careful even if the pedestrian signal is green.

You are not allowed to drive motored vehicles, which include mopeds and electronic bikes. This is for your own safety. Road conditions are hazardous in China. You are discouraged from biking in China, except in traffic-free areas like on the Xi’an city wall or otherwise low-traffic areas like Yangshuo. You should also not ride on tricycles or other small motored cars that are found in Beijing and other cities.

In general if something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t. Walk away. For the police (公安部gōngān), call 119. Limited English-speakers are available. These tips are not meant to scare you but are just to remind you to stay safe so you can enjoy your time in China.
If you find yourself feeling ill, please let the director and DA know. It is common to get sick with traveler’s diarrhea and the cold, but pay attention to all signs of illness; the more serious ones usually start small.

You should have come to Beijing prepared with common over-the-counter medicines, but if you need to buy some, don’t fret. For western medicine, you can visit the International SOS Clinic (45-60 minute travel time; Line 10 to Liángmǎqiáo and walk west to Xīndōng Lù or take 413路, 418路, 536路, 675路, or 688路 at the northwest exit of the station for 2 stops; see map on next page) but often there is no need to venture that far. There is a Watson’s (CVS-like chain pharmacy found in several Asian countries) at Jīshúttán on the 2nd Ring Road, which is a 15-minute walk south on 新街口 or 5 minutes away by bus. Another Watson’s is at 大钟寺 Dàzhōngsì (88路 north to 成铁大钟寺站 Chéngtiě Dàzhōngsì zhàn). If you want to try Chinese medicine, 同仁堂 Tónggréntáng is a well-known Chinese pharmacy that started in Beijing’s前门 Qiánmén; locations can be found throughout Beijing, including at the northeast corner of 北太平庄 Běitāipíng zhuāng (walk north on 新街口 or take a bus one stop to běitāipíngqiáo xī or běitāipíngqiáoběi) and at its flagship store in 前门 (22路 south to 前门). Western medicine like Robitussin can also be found at Tónggréntáng. There is also a Chinese medicine pharmacy right across the street from 东门.

(From the International SOS Beijing Clinic website)

If you need to see a doctor, immediately let the director and DA know. If it is not an emergency, you can also call the International SOS phone number in Singapore or Philadelphia on your cell phone or by calling collect; have your membership number ready. If you would like to see a western doctor and it is not an emergency, International SOS is a great clinic with western-train doctors that also provides 24/7 emergency services. Call ahead of time to make an appointment. The clinic is English-speaking and provides care at reasonable costs, with prices not unlike in the US. For closer treatment, the PLA Second Artillery Hospital (二炮兵总医院 èrpào bīngzǒng yīyuàn) provides good care at reasonable prices, although you must pay upfront.
The hospital is across the street from BNU at the southwest corner of Xin Kang Lu. For insurance reimbursement, go to the emergency room as most insurance policies only pay for emergency care overseas.

If you need emergency treatment, go to the Second Artillery Hospital or the International SOS emergency rooms.

To get an ambulance, dial 120 for one to a public hospital or 999 for a private one to English-speaking hospitals like the International SOS.

**Appropriate Conduct**

Please be respectful to your peers, your professors, and others at all times. Also, please be punctual to scheduled events, including your classes and all events during trips.

While offenses in Hanover are taken seriously by Dartmouth, ones committed abroad on off-campus programs are taken even more so. The Norms of Conduct which you agreed to when you committed to the FSP are reproduced below. Remember that you are representing Dartmouth and that these are for your own safety and well-being.

**General Norms of Conduct for Off-Campus Programs**

Although academic requirements and standards for Language Study Abroad or Foreign Study are parallel to those of an on-campus term, standards of acceptable behavior are different. Even actions that might be only mildly troublesome and especially serious infractions of discipline routinely handled by established disciplinary procedures on campus cannot be tolerated abroad.

The following behaviors are considered grounds for removal of a student from a program without appeal and without credit. (Upon dismissal from a program, the student must leave the program site, and may not go to any other Dartmouth off-campus program site.) In addition, these and other offenses may also subject a student to disciplinary procedures through the Office of the Dean of the College and/or the Committee on Standards (COS).

1. Possession or use of, or being in the vicinity of someone known to be in possession of, drugs or firearms;
2. drunkenness;
3. disorderly, abusive, or disrespectful behavior toward anyone;
4. unexcused absence from class or other official program activity such as an excursion;
5. driving of motor vehicles;
6. behavior which is offensive to the family with which the student is placed. **Not applicable to our program**
7. any behavior that jeopardizes the good standing of the program vis-a-vis the families, the schools, or the local community;
8. absence from the program site without prior consent of the Program Director;
9. participation in dangerous activities (including but not limited to: caving, mountaineering, potholing, skydiving, parachuting, bungee-jumping, ballooning, and/or hang gliding).
It should be understood that if a student is involved in legal difficulties (such as arrest), it is the student's responsibility to handle the situation.

**Sample Daily Schedules**

As students who just got to Beijing, you probably want to make the most of your three months in the city. Here are some sample schedules to help you do that:

**Monday**
- 8 AM – 12 Noon: Language Class
- 12 Noon: Lunch
- 1 PM: Start studying
- 2:30 PM: Language class office hours
- 3 PM: Continue studying
- 5 PM: Extracurricular class (note these can be late afternoon or early evening)
- 7 PM: Dinner
- 8 PM: Continue studying
- 11 PM: Sleep

**Tuesday/Thursday**
- 8 AM-12 Noon: Language Class
- 12 Noon: Lunch
- 1 PM: CHIN 11 (times determined by Director)
- 3 PM: Start studying
- 5 PM: Dinner
- 6:30 PM: Revise essay
- 7:30 PM: Continue studying
- 9 PM: Floor meeting/snack break (once a week)
- 11 PM: Sleep

**Wednesday**
- 8 AM- 12 Noon: Language Class
- 12 Noon: Lunch
- 1 PM: Language office hours
- 2 PM: Study
- 3 PM: CHIN 11 office hours
- 6 PM: Cultural Activity
- 9:30 PM: Return to BNU from Cultural Activity and study
- 11 PM: Sleep

**Friday**
- 8 AM: Written portion of language test
- 10 AM: Oral portion of test
- 11 AM: Short additional class
- 12 Noon: Language Table
- 1:30 PM: *Free time*
Saturday
9 AM: Depart from BNU for day trip
12 Noon: Lunch
3 PM: Return to BNU

Sunday
Free schedule

As I stated before, you should devote a good amount of time to studying, but once you
get used to the workload, you can spend more time on getting to know Beijing better.

Cultural Activities, Chinese Language Table, and Saturday Trips

The FSP and LSA+ are opportunities not just to learn the Chinese language, but to learn
more about Chinese culture. You will have cultural activities on Wednesday nights, Chinese
Language Table on Friday afternoons, and day trips on most Saturdays.

Cultural Activities

Wednesday nights will be used for cultural activities. In the past, activities have included
shows at the National Centre for the Performing Arts ("The Egg," 国家大剧院Guójiā dà jiēyuàn),
acrobatics performances, kung-fu showcases, a night at the 老舍茶馆Lǎoshě cháguǎn (Laoshe
Teahouse), and culinary experiences (Hint: the food is a Beijing specialty and is like chicken, but
not quite). A special cultural activity will be a BNU student meet-and-greet in which you will
make a Chinese friend with whom you can practice Chinese, spend a few Sundays going around
Beijing, etc. While most cultural activities are on Wednesday night, there may be others
scheduled during other days of the week. Attendance is mandatory.

Chinese Language Table

Fridays, after your exams and a long week of class, will feature Chinese Language Table,
which is lunch with your professors. As with the cultural activities, attendance is mandatory and
there really is no reason to skip these because they are fun. In addition to introducing you to
different Chinese dishes, Chinese Language Table is intended to help you practice Chinese with
your professors in a natural setting and to get to know them better. Please be respectful to your
professors and speak Chinese only (no English!) For the most part, these will be held at nearby
restaurants, but occasionally may require a bus ride. Simply put, these are a great way to start the
weekend.

Saturday Trips

While students will undoubtedly explore on their own during their 3 months in Beijing
and are encouraged to do so, there will be a few trips around the city. Most of these will take
place on Saturdays. At the start of the term, there will be a tour of the city on a BNU-chartered
bus. Since this is intended to give students a quick overview of the city, only a couple of stops
will be made for students to explore on their own. On previous FSPs, trips were taken to the金山
岭 Jīnshānlǐng portion of the Great Wall (长城 Cháng Chéng), Fragrant Hills Park (香山 Xiāng
Shān) for the Fall foliage, the old Summer Palace (圆明园 Yuán Míng Yuán), and the 798 Art District. As with the cultural activities and language tables, *attendance on these trips is mandatory.*
Residential Life at BNU

Orientation of BNU

The BNU campus itself is like a small city: it has many restaurants (see p. 39 on eating in Beijing), shops, a gym, outdoor tracks, a clinic, and many other resources.

BNU has numerous gates. The one you will probably use most is the east gate (东门). The south gate (南门) is convenient for certain restaurants. The smaller east and south gates (小东门、小南门) are both convenient for leaving the campus and heading south on 新街口. The north gate, although a bit difficult to find, is useful for getting to 北太平庄 for buses and some restaurants on the Third Ring Road.

Study Spots

As a student, your main concern will be your studies. Xīnsōng is adequate for studying and many students like studying in their room, next to the snack bar, in the classrooms on the 2nd floor, or in the alcove on the 5th floor. However, others like to study away from their rooms as they do at Dartmouth. Fortunately, there are many other places to study. Students can study in the “foreign student library” (more like a reading room) on the first floor of the 第一公寓, open weekdays in the morning and from 2 to 5 PM. Other empty classrooms are available in the buildings just to the south of Xīnsōng until 10 PM or so. The library (新楼xīn zhúlóu) and the former library (主楼zhǔlóu) are generally filled to the brim by BNU students. Unfortunately our student IDs are different from the normal ones used for admission and are not valid for library access. Good alternatives are the 24-hour McDonalds and nearby cafes on or just outside campus. See p. 64 for a list of cafes near BNU’s campus.

A farther but very good study location is the National Library (国家图书馆Guójiā Tǔshūguǎn). Officially you are supposed to bring your passport to register for a reader card, and outside reading materials are not allowed to be read in there, but I was able to access the library without registration and saw many people with their own school books. The library closes at 5 PM weekends, but remains open until 9 PM weekdays. Take 645路 south (or west if getting on at the south gate) to 国家图书馆.

Extracurricular Activities

Most students will do some sort of physical activity during the FSP/LSA+, whether it’s making sure to walk around the city all the time or by exercising on campus. As mentioned earlier, the school has basketball and tennis courts, outdoor tracks, and an indoor gym, all near the main student dining halls (see map of BNU campus on p. 26). The courts and tracks can be used for free all day, but at times may be closed for certain events and classes.

Additionally, you can sign participate in other extracurricular activities. Painting, calligraphy, and taichi classes have been offered in the past and are free for students. Note that it is considered disrespectful to attend one or two classes and then drop; please take the class only if you intend to return. You can ask to sit in on the first class to see if you like it. You can join BNU organizations like club sports or the choir in the Fall.

Other groups like taichi often practice on the BNU campus. You can ask if you could join them, often for a small course fee.
Money and Communications

Getting money

To withdraw money from your Bank of America account without an ATM fee, use any China Construction Bank (中国建设银行 Zhōngguó jiànshè yínháng) ATM. The nearest China Construction Bank is across the street from 东门 just north of the Sichuan restaurant and a couple of eyeglass shops. Just cross 新街口 using the pedestrian bridge (天桥) and make a left.

If you would like to exchange USD or other currency for RMB (e.g. 换美元 huàn měi yuán), visit any bank. Bring your passport and your currency. Wait in line, take a number, and when you’re called, go up to the teller. You will need to complete a form with your name, passport number, and address in Beijing (19号 新街口外大街， 新松公寓， 北京师范大学). Keep your receipt so you can exchange your unused RMB at the end of the term, although I have been allowed to exchange money without receipts.

Cell phones

The program will provide cell phones for the term for all students. You must, however, pay for a SIM card and reload it out of your own pocket. Your DA will usually help you do this in the first few days. You can do this by going to the China Mobile (中国移动通信 Zhōngguó yídòng tōngxìn) store next to McDonald's and Yumadun Restaurant on 新街口 or by going to the supermarket next to the photo studio. There are two types of plans: a pay-as-you-go plan and a quasi-prepaid one. The quasi-prepaid one is a better value. Each month China Mobile will deduct a certain amount (10 元, for example) in exchange for a set number of outgoing minutes; incoming calls within Beijing are free. Please tell the salesman you would like to make/receive international calls (开通打国际长途电话 kāitōng dǎ guójì chángtú diànhuà; you should get this option to be able to make calls in the event of an emergency). China Mobile usually has a special deal on these prepaid plans for BNU students. If you are signing up for service at the official China Mobile store, bring your passport. Note that at the time of writing, China Mobile does not support the iPhone’s 3G connectivity, but China Unicom (中国联通通信 Zhōngguó liántōng tōngxìn) does. This may change with the introduction of the iPhone 5.

To add more minutes, visit the China Mobile store, the small supermarket, or the many China Mobile vendors around China. Tell the salesman or the vending machine that you want to “充值 chōngzhí____ 块钱,” with the blank being the amount of 30 元 or intervals of 50 元. Service fees usually apply at places other than China Mobile stores.

To call the US from Beijing, dial 12593+00+1+area code+ phone number. Dialing 12593 will allow you to save money on calls. Each minute will be 4 毛 (about US $0.062) in Beijing. To call the US using your computer, try Google Voice (free) and Skype (very cheap). For either of these services, you will need to have the Dartmouth VPN (Virtual Private Network) installed on your laptop. Download the VPN before leaving the US, although you generally can install it even after arriving in China. Outside Beijing, dial 17951+00+1+area code+phone #.
Each minute will cost 2.4 元. For other countries/territories, substitute in place of the 1 the appropriate country access code. Failure to dial this prefix will cost you a whopping 8 元 per minute!

Please remember that by using a program cell phone, you agree to return it in original working condition with all accessories (boxes/Ziplock bag, batteries, chargers, and instruction manuals). Within the first three weeks, you can get a replacement phone for free if your phone dies but after, you are responsible for replacing it yourself (for less than 200 元 cheap new and second-hand phones are available at the grocery store next to the photo studio and in Zhōngguāncūn, the Beijing tech hub). If the phone or any component is lost or damaged, you are responsible for replacements.

Internet

The Internet will cost each roommate RMB 100 元/month, although they often activate both ports in each room for the cost of one (try this before paying for both). To pay for Internet, go to the 2nd floor of the dorm across the driveway from Xinsong and give them your room #. You can sign up for access by-the-week with a minimum of two weeks, useful if you are going on the midterm trip to Tibet or at the end of the summer term.

You will need an Ethernet cable (网络线 wǎng luò xiàn) to get online in Xīnsōng and have the Dartmouth VPN installed to get on blocked sites like Facebook, YouTube．

Free wireless Internet is available at McDonald’s (half-hour free each day), many cafes, bakeries, and newer shopping malls. Additionally, you can opt to sign up for wireless Internet service with wireless carriers like China Mobile and China Unicom.

Mail

As long as letters and packages are addressed correctly (as written in the Money and Communications section in Preparing for Beijing), they should get to you at Xinsong. Occasionally they may need to be picked up in another office or even at the post office, but this is much less common now, and you will be given instructions by the Xinsong front desk if needed. Either you or the DA will be notified after your mail is received. At the discretion of the DA and the front desk, the mailboxes on the first floor of Xinsong may be used for mail distribution.

To mail letters and packages, visit the nearest post office right across from 小南门 and 京师大厦 jīngshī dàshà on 学院南路 xuéyuàn nánlù (there is another one on the west side of campus near the card office, but it is farther). If you are sending packages, do not seal them as they will be inspected by the postal clerk. Counterfeit items will not be allowed through. You are required to buy boxes from the post office, but fortunately these are very inexpensive. Address envelopes and boxes in the same format as in the US: return address on the upper left, mailing address somewhere in the middle. Write “美国” or the appropriate country’s name in Chinese for the receiving address.
There are two speeds of service, surface (think maritime routes) and air. Air is much faster but also much more expensive. Surface may take a couple of months. Sending letters and postcards by airmail is very reasonably priced, so choosing between service speeds matters really only for packages.

**Getting Around in Beijing**

Beijing has extensive bus and subway systems. To take full advantage of them, use a **subway card** (officially 一卡通 Yīkātōng but also known simply as 地铁卡 dìtiékǎ)! Your DA will hand you a card in the first few days, and will help you add money to the card. Think of the card as your key to Beijing. If you would like an additional card, you can buy one from most subway stations for 40 元. Using this card allows you to quickly get in and out of the subway system, pay your fare on buses, and get deep discounts on buses. If you get an additional card, be aware that 20 元 is a deposit that is refundable at select stations, including 知春路 Zhīchūnlù on subway line 10, 西直门 Xīzhímén on line 2, and Terminal 3 of Capital Airport (首都机场三号航站楼 shǒu dù jīchǎng sānhào hángzhànliú), if you have time before your return flight. Lost or stolen cards are not replaceable, so do not load excessive amounts onto your card. As with the cell phones, you are responsible for returning a functioning card to the DA at the end of the term.

You can **refill** your Yīkātōng at the Jiāhé Yīpīn (嘉和一品) congee restaurant near the BNU north gate, at many Hi-24 Convenience Stores (好邻居便利店 hǎo línjū biānlǐ diàn) including the one on 新街口外大街 across the street from 京师大厦, at Beijing bus company refill windows around the city, and at ticket booths and machines at any subway station. Your Yīkātōng is also accepted as payment aboard taxis (very reluctantly by the drivers), and at Walmart, Carrefour, Golden Phoenix Bakery, Hi-24, 7-Eleven, Yonghe King fast food restaurant, and many other outlets in Beijing.

**Buses:**

Buses in Beijing are a delight and overall, they are modern. While the system is not as fun as the fleet of double deckers in Hong Kong, bus rides are incredibly cheap and with one or two connections, they can take you to most major places right from BNU! Each bus is designated with a number. For example, bus number 22 is termed 22 路. Buses in Beijing use two types of payment, a flat rate fare (0.4 元 with a card and 1 元 with cash) and a distance-based fare (starting at 0.4 元 with a card and 1 元 with cash). With a card, buses numbered 1 to 599 are flat rate (except the 运通 lines), and buses 600 and up are distance-based. On distance-based buses, tap your card when boarding and again when alighting. Buses numbered 800 and higher are longer-distance buses that take you into Beijing’s outskirts, including places like the Great Wall. Most stops are announced and displayed in both Chinese and 拼音 pīnyīn. Announcements for transfers are made on many lines now, but I personally think those are of limited use. On 2-doored buses, get on in the front and out the back and on 3-doored buses, board from the middle and exit at the front or back.

There are minor annoyances regarding buses. During the summer, bus drivers do not turn on air conditioning until late June or early July, and many buses are without A/C. Some routes use A/C-less buses, while some others used a mixed fleet of ones with A/C and ones without. Look for the red and grey buses for air conditioning, or on a hot day simply look for one with
closed windows. Another annoyance is the shortening of routes. Pay attention to announcements by the fare collector or driver, and signs next to the driver. 区间 qūjiàn indicates a shortened route.

By taking buses, you get to see more of Beijing’s surface, avoid walking down into subway stations, avoid getting your luggage x-rayed as at subway stations (useful if you’re buying things like swords), and save a bit of cash, but you risk running into traffic. However, in good traffic conditions, taking the bus can actually save you time by taking a direct route.

The two most convenient bus stops for students at BNU are 铁狮子坟 Tiěshīzífén and 北京师范大学. The southbound stop 铁狮子坟 is outside the Golden Phoenix Bakery and northbound stop next to Origus Pizza. The northbound 北京师范大学 stop is outside the 2nd Artillery Hospital; the southbound stop for most lines is right across the street from the hospital, but for a few others (notably 609路 and 690路) the stop is outside the small east gate.

To look up bus routes, good places to start are Google Maps and Travelchinaguide.com, with the latter allowing you to search for the routes of particular buses (the main problem with this site is that they translate the names of many stops; Tiěshīzífén is written as Iron Lion Tomb-try guessing this if you didn’t already know the stop). Some inaccuracies exist for Google Maps but overall these two sites are great. For a more comprehensive search, use the official Beijing bus website at BJbus.com, which is at first a bit confusing to use. When coming across bus directions in guidebooks, know that the numbering scheme changed in Fall 2010 and thus many of these have become inaccurate.

An important note for buses: The bus stops are very specific in describing the location and this keeps them organized. For example, 22路 starts at 太阳园西Mǔdānyuánxī, which literally means “the west of Mǔdānyuán.” However, pay close attention to where the location is put in the name. For example, 北京站西Běijīngzhànxī is not the same as 北京西站Běijīngxīzhàn. The former is the west of Beijing Railway Station, whereas the latter is the Beijing West Railway Station. Get those stops mixed up and you just may miss your train.

Useful buses and destinations from Tiěshīzífén/BNU/Běitāipíngqiáo Xī:
16路: Mǔdānyuán (note that returning from Mǔdānyuán, this bus takes a different route and will NOT reach BNU)
22路: Mǔdānyuán, Jǐshūtán, Húguòsì (Pīng'ānli subway station), Xīsī, Xīdān, Qìánmén
38路: Mǔdānyuán, Jǐshūtán, Húguòsì, Xīsī, Xīdān
47路: Zhōngguāncùn, Mǔdānyuán, Jǐshūtán
88路: Jīnwǔxīng Fǔzhōuáng Chéng, Dàzhōngsī, Jǐshūtán, Húguòsì, Xīsī, Xīdān, Níújiē
123路: Jīnwǔxīng Bāihuò Chéng, Dōngzhīmén
300路: Sānyuánqíáo, Liàngmáqiáo, Shuāngjiāng, Pānjīāyuán [leaves from Běitāipíngqiáo Xī; do not take 快路 in either direction from here as you will have to get off the bus very soon and transfer]
304路: Mǔdānyuán
331路: Xiāngshān* (Fragrant Hills), Yīhèyuán* (Summer Palace), Yuánmíngyuán* (Old Summer Palace), Qīnghuá Dàxué (Tsinghua Univ.), Běijīng Dàxué (Peking Univ.), Wǔdàokǒu, Běijīng Yǜyán Dàxué (Beijing Chinese Language Univ.)
609路: Běihǎi Běimén (also good for Qiánhǎi), Gǔgōng (for north entrance and Jǐngshān Gōngyuán), Měishù Guǎn (National Art Museum of China), Yábāo Lù (for Ritán Gōngyuán and Russian corner of Beijing), Yóng’ānli* (for Xiūshuǐ Jiē)
618路: Mùdānyuán, Xīzhìmén, Fùchéngmén Nán
620路: Mingguāngcūn Xīzhàn (for Jīnwùxīng Bāihuò Chéng and BHG supermarket), Weigōngcūn
626路: Yīhéyuán*, Yuánmíngyuán*, Qīnghuá Dàxué, Bēijīng Dàxué; Zhōngguǎncūn, Zhīchūnlù, Jīshūtàn, Hūguòsì, Xīsì, Xīdān, Hèpíngmén (for Liǔlíchù), Qiánmén, Tíántán Xīmén
635路1: Mūdānyuán, Zhǔzhōng Chāng (for Hōuhái and Qiánhǎi), Bāochāo Hútòng (stop for Nánluògùxiàng), Dōngnèi Xiàojiě (for Ghost Street)*, Dōngzhǐmén*, Xīngfū Sāncūn* (for Jenny Lou’s and April Gourmet, and Sānlītún), Nòngyè Zhānlán Guān* (for Sānlītún), Tuánjīéhù* (for Sānlītún)
645路: Mūdānyuán, Guójiā Tūshūguǎn (National Library)
690路1: Yīhéyuán*, Yuánmíngyuán*, Qīnghuá Dàxué, Bēijīng Dàxué, Wǔdàokōu, Mūdānyuán, Jīshūtàn, Hūguòsì, Xīsì, Xīdān, Qiánmén [leaves from BNU stop]
695路: Bèijīng Xī Zhān* (leaves from Bèitàipíngqiáo Xī)
运通101路: Wàngjīng*, Màdiàn Qiáó (leaves from Bèitàipíngqiáo Xī)
运通104路: Màdiàn Qiáó, Xīzhìmén, Dòngwīyuán

*Stop is far away or route is delay-prone, and especially during rush hour, taking the subway will be faster. Allow extra travel time. For Xiāngshān, a bus ride from the subway station is required on 331路 or a similar route.

^Stop is far away, but it is much easier to reach this destination by bus than by subway. Allow extra travel time.

Bus line has many 区间 schedules, which means shortened runs. Pay attention to signs and announcements.

Subway:

Beijing’s subway system is modern and quite good. Subway service is frequent and reliable, and runs from 5 AM to about 11 PM. There are over 9 regular lines in operation and more under construction, plus the Airport Express. The fare for the general system is a flat 2元 with card or cash (to buy a single-use ticket), and 25元 for the Airport Express. Tap your card/ticket to enter and tap your card to exit, or insert your ticket. While transfers are free, some require long walks. Station entrances are located on ground level or within shopping centers.

The closest stops are 积水潭 Jīshūtàn on Line 2 (walk south to the 2nd Ring Road on Xīnjièkōu or take 22路, 38路, 47路, 88路, 609路, 626路, or 690路 to 积水潭桥南 Jīshūtàn Qiáo'nán). 牡丹园 Mùdānyuán on Line 10 (22路 or 38路 north to 牡丹园 Mùdānyuán or 16路, 47路, 609路, 635路, or 690路 north to 牡丹园 Mùdānyuán), and 平安里 Ping'ānli on Lines 4 and 6 (22路, 38路, 88路, 626路, or 690路 south to 护国寺 Hùguòsì).
Note: While the 新街口 stop on Line 4 is closer to BNU than is 元里, it is definitely more efficient to travel to points south from the latter stop and to various points north (Beijing Zoo – 魏公村 Wèigōngcūn, for example) by buses from BNU or transferring from line 10. The 新街口 stop is only reachable by 47路 from BNU.

Taxis:

Taxis are ubiquitous in Beijing. To hail a free cab, stand near the side of a road and do as you would in Manhattan: stick your hand out. Empty ones, indicated with a red available sign, are available and should stop for you.

Official ones are clearly marked with the Beijing taxi logo and a blue license plate starting with 京 B. Always take official taxis and never take illegal ones, or 黑车 hēichē. As a rule of thumb, do not take taxis whose drivers approach you: those tend to be illegal cabs. Also, it’s best to take cabs that are already running and not stopped at a curb, even official taxis. These drivers lure tourists and will insist on a very high fixed price instead of using the meter.

If a taxi does not stop for you, you may be in a no-stopping zone. Unfortunately, taxi drivers do sometimes discriminate. For example, they may not stop for foreigners worried about a language barrier or two young men fearing they are homosexual. In the first case, try having an “Asian-looking” student flag down a cab if there is one in your group and in the second, just have the other student stand a bit farther away.

Once you are in a taxi, tell the driver your destination clearly and make sure he/she repeats it. Watch the driver reset the meter. If he/she doesn’t, ask for a receipt which will prompt him to start it, or ask to use the 表 biǎo. Taxi drivers often have thick Beijing accents, but a lot of them are quite interesting and are great to have conversations with.

Taxi fares start at 10元 during the day and 11元 at night, and then 2元 per kilometer after. For trips longer than 3 km. a 2元 or 3元 fuel surcharge will be added, depending on the market price of gas. Any tolls (e.g. on the Airport Expressway) will be paid for by the passenger. Ask for a receipt (发票 fāpiào) to make it much easier to find the driver if you leave anything behind, or to file a complaint for overcharging.
Eating and Drinking

Beijing is a foody’s paradise. There is so much good food from different parts of China and so many restaurants to choose from. Best of all, you can pay as much or as little as you want. Food prices in Beijing can be so low that you will never have to cook, even without a SmartChoice meal plan like at Dartmouth. Now that’s a truly smart idea! After you get adjusted in the first couple of weeks, be adventurous and try something new. Ditch that General Tso’s chicken!

There are many restaurants in Beijing, many small independent ones but also many chain restaurants, both familiar western ones like McDonald’s, Chinese ones like Mr. Lee (李先生), which used to be called California Beef Noodle King (加州牛肉面王), and other East Asian ones like Yoshinoya. Many smaller restaurants can have questionable hygiene. Western fast food chains like McDonald’s and KFC have significantly different options than at home, and these are catered to Chinese tastes. The Chinese chains do Chinese food well, quickly and cheaply. A good way to sample food from different parts of China at fair prices is at food courts in department stores, generally at the top floor or in the basement. An especially good one is at Oriental Plaza (东方广场) in Wangfujing. It is also a good idea to look online for reviews of restaurants on blogs, newspapers, and travel advising sites like TripAdvisor.

Choose restaurants that are reputable; generally, larger ones and fast food branches have better practices. A word of advice: avoid restaurants like 成都小吃Chéngdū xiǎochī. That ubiquitous chain has admittedly tasty food but has hygiene problems and is rumored to use less-than-savory oil.

When you first order food at a restaurant, it may be daunting. When you enter a restaurant, the host/wait staff will ask you “几位Jiweǐ?” How many people? When you order, point to something on a menu (菜单càidān) or say “来__,” which means bring a (fill in the blank). Keep in mind that anything labeled with 肉ròu means it is with pork. When you are finished and want to pay, say loudly “买单mǎidān!” Then hand over your cash or, at some places, your credit card. No tipping is needed, except at certain more upscale restaurants. This is just the norm in China, and in several other Asian countries like Japan. If you want to take leftovers home, ask your waitstaff to “打包dābāo.” To get the attention of the waitstaff at anytime, you can just say “服务员!” While you may hear some locals yelling this very loudly, try to keep your voice reasonable.

In China, dishes are typically ordered and eaten communally, or “family style” and are not often ordered individually, except at western restaurants. This is a fun way to sample many dishes in one sitting. Over the course of your term, you probably will order food to-go. Ask for “外卖wàimài” or “带走dàizǒu” or ask them to “打包dābāo” your food.

Be careful when consuming street food, especially at the beginning. There are many options to choose from, including ones serving lamb skewers (羊肉串 yángròu chuān) and the Beijing specialty 煎饼 jiānbǐng, a savory crepe that is extremely delicious. Get street food only if it’s prepared hot right in front of you. An obvious example of food to avoid is 凉面 liàngmiàn, which are cold noodles prepared with vegetables and dressing.

As to drinking at meals, boiled water (开水) or water that was used to boil noodles (tasty and just slightly salty) is usually available, as are bottled drinks like Coke. If you want your
bottled drinks cold, say you want them “凉的 liáng de.” Try to avoid alcoholic drinks. The only thing that I will say is that if you want them, you can easily find them but please drink responsibly if you choose to drink.

When you get food at supermarkets, be aware that most products show a production date (生产日期 shēn’ɡ chǎn 　rìqì) rather than an expiration date.

Dining on Campus

Dining on campus gives you many good options at very low prices. BNU has four dining halls for student use (the teacher’s cafeteria is open to students), as well as several restaurants. At the dining halls, simply tell the servers what you would like and pay as you go. There is a Japanese restaurant, a Korean restaurant, and a Chinese restaurant just north of Xinsong, across the driveway from the 专家楼 zhūjiālóu. Near the main dining halls is the Hollywood Restaurant, which serves Chinese food influenced by other Asian countries and the West. There are many smaller snack stalls and markets around campus as well. The main supermarket is near the main dining halls and a smaller one is just next to the photo studio.

To pay for food at dining halls, many snack stalls, the restaurant in Lanhui Gongyu, Hollywood Restaurant, and supermarkets, you can use your dining card or cash. To use your card, just tap and go. If you are out of funds but still want to eat at dining halls, the upper levels of a couple dining halls accept cash.

If you need to refill your card, visit the card office, which is on the ground floor on the south side of the no. 16 student dorm (第十六学生公寓) and is open from 9 AM to 5 PM most days. To refill your card, just hand the clerk your card and the amount you would like to put on it. Note, it does not accept singles and will not return unused funds at the end of the term. Load at most 100元 after first receiving your card.

See the At a Glance section for more on food near campus.

Alternatively, you can cook your own meals in the Xinsong kitchen. This is a good option for those who have dietary restrictions or want to try a hand at making Chinese food. The kitchen has three hotplates, or electric stoves (电灶 diànzào). When you buy pots and pans, be sure to ask if they work on electric stoves; if not, the plate will not be able to conduct the heat from the stove.

Dining Around Beijing

See the At a Glance section at the end of this guide for a brief list of restaurants and food stores, and recommended dishes
Shopping

Beijing is a shopper’s playground for the low prices, many options to choose from, and convenience. You can basically find everything you need...and more! Whether you need a knockoff Northface or the latest iPod, you can basically find it all. Heck, you can even shop at Walmart, which is a fun experience! You may have to pay more for western products that are imported, but it is comforting to know you can buy them if desired.

In general, bargain (讨价还价tǎojiàhuánhuà) when you shop. You cannot bargain at supermarkets/grocery stores or restaurants, or when taking taxis, but anything else, from hotels to department stores to street vendors, bargaining is fair game and is usually expected. In Beijing places frequented by foreigners, bargain to at most 50% of the opening price, with exceptions discussed below. Bargaining is an art form that is a lot of fun, and takes time to get used to. To bargain, you’ll be offered a price and then you have to give prices that you think are fair, sometimes punching numbers into the seller’s calculators. Be firm and assertive, and don’t be afraid to respectfully say things like the quality isn’t great or you don’t like something (a tactic); walk away and vendors may just chase after you with a good price. Be mindful, though, that successful bargaining makes both sides happy and that it is not worth it to have bruised feelings over just a few dollars.

That said, Beijing is also a buyer-beware market: that nice looking Nikon you see at the Silk Market may just be a fake, as one vendor brazenly told me. China is dealing with intellectual rights issues now, but let’s admit it: it can be pretty awesome to get DVDs of an entire season of a TV show for just a few bucks or getting a fake Northface for under US $20. For many items, especially those at tourist hubs and not at large chain retailers, assume the items are fake.

Specialty Markets/Stores

Silk Street (秀水街Xiùshuǐjiē): A large sprawling outdoor market until 2005, this is now a multistory shopping mall with a focus on clothing. You can find Northfaces, designer clothing, tailored clothing, handbags, shoes, luggage, toys, camera equipment, iPad cases, etc. Be aware that (almost) everything is fake, and quality can vary. Suitcases will break quickly and feathers may start coming out from that Northface you bought; avoid electronics. Tourists come by the busload and prices are marked up ridiculously. Pay no more than 25% of the asking price. Expect to punch in your desired prices in a calculator. Line 1 or 609路 south to 永安里Yōnɡ'ānlǐ.

Yashow (雅秀Yǎxiù): Similar to Silk Street, but it is more orderly with fewer shoppers. It is a stop for many tourists so bargain aggressively and pay about 25% of the asking price. Line 10 to 团结湖Tuánjié hú (walk a few blocks west) or Line 2 to 东四十条Dōngsìshítíào (walk a few blocks west or transfer to a bus to Sànlítún) 635路 to团结湖Tuánjié hú.

Pearl Market (红桥市场Hónɡqiáo shīchāng): You can find cheap pearls here, handbags, electronics, suitcases, watches, and more (again, stay away from things like cameras and suitcases). There is a nice annex in the back selling toys and small electronics like battery-less
flashlights. The market is just south of Qiánmén and across the street from the Temple of Heaven Park (天坛公园 Tiāntán gōngyuán).

**Pānjiāyuán (潘家园):** Known as the dirt market, this outdoor market is one of the most interesting places to take a look at, even if you’re not in the mood to shop. The market used to be open only on weekends and vendors would set up early, but it is now open daily. While it is known for antiques, don’t go there for these. You’ll find mass reproductions of antiques, calligraphy, calligraphy tools, second-hand camera equipment, and many souvenir possibilities. Bargain hard.

**Jīnwǔxing (金五星):** This is where mostly 北京人 shop. As described in Frommer’s, you can get everything in these warehouse-like buildings, from Chinese-branded clothing to stationery to the kitchen sink, as well as custom-tailored clothes. Prices are much lower than at Silk Street, the Pearl Market, and Yashow, but do not expect to find knockoffs of brand names. The quality can vary, of course, but it’s worth a trip over as it is close to BNU. There are two separate places named Jīnwǔxing within a 5-minute drive from each other and they are similar despite one supposedly focusing more on clothing.

**Dōngwūyuán Fūzhuāng Shichāng (动物园服装市场):** Like Jīnwǔxing, these shopping malls sell Chinese branded clothing. The multi-story layouts of many of these malls are better organized, with related items (e.g. men’s casual clothing) placed on the same floors; quality seems to be a bit higher. Vendors tend to see more of resellers buying cheap clothing en masse to resell at other places, but will sell to individuals at retail prices. The largest mall is right above the bus terminal.

**Tiānyì Pīfā Shichāng (天意市场):** This is a modern shopping center that is frequented by locals. This is a very good place to get anything from suitcases (durable ones; the cheapest ones tend to be in Aisles 7 and 8 of the basement) to housewares to kites to school supplies. There is a very limited selection of clothing. Prices are much lower here, but you should still bargain. This ornately, gaudily decorated building is about 4 blocks west of the Fuchengmen subway stop on Line 2, but it is easier taking 22/38/88/626/690路 south to 西四路口北 Xīsì lùkǒu běi and transferring to trolley 101/102/103路 at the east of the intersection to 44

**Yānjìng Chéng (眼镜城):** On the east side of the Third Ring Road just north of Pānjiāyuán, there are several similar eyeglass malls. You can get very cheap frames and good quality lenses. Bring a prescription or get your eyes examined there and if you go by early afternoon, your glasses will be made on premise and will be ready in as little as half an hour. Prices are fairly low, but bargain anyway (disregard printed/displayed prices). It may be a good idea to choose a set of glasses that you really like and then get a backup pair or two. When buying glasses, keep in mind the 3 main types of lenses, with a higher number indicated greater thinness: 1.56, 1.61, and 1.67. If you have fairly poor vision, choosing the 1.61 type would be best. Almost all lenses are made
in China despite vendor claims of “Japanese technology.” Generally, a pair of glasses (frames and lenses) should cost no more than 150 元.

Pageone Books: This chain, traditionally with a large presence in Hong Kong and Singapore, has finally opened three stores in Beijing. Pageone has an excellent selection of books in English and has a café. The most convenient ones are the 24-hour location in Sanlitun Village and the branch at Guómào. For the store in Guómào, take Line 10 to Guómào. For the one in Sanlitun Village, Line 10 to Tuánjiéhú or 635 to Tuánjiéhú.

Bookworm: This small cozy bookstore, with a café, is where many expats read/buy their English language books. It’s not a large outlet by any means, but it has a great selection of good books. Line 10 to Tuánjiéhú or 635 to Tuánjiéhú

Hypermart

Walmart (沃尔玛 Woěrmā): This isn’t your typical American Walmart. It is that and much more. Each Walmart is larger and carries everything from cooked meals to clothing to everyday items, all at reasonable prices. The closest Walmart is at 知春路 Zhīchūnlù. Line 10 or 626路 to 知春路 Zhīchūnlù. To get back to BNU, take 88路. Foreign credit cards are accepted.

Carrefour (家乐福 Jiālèfù): Similar to Walmart, this French chain has locations throughout China. It offers a large selection at prices a bit lower than Walmart’s. There are many Carrefours in Beijing, but the closest is at 大钟寺 Dàzhōngsì 88路 north to 成铁大钟寺站 Chéngtiě Dàzhōngsì Zhàn, or their shuttle bus which stops at the BNU East Gate five times a day. Foreign credit cards are accepted (no debit cards).

WuMart (物美 Wùměi): A Chinese rendition of Walmart, this chain has higher prices than either Walmart or Carrefour, but has two locations convenient to BNU. The closer one is a higher quality supermarket called “Everyday Mart” located at the northeast corner of 北太平庄 on the Third Ring Road. A larger Wumart is located at Jīshùitán in the basement of Xinhua Department Store 新华百货 (Xīnhuá bǎihào). Unlike at Walmart and Carrefour, foreign credit cards are not accepted.

Shopping Areas

Beijing has many neighborhoods that you could just walk around if you are in the mood to shop. Here are some of them:

Xīdān (西单): This area used to be filled primarily with malls selling cheap clothes and other items, but now it is occupied by many more upscale department stores and malls. One of Beijing’s three Apple stores is here at Joy City Mall; you can buy Apple equipment at high prices or get great service for your in-warranty products at the Genius bar (make an appointment online). Joy City has many other shops and restaurants that range from affordable to really expensive, and also has the world’s longest escalator. If you’re looking for the cheap stuff, you
can still find it across the street from Joy City and in the several malls just to the east. There’s also Beijing’s largest bookstore, 北京图书大厦 Běijīng túshū dàshà, with English books in the basement. It is easy to get to Xīdān from BNU: 22/38/88/626/690 路 south to 西单商场 Xīdān Shāngchǎng or, if the traffic is bad, Line 4 to Xīdān.

Dōngzhímén (东直门) and Sānlìtūn (三里屯): These areas are located near the embassies and thus get a lot of traffic from expats. There are several glitzy malls in东直门 and The Village, an outdoor campus of upscale shops, in三里屯. Beijing’s original Apple store (the first in the city) is in The Village. There is also a 24-hour Pageone store, with a very large selection of English books. Line 10 to 格林小镇 Tuánjiéhú (walk a few blocks west) or Line 2 to 东四十条 Dōngsìshìtiáo (walk a few blocks east or transfer to a bus to Sānlìtūn) 635路 to 农业展览馆 Nóngyè Zhǎnlàn Guǎn or 格林小镇 Tuánjiéhú.

Xīzhímén (西直门): Not as trendy as its counterpart in the east, Dōngzhímén, Xīzhímén does have a few modern shopping malls, including one with numerous bakeries, cafes (yes, including a Starbucks), good stores, and a BHG supermarket. While you are in the neighborhood, you may want to see the Beijing Exhibition Center, built by the Soviets. It’s a striking example of communist architecture and has a very tall star spire.

Wāngfūjìng (王府井): This is one of Beijing’s most expensive neighborhoods. There are many department stores and shopping malls in the area, including Oriental Plaza (东方广场), which has a great food court in the basement. Two bookstores with extensive collections of foreign language books, Wangfujing Bookstore (王府井书店 Wāngfūjìng shùdiàn) and the Foreign Language Bookstore (外国语言书店wàiguó yǔyán shǔdiàn), are also here. Beijing’s newest Apple store – and Asia’s largest – opened at the north end of the Wāngfūjìng pedestrian mall in October 2012. Just east of Tian’anmen, take Line 1 to 王府井 Wāngfūjìng or by bus 22/38/88/626/690 路 south to 西四路口 Xīsì lùkǒu běi and transfer to trolley 103路 to 王府井 Wāngfūjìng lúkǒu běi.

Qiánmén (前门): In the past, Beijingers used to come here for their shopping needs. Re-opened in time for the 2008 Olympics, this pedestrian-only shopping plaza has many modern shops and time-honored brands (老字号lǎozhī hào). Check out the many hutongs, especially Dashilar and watch for traditional Beijing snacks. The area runs south of 正阳门 Zhèngyángmén, colloquially known as Qiánmén. 22路 to 前门 Qiánmén.

Shíchàhǎi (什刹海) area: Beijing’s artificial lakes area, which includes 后海 Hòuhǎi and 前海 Qiánhǎi, has two notable shopping alleys or 湖同 hútóng. The one closest to the Silver Ingot Bridge (银锭桥 Yíndìngqiáo; separating 后海 and 前海) is Tobacco Alley (Yǎndài xiejiē). There are many small boutique shops and small eateries around this bar area. To get here, take 609 路 south to 北海北门 Běihǎi Běimén (or, not recommended, Line 6 to Běihǎi North; the bus is much easier and takes the same amount of time) or 635 路 south to 铸钟厂 Zhùzhòng chǎng. The other, longer 胡同 is 南锣鼓巷 Nánluògǔ xiàng. This artsy alley stretches a few blocks and
has interesting boutique shops, food stands, cafes, restaurants, and even an outing club. Although cars are allowed, the area has mostly pedestrian traffic and is tranquil, reminiscent of the older days of Beijing. 路 south to 香街 Bāochāo Hútòng or Line 6 to 南锣鼓巷 Nán luògǔ xiàng (note: during off-peak times, it probably is faster to take the bus as you will need to transfer from a bus at the Pīng'ānlǐ Station).

Zhōngguāncūn (中关村): This is China’s version of Silicon Valley. It’s worth a look even if you aren’t interested in buying any electronics. There is mall after mall selling computers and electronics. If you’re looking for bargains, prices can be good on certain things but always know what you are getting (again, it’s a buyer-beware market). If you are looking to purchase Apple products or get a repair, instead visit the (official) Apple Stores in Xīdān, Wāngfūjīng, and Sānlìtún. There is also a large bookstore, Zhōngguāncūn Shūjuǎn (中关村图书大厦), that has books in English, including Lonely Planet guidebooks. Line 4 or 47路/626路north to 中关村 for the electronics or Line 4 to 苏州街 Sūzhōu Jiē for the bookstore.

What NOT to bring back to the United States

To re-enter the United States, you will have to declare your purchases abroad. US citizens can bring home a maximum of US $800 worth of goods acquired overseas. In general, meats are not allowed, and fruits and vegetables must be dried or canned. Other foods are fine. Some ports are stricter than others and what you got across last time may get confiscated this time; fines can also be assessed. If you are bringing back antiques, be sure to have a certificate of authenticity. Needless to say, counterfeit items are allowed in very limited quantities (around 2 per traveler), so if you are bringing back knockoffs, hide them well or have a very good reason for them.

What to See and Do in Beijing

Unlike Hanover, there’s always something to see and do in Beijing. The city is a culturally-rich one that is constantly changing and some of Beijing’s jewels may require more careful searching. The following list is only intended as a starter, and presents a very small fraction of what Beijing has to offer. Consult it alongside your Beijing guidebooks.

In this section, admissions tickets often come in two forms, 门票 (“door passes”) and 通票 (all-access passes). During your stay in Beijing, you should always carry both your BNU ID and your Dartmouth ID. Most places will give you a student discount when you show your BNU ID, but some will charge you the regular admissions price because you are a short-term student. In that case, try your Dartmouth ID.

Parks and Gardens

Béihǎi (北海): 5元 for 门票 with ID
This imperial park was beautifully designed, complete with a lake and a 白塔 Báitǎ (White Pagoda), which is nicely lit at night. The park also has a famous Nine-Dragon Screen at the north end. Start at the south end and walk your way up. Line 5 to Béihǎi běimén for the north end, or Line 103 to Béihǎi for the south end. Get the 门票 unless you want to climb up to the pagoda.

Tiāntán Gōngyuán (Temple of Heaven; 天坛公园): south of Qianmen
This is the most famous of the four altar parks, and one of the most interesting ones. It is best seen walking north from the south entrance. Get a 通票 and bring your BNU ID. You may wish to combine a trip to the park with a visit to the Hongqiao Pearl Market, just across the street from the northeast side of the park. Line 5 to 天坛东门 Tiāntán Dōngmén. Line 22 to 前门 Qiánmén, and transfer to Line 120 to 天坛南门 Tiāntán Nánmén, the last stop.

Dìtán Gōngyuán (地坛公园): north of Yōnghégōng Lama Temple, 2元 admission
A large park that offers a nice walk. You may wish to combine this with a visit to the Lama and Confucius Temples just to the south, and enjoy either dimsum or a vegetarian buffet for lunch. Line 2 clockwise to Yonghegong Lama Temple. Line 44 西四 to 德胜门 Déshèngmén (just to the east of Jīshūitàn subway station) to 雍和宫桥东 Yōnghégōng Qiáo Dōng.

Yuètán Gōngyuán (月坛公园):
A small park that offers a nice walk and a great place to bring a book to read; 1元 admission. Line 618 to 阜成门南 Fūchéngmén Nán and walk over to the park, or Line 22/38/88/626 to 平安里路口南 Ping’ānlǐ Lùkǒu Nán and transfer to Line 13/42/623 to 乐坛公园 Yuètán Gōngyuán.

Rìtán Gōngyuán (日坛公园):
Free admission. A good park that even has a rock climbing wall. Line 2 to 建国门 Jiànguómén and then walk north to the park. Line 609 to 雅宝路 Yábāo Lù, and walk east to the park along Yábāo Lù.
Zhongshan Gongyuan (中山公园): 2元 admission with student ID
This small but well maintained park is to the left (west) of Tian’anmen. Dedicated to the founder of the Republic of China, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, the park offers a respite from the tourists walking to the Forbidden City. You can walk from the south entrance next to Tian’anmen to the east entrance of the park to the Forbidden City and take in a bit of tranquility before rejoining the throngs of tourists. There is also a performance hall inside the park. Line 1 to 天安门西 Tian’anmén Xī. 22路 to 前门 Qiánmén and walk north, or reboard at 前门 Qiánmén for 天安门西 Tian’anmén Xī

Jingshan Gōngyuán (景山公园): 2元 admission.
After seeing the Forbidden City, go to Jingshan Park to get a great view from the top. 609路 to 故宫 Gùgōng

Summer Palace - Yíhéyuán (颐和园):
A beautiful compound where the emperor went during the summer. There are some nice hills, a beautiful lake and bridge, and interesting architecture. Get the 通票. This place is crowded during the summer and on first few weekends in the fall, so try going on a weekday or at the end of October. Don’t wait until November when it gets very cold. 331路/626路/690路 to 颐和园 Yíhéyuán or 331路 to 颐和园北宫门 Yíhéyuán Bèigōngmén. Line 4 to 北宫门 Bèigōngmén

Yuánmíngyuán (圆明园):
The old summer palace with the ruins of the old structures. 331路/626路/690路 to 圆明园 Yuánmíngyuán. Line 4 to 圆明园 Yuánmíngyuán

Xiāngshān (香山):
In the western hills. The locals flock here in the Fall for foliage, which is not impressive compared to autumn in New Hampshire, but this park in the outskirts of Beijing is nice during the summer also. There is a nice street of shops leading up to the park, and the best thing available is dried fruit. Try dried kiwi. 331路 to Xiāngshān, Line 4 to 北宫门 Bèigōngmén and transfer to 331路/563路 to Xiāngshān

Botanical Gardens (植物园 Zhíwùyuán):
5元 admission, or 45元 admission including entrance into the greenhouse. The gardens, just before Xiāngshān, make for a very interesting walk with fresh air to go with it. The greenhouse, while expensive, has exotic specimens like durian. There is also a temple, which requires the 通票 for access. 331路 to 北京植物园南门 Běijīng Zhíwùyuán Nánmén or 卧佛寺 Wòfó Sì. Line 4 to 北宫门 Bèigōngmén and transfer to 331路/563路 to 北京植物园南门 Běijīng Zhíwùyuán Nánmén or 卧佛寺 Wòfó Sì

Olympic Green (奥林匹克公园 Àolínpíkè Gōngyuán):
Free admission, 50元 to Bird’s Nest and Water Cube. This is a sprawling park and apart from the signature Bird’s Nest and Water Cube, it’s not very interesting. There is little shade in the southern part of the former Olympic Village and the forest at the north is quite far. That said, it is definitely important to see those distinctive pieces of architecture, once during the day and again at night when the buildings are illuminated.

Line 8 to Olympic Green (奥林匹克公园)

**Museums**

Capitol Museum (首都博物馆 Shòudū Bówùguǎn):
Free admission after registering online at [http://www.capitalmuseum.org.cn/en/02.htm](http://www.capitalmuseum.org.cn/en/02.htm) or 30元 at the door (bring BNU ID). Absolutely wonderful museum in a beautiful, airy building and has excellently curated exhibits on Beijing’s history and culture. Line 1 to 木樨地 Mùxīdì

Beijing City Planning and Exhibition Center (北京市规划展览馆 Bēijīng shì guīhuà zhǎnlàn guǎn):
Large 4-story museum detailing Beijing’s development. The best feature is the 3D model of Beijing with accurate representations of buildings in the downtown area, from the Forbidden City to the Bird’s Nest to the BNU campus. Discount with Dartmouth ID- 30元, but worth it.

22路 to前门 Qiánmén.

Palace Museum (Forbidden City; 故宫Gǔgōng):
Needless to say, you should go to this. 40元 with BNU ID since you probably will not go on a Saturday group excursion. Go at off-peak times to avoid the crowds, but do not wait until November when it will be cold. Prepare to walk for several hours. Tip: If you want to avoid the throngs of tourists going in through Tiānnánmén, you can walk through Zhōngshān Park, to the left of the iconic gate, and pay 3元 admission; exit at the east gate to see the Forbidden City.

Line 1 to 天安门西Tiānnánmén Xī or 天安门东Tiānnánmén Dōng, or 609路 to 故宫Gǔgōng (takes you to the rear)

**Temples**

Yōnghégòng Lama Temple:
Described by Frommer’s as “once something of a circus,” this Tibetan Buddhist temple is an excellent place to visit, especially if you will not be traveling to Lhasa. There are numerous halls, each progressively larger from the entrance. The area is fun to explore with many small shops, including ones selling incense sticks. Combine this with a visit to Ditan Park and the Confucius Temple, and either dimsum or a vegetarian buffet for lunch. Line 2 clockwise to Yonghegong Lama Temple. 44路内 east from 德胜门 Dēshēngmén (just to the east of Jīshūtàn subway station) to 雍和宫桥东Yōnghégòng Qiáodōng

Confucius Temple/Imperial Academy (孔庙 Kǒngmiào / 国子监 Guózǐjiàn):
China’s second largest Confucius Temple and the Imperial Academy make for an interesting visit, if not for the tranquility in the courtyards after seeing the Lama Temple. The hutong leading to the temple is beautiful. Line 2 clockwise to Yonghegong Lama Temple. 44路内
east from 德胜门 Déshèngmén (just to the east of Jīshuǐtán subway station) to 雍和宫桥东 Yōnghégōng Qiáo Dōng

Báiyún Guān (白云观):
This is the most active Daoist temple in Beijing. 北京南门 to 天宁寺桥西 Tiānníng Sì Qiáo Xiī

Dàzhōng Sì (大钟寺):
There are numerous bell towers, and the largest one hangs in the Great Bell Tower. In the temple there is also an ancient bell museum. This makes for a quick visit that you can combine with a shopping trip to Carrefour.

Wǔtā Sì (五塔寺):
This beautiful temple is a bit hard to find, but it is worth the trip there. The main attraction is the large stone building with beautifully carved Buddhist motifs, and the five pagodas on top of it. There is also a good Stone Carving museum here.

Báitā Sì (白塔寺):
The Tibetan Buddhist temple, near Fuchengmen, has a white pagoda or dagoba (hence the name) that has been under construction for quite a while, as confirmed by Frommer’s. There are also many Buddha statues and thankas (silk paintings) that make it a worthwhile stop if your group is not going to Tibet. Admission is free on Wednesdays.

Universities

Peking University (北京大学 Běijīng dàxué 北大 Běidà):
Perhaps China’s most famous university, Běidà is beautiful and even has its own pagoda and lake. Enough said. During most of the year, visitors are prohibited during weekdays and are required to bring IDs (passports or BNU IDs) on weekends.

Tsinghua University (清华大学 Qīnghuá Dàxué)
Often compared to MIT, this famous university is dedicated to advancing science and technology. The campus is like something you would find in Cambridge and provides a nice stroll. Similar to Běidà, visitors are prohibited during weekdays and are required to bring IDs (passports or BNU IDs) on weekends.

Walks

After seeing the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and all the other typical tourist sites, you may think you’ve seen it all; think again. Or you may be new in Beijing and want to get a better sense of the city. Walking around the city is a great way to explore Beijing for anyone!
Frommer’s Beijing has four sample walking tours, three of which I think are especially good for students (the fourth is a bit dull). My favorite is the “Back Lakes Ramble” stroll, which starts off at Hùguósi and goes to the Drum Tower, winding by Prince Gong’s Mansion, Yángfāng Hùtòng, and Déshēngmén before wrapping around Hòuhāi. This tranquil stroll takes you through low traffic areas and into some really nice hútòngs. You may see old Beijingers with roosters and song birds along the way outside their sìhéyuàn, for example. The other two good ones are through Qiánmén and Wángfǔjǐng. The slightly “dull” one, also passing through Hùguósi, does swing by a few interesting places, including Báitǎsi and Rùndělì cài shìchǎng. Báitǎsi is the White Dagoba Temple and the shìchǎng is Beijing’s few remaining large outdoor “wet markets” selling everything from meat and produce to household items. For the Back Lakes tour, take a bus to Hùguósi and for the Báitǎsi tour, take one to Xīsī. The book suggests going to Jishuitan, which is too far away from the walk.

If you want an interesting walk to see hutongs, head over to the Yōnghégōng area. Start at Yōnghégōng and walk down the tree-lined hutong past the Confucius Temple (孔子庙 Kǒngzǐ miào) towards Āndìngmén Dājiē and make your way to Bāochāo Hùtòng and Nánluògūxiàng, and if you want to walk further, Hòuhāi/Qiánhǎi, and the Bell and Drum Towers.

For a night walk, hop onto 635路 to 东直门内大街 Dōngzhímén Nèi Dàjiē (or take Line 5 to 北新桥 Běixīnqiáo) for Ghost Street (鬼街 Guǐ Jiē). The street, part of 东直门内大街, is lined with restaurants with many lanterns hanging outside. At night, the scene is quite beautiful, filled with lit red lanterns and diners having meals in open-air eateries. It may appear gaudy, but it is still nice to look at. I have never eaten there, but the food is supposed to be good.
Consular Services

If you lose your passport, you will need to get that replaced before leaving China. You should safeguard your passport at all times. Leave it in your dorm room (carry a copy with you, despite Chinese law requiring you to carry the original) when you are not traveling outside of the city, and check every week or so you still have it.

If you are a US citizen or other non-PRC citizen and lose your passport, you will need to report it lost/stolen to the local police and also to your country’s Embassy (or Consulate if you are outside Beijing). You will also need a new Chinese visa. To get to the US Embassy, take Line 10 to 亮马桥 Liàngmǎqiáo and walk east after exiting the station, and continue past the Lufthansa Center. See map below.

If you are arrested, you must also seek consular services from your country’s Embassy. Dartmouth is not responsible for getting you out of trouble, but the US Embassy can help. A US consul is allowed to visit you only four days after you are arrested. If you are a dual citizen of the US but enter on a non-US passport, you must seek help from that other country; the US will not provide help unless you enter China with a US passport.

To get a new Chinese visa or to renew one, visit the China Entry/Exit division of the Public Safety Bureau. Note that student F-type visas are very difficult to renew without a letter from an internship company or a university, and you will not be allowed to get a tourist visa while you are still in the country; you can apply for a tourist visa in Hong Kong and Macau. Additional requirements include your Registration Form of Temporary Residence (the Xinsong front desk can give you a copy) and proof that you have at least US $100 for the rest of your stay. The office is open most days until 5 PM and can be reached by taking Line 2 clockwise to 雍和宫 Yōnghégōng. From the southeast exit, keep walking east for several blocks along the Second Ring Road. See map below.

From Google Maps
Meeting Dartmouth Alumni

Around the girdled earth they roam, many Dartmouth alumni end up working in China. Dartmouth has several active alumni clubs in China, including ones in Beijing and Shanghai. During the term, some alumni may come to BNU to meet with you (e.g. David Spindler ’89, an expert on the Great Wall) and others may have dinner with you – these arrangements may be made during the term. They are excited to meet with current students at their alma mater so if you would like to network with them, feel free to email them.

Travel Around China During the FSP/LSA+

During the term, you will be going on several trips: an end-of-term trip for the FSP or a midterm trip for the LSA+, and at least one weekend trip (two weekend trips, at the discretion of the Director, may be combined into a longer one). The longer trips are about 10 days long and the weekend trips, even if combined, are less than a week. You will be staying at hotels for most trips (exception is Inner Mongolia), and roommate assignments are the same as in Xinsong. All expenses should already be billed for so you will not need to worry about paying during the term.
But if you plan on buying souvenirs, you should bring some cash. 600 元 should be enough for an extended trip, unless you plan to take a picture with a baby panda in Chengdu- that will set you back approximately 1000元. China Construction Bank branches and ATMs are very common, even in remote cities like Lhasa and rural areas like Jiuzhaigou.

Since trips are part of the curriculum, you should do some readings about your destinations and the culture/history associated with the region. Not only will this help you score points on your exams and papers, but it will set you apart from ordinary tourists.

To pack for the trip, just bring what you will need. You may bring your laptop/tablet for entertainment or work, if you would like. The Director and the DA will provide advice for each specific itinerary. You will need your passports for each trip because they are required at check-in both for flights and hotels. The DA will collect them usually on the bus and return them shortly after.

Train Travel
For weekend trips and during some parts of the extended trips, you will probably be taking a train. Trains leave from several stations in Beijing and you may take conventional trains or higher speed ones. *Always hold onto your ticket* unless you are on an overnight sleeper train- an attendant will collect your ticket and return it upon arrival. You will need the ticket to enter the station, to board the train, and to exit the station at your destination. If you lose it, you will need to buy a new ticket at full fare.

*Keep an eye on your belongings*, especially in train stations where *theft* is rampant (*and by no means is this an exaggeration*). When you are sleeping on overnight trains, keep your bags in the inner part of the compartment. You can rest your head on your belongings like a pillow or turn the other way and put your feet on them. The second method works best if you have multiple items, although you should not have more than a bag or two for weekend trips.

If you are asthmatic or otherwise intolerant of *cigarette smoke*, choose a bunk away from the ends of the cars where passengers congregate to 抽烟.

Flying
For extended trips, you probably will be flying. Be sure to bring only one bag to check-in (if you can fit everything in a carry-on, that’s even better) and pack only what you need! There is no need to worry about exceeding luggage weight restrictions (*average* of 44 pounds per traveler when traveling as a group) but traveling light will make it easier for yourself! Your DA will probably hand out a piece of green ribbon or something similar to make it easier to collect bags at the baggage claim. If flying to Tibet, be sure to put all lotions or other liquids in Ziplock bags because they leak due to the lower pressure in Tibet. For all flights, small carry-on size liquids need to be put in a quart-size Ziplock bag. For checking in, the Director will use dedicated group check-in lines where available; you will never have to check in individually. Seats are assigned by the airline; if you would like to trade seats, just do so on your own with classmates.

Meals
Meals will be served at hotels and restaurants, and aboard your flights. If you are traveling by train, you may want to bring some food aboard as the selection aboard is limited and more expensive. Cup noodles are popular options because hot water is provided on board.
Safety and Punctuality

At all times, you should have a cell phone with enough minutes to make/receive calls in the event of emergencies. You should stick with your classmates even during free time: this is for safety reasons. Also, please be on time to different events. Time is limited and your cooperation is needed.

Travel Around China After the FSP/LSA+

After studying Chinese for three months and after taking several trips around the country, you may want to travel on your own or with fellow students. Travel is truly wonderful and in China, it can fit all budgets: it is affordable even if you basically burned through your budget in Beijing, and can be very luxurious if you want. To plan your trip, pick up a guidebook and choose the places you want to visit. Check your visa expiration date before you start planning. For these trips, you may wish to have a reputable travel agent, but it is also fine to plan on your own. The Internet also provides very good information. Feel free to ask your laoshis and your DA for advice.

Flights

Cheap flights are available on Ctrip.com and Elong.net, both with English options. It is best to book flights about a month and a half in advance; most fares will be discounted sometime before departure and are identified with an exclamation mark or something similar. Occasionally premium economy service is priced about the same as regular coach tickets when purchasing early, so watch for these since they carry extra benefits. Credit and debit cards, and Paypal are accepted; all of these payment methods will incur a 3% service charge by Ctrip and Elong. Also check fares on airline websites, where no service charges are levied.

Almost all flights leave from Capital Airport, but some cheap flights on China United Airlines leave from 南苑机场 Nányuàn Airport in the southwest part of the city. Public transportation there is not particularly convenient, so it is best to take a taxi there. A shuttle bus (16元) is available during limited times from the civil aviation plaza (民航大厦 míngháng dàshà) in Xidan. Frequent return shuttles are provided at the airport but there are few taxis, even at the stand.

Be aware that on most airlines 20 kg. (44 lb.) of luggage (basically the same as one suitcase) is allowed when flying coach. Officially only one carry-on item is allowed, but this rule is laxly enforced. If you are strapped for space in your suitcase, use this to your benefit. If you do need to check an extra bag, it may be a good idea to fly in first class or premium economy. Alternatively you could use a courier service to deliver your bags to another Chinese address; allow one week for these services to transport your luggage. The exception to these rules is on Spring Airlines, which provides really low fares from Shanghai to domestic and international cities, including Hong Kong. Check their baggage rules carefully before booking.
Trains

Buying Tickets

Train travel in China is inexpensive and is a convenient way to travel since rail stations are centrally located in most cities. To purchase train tickets, you can visit train ticket offices (the closest to BNU is right outside the East Gate to the north) or any railway station for travel throughout the country. Before purchasing tickets, you should make a list of train schedules that will work. You can find schedules by doing a simple search on Google, for example, “Beijing to Qingdao train schedule.” Effective 2012, travel by train in all classes of service requires a valid passport or 身份证. Remember to have yours when buying your ticket and when traveling.

For longer routes, you should buy your tickets in advance. Tickets for sleeper trains sell out very quickly, usually by 9:35 AM on the day of release. Bring a list of trains that you are interested in taking. High-speed train tickets are easier to buy and can often be bought earlier than tickets for conventional trains. The rules change all the time. When I went to Beijing in 2010, I was able to buy tickets 10 days in advance. However, in 2011, I was able to buy tickets for conventional trains only 4 days before travel (when counting the number of days, include the day of travel) whereas for high-speed trains, I was able to buy them a week in advance. The easiest way to find out is to ask the train ticket office about two weeks before you need your ticket. If you are nice to the DA, he/she may be willing to get hard-to-purchase sleeper tickets for you in the morning. Note that this is not part of the DA’s job but is rather a personal favor. If tickets are not available from a station or from a ticket office, you may want to check with a travel agent who may be holding onto inventory. Expect to pay more.

For short trips with frequent service like Shanghai to Suzhou or Beijing to Tianjin, you can purchase tickets on the day of travel if you prefer.

Keep in mind Beijing has four major stations (Beijing, Beijing South, Beijing West, and Beijing North) and there are a few others in the outskirts. Trains to a particular destination may leave only from one station (e.g. high-speed Tianjin intercity trains generally leave from Beijing South with only a couple leaving from Beijing North).

Classes of Service

The letters at the start of a schedule indicate the speed. G schedules (高铁) are the fastest and newest high speed trains, and the most expensive. D schedules (动车) are the first generation, slower, high-speed ones and are cheapest of the high-speed trains. C schedules (also 动车) are high-speed intercity trains (e.g. Beijing to Tianjin). T, K, and Z schedules are express conventional trains. Schedules without letters and L trains are the slowest. Conventional trains are priced the same on a route regardless of speed. Keep in mind that G trains may be marginally faster than a D or C train (sometimes even a conventional train), but cost much more. Choose wisely.

Generally speaking, for short trips and high speed trains, just buy a seat. These are cheapest and will suffice. On conventional trains, the basic seat is the 硬座 yìngzuò (hard seat) and a more comfortable one is the 软座 ruǎn zuò (soft seat). On high speed trains, the seats are separated into 一等 yī děng (first class) and 二等 (second class).
For overnight service and for extended trips, buy a ticket for a bunk in hard sleeper (硬卧 yìngwò) or soft sleeper (软卧 ruǎn wò; each cabin has a door and is shared by fewer passengers). In hard sleeper, the top bunk is considered least desirable and is the cheapest, and the bottom is the most expensive since it is the easiest to get to. This has its problems because the people in the above bunks will sit on the bottom during the day and when the lights are on, and the bed is also the easiest to reach for your valuable belongings.

Again, if you are sensitive to cigarette smoke, choose a seat or bunk away from the ends of the trains where passengers smoke.

Hotels

For hotels, US-based websites like Expedia, Orbitz, Booking.com, and Hotels.com provide great low prices. You can also book on Ctrip and Elong, but in general cancellation and refund policies are better on the US sites. In all cases, check the cancellation policies before booking if your plans are likely to change.

Hotels in China can range from luxurious to basic and cheap but clean. Western chains like Hilton, Hyatt, Holiday Inn, Ramada, and Days Inn are prominent in China. If you are looking for options in the latter category, hotel rooms can start at about US $15. Large, reliable Chinese discount hotel chains include Jinjiang Inn (锦江之星 Jinjiāng zhī xīng), Orange Hotel (桔子酒店 Júzǐ jiǔ diàn, an interesting boutique hotel with goldfish, Rubik cubes, and free oranges in each room), GreenTree Inn (格林豪泰连锁酒店 Gélín háo tài liánsuǒ jiǔ diàn, a great low-priced business-grade chain hotel), 7-Days Inn (7天连锁酒店 Qi tān liánsuǒ jiǔ diàn), and Home Inn (如家酒店 Rújiā jiǔ diàn). While rack prices are already low, you can reserve rooms for even less by going on websites like Expedia.

Hostels

Hostels are even cheaper than hotels and can be great for both solo travelers and those traveling in small groups. These should be booked through reputable sites like Hostelling International. Advantages of hostels include a social aspect that is good for solo travelers and a generally helpful staff that can offer discount tourist services.

Be aware of your safety at all times and happy travels! 一路平安！
After Returning to Dartmouth
Continuing your studies in Chinese

After returning to Dartmouth, many students continue taking classes in Chinese language and culture, whether it’s out of personal interest, or for the AMELL/AMES major or minor.

For modern Chinese language, third year classes are offered Winter and Spring and fourth year classes are offered during these terms and in Summer. The Summer fourth year class and some of the third year classes are taught by the visiting professor from BNU. Classical Chinese is also taught, and some of these classes fulfill the non-literature requirement of the major/minor. Other classes like calligraphy and upper level seminars are also available.

There are also occasional talks relating to Chinese culture, often by visitors to the College. Keep an eye out for emails and flyers advertising these events.

The Chinese Language House

The Chinese Language House (CLH) is an affinity program offered in conjunction with the Office of Residential Life at Dartmouth. Each term it is open to eight students who can speak Chinese and if you complete the FSP/LSA+ in Beijing, you’re eligible to live in the house. The CLH offers a good outlet to practice your speaking. Residents in the house have the chance (and are required to) participate in cultural activities, including cooking weekly dinners in the excellent kitchen. Another benefit of living in the house is close interaction with faculty members in DAMELL, including the visiting professor from BNU who lives on the 2nd floor. While the CLH does get very hot in the summer (as do other residence halls), it is located close to the library and classroom buildings, and offers many singles and a few doubles.

Keeping in touch with your fellow FSP/LSA+ students

It is needless to say, but certainly keep in touch with your fellow students! Many of you will continue taking classes with each other, but whatever you do, try to stay in touch. At least three couples from the FSP over the years have gotten married. Oh the places you’ll go!
At a Glance
Important Contact Information

Note: To call the following phone numbers in China, dial as shown. When calling internationally, dial 011-86 for numbers starting with the prefix 10-before entering the number.

Health and Safety

Most of these numbers are used throughout China; dial as shown:
Ambulance: 120 or 999 (Beijing and Shanghai only)
Police: 110
Fire: 119

International SOS Clinic (other clinics available in Nanjing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Hong Kong SAR, etc.):
Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Building 16 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang District
Clinic appointments: 10-6462-9112
Dental appointments: 10-6462-0333
24-Hour Alarm Center: 10-6462-9100

Consular Services

Embassy of the United States of America
55 Ānjiā Lóu Lù, Chāoyáng District
http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html
General number: 10-8531-3000
Emergency: 10-8531-4000

Division of Exit & Entry Administration of the Public Safety Bureau for visa extensions
2 Āndìngmén Dōng Dàjiē, Dōngchéng District
10-8402-0101

Beijing Normal University

Xinsong front desk: 10-5880-7890
International Students Office: 10-5880-8364/10-5880-7986/10-58800325

Student mailing address (English): Student Name (Include Chinese name if possible) / Dartmouth Foreign Study Program / Xinsong Dormitory Room / Beijing Normal University / 19 Xinjiekouwai Dajie / Haidian District, Beijing 100875 / China

Student mailing address (Chinese): 100875 中国北京市 / 新街口外大街19号 /北京范大学 / 新松公寓 (Room #)号房间/ / 达慕思大学/ (Student’s Name in English, or Chinese if possible)
**Food - Delivery**

E-Station Café  
5880-7569

KFC  
4008-823-823

Hollywood Restaurant  
5880-0188  
5880-7667

Isshin Japanese Restaurant  
5880-9785

McDonald’s delivery (although you really should just walk downstairs)  
4008-517-517

Pizza Hut Jishuitan  
8222-2706

**Airlines**

For North American airlines, it may be easier to call their US numbers, which provide 24-hour service. Unless specified, numbers are for local call centers in China.

Air Canada  
aircanada.com  
400-811-2001  
888-247-2262 (USA, 24-hour)

Air China  
airchina.com  
10-95583 / 59281588 (24-hour)  
800-882-8122 (USA)

American Airlines  
aa.com  
400-815-0800  
800-433-7300 (USA, 24-hour)

Cathay Pacific Airways/Dragonair  
cathaypacific.com  
400-888-6628  
800-233-2742 (USA)
China Eastern Airlines  
ceair.com  
95530 / 21-95530 (24-hour)  
212-685-8685 (USA)  

China Southern Airlines  
csair.com  
20-95539 (24-hour)  
323-653-8088 (USA)  

Delta Air Lines  
delta.com  
400-814-0081  
888-750-3284 (USA, 24-hour)  

Hainan Airlines  
hnair.com  
950718 / 898-950718 (24-hour)  
888-688-8813 (USA)  

United Airlines  
united.com  
10-8468-6666  
800-864-8331 (USA, 24-hour)  

Travel Agencies  

Ctrip.com  
400 619 9999 (24-hour)  

Elong.net  
400-617-1717 / 10-8457-7827 (24-hour)  

Restaurants and Dishes  

Places to eat on BNU campus or nearby  

Restaurants  

Hollywood: BNU, near main dining halls  
Good Asian fusion food. Accepts cash and student dining cards. Delivery available.  

Yúmǎdùn: Next to McDonald’s  
Great Chinese restaurant, but a bit pricy if you eat there daily; best with friends. Cash and credit cards.
Friendship Restaurant: BNU foreign student dorm
Korean food: Bimbimbap, noodles, etc. Cash only. Delivery available.

Jimīn: BNU foreign student dorm, above Friendship Restaurant
Chinese food. Slow service. Cash only. Delivery available, although at times they will refuse to.

Isshin Restaurant: BNU foreign student dorm #1 (第一公寓), 2nd floor
Japanese food: sushi, ramen, soba noodles, miso soup, etc. Cash only. Delivery available with 25元 minimum purchase.

Lanhui Restaurant: BNU Lanhui Apartment, 1st floor
Good Chinese restaurant just to the west of the main dining halls. Cash and dining card accepted.

Jīngshī Dāshà buffet: BNU Jīngshī Dāshà, 1st floor
All-you-can-eat. Cash only.

Aidebao Western Restaurant: just north of Golden Phoenix Bakery
Western food at moderate prices

Ishii Restaurant: just north of Golden Phoenix Bakery
Japanese food: sushi, ramen, etc.

Shānlāodà (陕老大): just north of Golden Phoenix Bakery
Good Chinese options, mainly from Shaanxi province

Dōngbēi restaurant on Xīnjiēkōuwài Dàjiē, right across the street from the hospital (south of Jingshi Dasha):
Good food from Northeast China; heavier foods like stews, but also dumplings.

Dōngbēi restaurant at north gate:
Exit north gate, make a left and follow the road until you see the restaurant. Before the 3rd Ring Rd.

Xīn Jiǔlóng (新九龙): east of 2nd Artillery Hospital
Great food that is best shared with friends; reasonable prices and large portions.

Jiāhé Yǐpīn (嘉和一品) congee restaurant: North gate at Bēitàipíngzhūāng
Congee and a lot of other breakfast options starting at 6 AM. Look for the word 粥 on the illuminated sign.

Hóngzhūàngyuán (宏状元) congee restaurant: east of 2nd Artillery Hospital (past 新九龙)
Reliable chain restaurant serving congee and buns for breakfast and for lunch and dinner, great options on the menu like noodles, congee, and scallion pancakes. Ask for reusable chopsticks to avoid an extra service fee. 24 hours. Delivery available.
Haidilao Hotpot Restaurant (海底捞火锅 Hǎidǐlāo huǒguō): north of Mǔdānyuán (16/47/635 路 north to 牡丹园北; 16 路 on the return does NOT reach BNU)
This popular chain restaurant serves good hotpot (large pot in the middle of a table instead of individual pots) with great service and many options of ingredients, including a mini buffet of non-hotpot food.

Master Kong’s Noodles: Jīshuǐtán
Ramen and other dishes at this chain restaurant

Also see the list of cafes below for great food, from snack food to complete meals

Bakeries

Golden Phoenix: just north of 东门, and all around Beijing
Chain bakery open early enough for breakfast before class. Breads, pastries, drinks, cakes are available. Another location is at Bèitàipíngzhuāng. Like most Chinese bakeries, pastries here are greasy. Foreign credit cards may be accepted.

味多美 (stylized as Wedome): Bèitàipíngzhuāng and all around Beijing
Another Chinese chain bakery

Fast food restaurants

McDonald’s (麦当劳 Màidānglào): 东门
24 hours

Subway (赛百味 Sàibǎiwèi): 东门, just south of McDonald’s

KFC (肯德基 Kěndéjī): Northwest corner of Bèitàipíngzhuāng
24 hours

“The Shack” (申巴): corner stand at southwest corner of Xīnjiēkōuwài Dàjiē and Xuéyuàn Nǎnlù
Buns and dumplings in the morning starting at 4:30 and into the afternoon, hotpot skewers and meat skewers from early evening until 2 AM. Be wary of ordering noodles served in bowls covered with plastic; this suggests they do not frequently wash the bowls.

Yoshinoya (吉野家 Jíyějiā): Mǔdānyuán
Japanese chain featuring Japanese noodles

Pizza Hut (必胜客 Bìshèngkè): Jīshuǐtán
An American favorite for pizza, except with more meals, drinks, and other Asian choices
Húguósi Xiǎochī: Jīshuǐtán
Popular chain store that started at Húguósi that serves lunch items, snacks, desserts, etc.

Grocery/Prepared Foods
稻香村Dàoxiāngcūn: Across the street from McDonald’s
Great chain store (also a 老字号) with fantastic prepared foods section with 刀削面 (shaved noodles), soups, fried noodles, congee, jianbing, bread, baozi, and more. There is an extensive pastry section, plus other groceries. Unfortunately, Daoxiangcun opens at 8 AM right when classes start.

庆丰包子铺Qìngfēng Bāozi Pù: Across the street from 小东门
Great for buns

物美Wumart Everyday Mart: Bēitàipíngzhān
Supermarket

物美Wumart: Jīshuǐtán
Supermarket and prepared foods

Cafes/Drinks
E-Station Cafe: BNU foreign student dorm (第二公寓), 2nd floor
Good Chinese and western fare, and drinks. Closes at 1 AM. Free Wi-Fi.

Twelve Oaks Cafe: Liyun Dorm
Chinese and western food, and drinks. Popular but noisy study spot.

Tyche Avenue Cafe: Xīnjīèkōuwài Dàjiē, just south of McDonald’s
Chinese and western food, and drinks. Quiet study spot. Closes at 11 PM. Free Wi-Fi.

Sculpting in Time: Xuéyuàn Nánlù, just across the street from South Gate
This chain café offers good Chinese and western food for meals from breakfast to dinner (and snacks), and many drinks to choose from. It is a popular study spot with books and magazines, and lamps for you to draw on. It closes at midnight, and there is free Wi-Fi. Credit cards are accepted. Closes at midnight.

Mojito Coffee: Xuéyuàn Nánlù, directly across the street from 京师大厦
This is like a smaller version of Sculpting in Time with prices that appear to be lower. Free Wi-Fi.

“It’s Time To”: Jīshuǐtán and all around the city
Great bubble tea and other drinks. Grab and go.
Coco: near Jīshuǐtán (bus to 新街口北), outside Carrefour at Dazhongsi shopping mall, and around the city
Taiwanese chain; great bubble tea and other drinks. Grab and go.

Street stalls: on campus and right outside 东门
The ones on campus have different foods, including jianbing, rouchuan, baozi, bubble tea, and ice cream. Some accept student dining cards. These are located just north of the small supermarket and near the dining halls. There are also many fruit vendors around campus. A particularly cheap one with a great selection is near Xiǎoxītiān, about a 5-minute walk south on Xīnjiēkōuwài Dàjiē from 京师大厦.

The food stall outside the east gate has jiānbīng, fried egg pancakes, hot dogs, and soy milk. Many other small food stands are around the area.

Places to eat throughout Beijing

Full-Service Restaurants

Provincial/municipal restaurants: around the city
Each of China’s provinces, and many municipalities, have offices and associated restaurants in the city. Many of these provide low-cost, authentic food for cadres that miss food from home. I made it my mission to eat at as many of these as possible in Fall 2011 and my favorite one is the Kashgar restaurant, located near the 菜市口 station on Line 4. It has excellent rice pilaf (抓饭 zhuā fàn), 羊肉串, and of course, delicious and juicy 烤包子 filled with lamb. Other popular ones include the Sichuan ones like the famed Chuānbān provincial restaurant and the lesser known Chóngqìng municipal restaurant just to the east of Jingshan Park. While some of these are hard to find, they are sprinkled around town. Prices range from really cheap and affordable (e.g. the Chuānbān, Chóngqìng, and Kashgar ones) to more expensive (e.g. the Guangdong restaurant). Reservations and credit cards accepted at some locations. For more info, visit http://eileeneats.com/eileeneats/Provincial_restaurants.html

Xù Xiāng Zhāi (叙香斋): Yōnghēgōng/Guózǐjiān
This amazing vegetarian buffet is across the street from the Imperial College/Confucian Temple, and down the street from Yōnghēgōng Lama Temple. Everything is vegetarian, even if it alarmingly looks like meat or seafood, and there are vegan options. There are a lot of excellent options like salads, fresh fruit, mock meats, mock sushi, and desserts. It’s great for both vegetarians and omnivores. The prices for all-you-can eat meals, with all-you-can drink soft beverages like fresh soymilk and coffee, are quite reasonable: 78元 for lunch and 88元 for dinner (more expensive because you can order dishes). Get there early as lunch ends at 2 PM and dinner ends at 8:30 PM. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Annie’s: Agricultural Exhibition Center and Gōngtǐ Dōnglù
6503-3871
Good Italian food in case you get homesick; other locations are in the chain. Reservations accepted. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Bellagio: nearest in Xīdān Joy City and 东直门 Raffles City 8409-8075
Somehow all of the waitresses sport the same hairdo, but this Taiwanese chain has good Chinese food (it struggles to find its type of Chinese food, with everything from northern cuisine to Cantonese cuisine) and has huge shaved ices that can be shared by several diners. Other locations, including in Sanlitun on the west side of the Workers’ Stadium and at The Village. Reservations accepted at the Gongti branch and some others. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Dūyīchū (都一处): Qiánmén
Serves excellent shāomài (unlike the ones you have at Cantonese dimsum) with interesting décor. Other dishes are also available.

Grandma’s Kitchen: nearest in Wūdàokǒu, but a better branch is near the Forbidden City
Serves familiar breakfast food, including steak, eggs, and flapjacks; other locations, including near Forbidden City and Silk Market. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Matsuko (松子 Sōngzǐ): Tuánjiéhú and other locations
Mao Laoshi’s favorite restaurant in Beijing, according to the previous guidebook. She often took her students there for Chinese language table. Great Japanese buffet at reasonable prices, but different branches charge differently. Reservations accepted. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Tairyo Teppanyaki (大渔铁板烧Dàyú tiěbǎn shāo): Gōngtǐ
Well, there’s no better way to describe this Japanese restaurant than awesome! Bring a group of friends and enjoy the afternoon or evening with a chef preparing great steak and other food in front of you! The chefs are quite fun and engage you as they cook. The other food and drinks prepared in the kitchen are delicious. Like Matsuko, it is all-you-can-eat but there is a 3-hour limit (your choice of 5:30 or 8:30 start times for dinner on Friday and Saturday) and it is not buffet style. However, the flow of food and drinks is fairly quick and reliable. Did I mention unlimited drinks, including warm sake? Prices vary at different locations, but it is still only 178 元 for dinner at the reliable Gōngtǐ Dōnglù location. Most other locations charge 238元. Rumor, according to The Beijinger’s website, is that the other location charging 178 元 at Liangmaqiao is subpar. Reservations accepted. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Pyro Pizza: Wūdàokǒu
This is an excellent joint to get New York-style pizza, tasty entrees and salads, a pretty darn good large cookie (served with vanilla ice cream!), and drinks. When you walk down the stairs, it will remind you of going into a frat basement with Greek life-inspired decorations. Yes, you can also play beer pong here (Beirut); just ask the staff to set up a table for you. Prices are a bit high, but are in line with what you would pay in the US, and much closer than Kros Nest in Sānlǐtún, another popular pizza place among expats. Reservations accepted. Foreign credit cards accepted.
Other restaurants suggested in previous guidebook:

Alameda: Sānlǐtún
Great Brazilian lunch and dinner, and rated well by Zagat.

Haiku by Hatsune: rated well by Zagat.
Japanese restaurants serving excellent sushi

Luga’s: Sānlǐtún
Mexican restaurant with purportedly good burritos

Fast Food Restaurants

Burger King: closest in Xīdān Joy City, and at least one other branch in Wāngfǔjīng’s Oriental Plaza

Mr. Lee (李先生): Closest at 马店桥Mǎdiàn Qiáo, farther locations near Tobacco Alley/Hòuhǎi and Qiánmén
Great restaurant focusing on noodles. After all, it used to be called California Beef Noodles

Yonghe King (永和大佌Yònghé Dàwàng): closest at Jīshuǐtán
All-around good fast food restaurant with good options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Master Kong: closest at Jīshuǐtán
Best known for noodles, but has other delicious Chinese food; mostly Cantonese

Bakeries/Desserts

Daylight Donuts: Wèigōngcún, and 6th floor of Xīdān Joy City
Authentic donuts that come in two kinds: one that is soft, resembling ones from Dunkin’ Donuts, and another cake-like one. All are delicious and are basically as good as anything you’ll find in the US. Ingredients are imported from the US. Note the location in 五道口 has closed, but it still appears on The Beijinger’s website.

Bread Talk: Xīzhímén, Xīdān, Wāngfǔjīng, and all around Beijing
Good pastries and bread

Café 85°: Hūguósi, Xīdān, and all around Beijing
A Chinese chain that offers tasty treats, especially their bread. Try their sesame and walnut bread.

Paris Baguette: Wǔdàokǒu, Wāngfǔjīng, Zhōngguǎncūn, and all around Beijing
South Korean bakery that has excellent pastries. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Tour Les Jour: Xīzhímén, Wǔdàokǒu, and all around Beijing
Another South Korean bakery with delicious pastries. Free WiFi at the Wǔdàokǒu location, which is also open 24 hours.

Comptoirs de France: Locations in Dōngzhímén, Rītán Park, and Silk Market
Absolutely delicious, authentic and expensive western pastries are served at this Zagat-rated chain. The Silk Market has higher prices than at Ritan. Buy one, get one after 7 PM or so on bread and pastries at Ritan and the Silk Market. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Kempinski Deli: Liàngmáqiào
Good baguettes, sandwiches, and pastries that are expensive, but prices halve after 8 or 9 PM. Foreign credit cards accepted.

Mochi Sweets: Xīzhímén, Xīdān, Wángfǔjīng
Come here for tasty mochis, a Japanese snack, that will set you back at least 7元 for a small taste of heaven. The mochis are sold frozen, but are ready to eat in 30-45 minutes.

Honeymoon Desserts: Xīzhímén, Wángfǔjīng, and around Beijing
This Hong Kong chain serves very good desserts.

Crêpanini (可白尼尼 Kēbáiníni): Sānlǐtún
Crepanini serves Belgian waffles and crepes with many different toppings, as well as drinks and other desserts like cupcakes. Crepes and waffles are made fresh in front of you. There is some seating inside, and al fresco dining during the summer.

Cafes

Starbucks: closest in Xīzhímén and Xīdān (at least 4 locations), and around Beijing
The mermaid really draws you in to this familiar chain café. Excellent drinks, tasty snacks, and consistent and friendly service at US prices. Free WiFi. Accepts foreign credit cards.

Costa Coffee: a competitor to Starbucks that somehow does not serve brewed coffee but only espresso-based drinks. Closest ones at Carrefour building in Dàzhōngsì, Xīzhímén, and Xīdān. Free WiFi. Accepts foreign credit cards.

Grocery Stores

Walmart: closest at Zhīchūnlù

Carrefour: closest at Dàzhōngsì

April Gourmet: Agricultural Exhibition Center
This place carries good fruits, vegetables, cheeses, and other imported products
Numerous branches, but a convenient one is on Sānlǐtún Běi Xiǎojīē. Accepts foreign credit cards.

Jenny Lou’s: closest at Dōngzhímén
Western supermarket with many imported products
Large one on Sānlǐtún Běi Xiǎojiē next to April Gourmet. Accepts foreign credit cards. ̇635路 to 幸福三村 Xìngfú Sāncūn

BHG Supermarket (华联 Huálían): closest about a 15 minute walk from BNU’s south gate and at Wūdàokǒu; and all throughout Beijing
A Chinese supermarket that carries a good selection of imported Western products. Accepts foreign credit cards. To get to the one near BNU, either walk west out of the south gate or take bus ̇620路 from either Tiěshízǐfēn or the BNU South Gate stop to Míngguāngcūn Xīzhàn.

Street Food

Wángfǔjīng: Here are two streets devoted to food, Dōnghuámén night market and Wángfǔjīng Food Street. The latter has scorpions that are dunked in hot frying oil while still wiggling...an overrated and overpriced item that tastes just like chicken skin. Both markets feature a range of familiar and exotic foods, and are fun to walk around in and to eat at. Unlike at restaurants, you can bargain here. Watch your bags and pockets, especially on the crowded Wángfǔjīng Food Street.

Helpful Words and Phrases

Dishes

When in China, it’s a good idea to be receptive to new foods. As the old guidebook said, the first rule of eating is to chill out. Unless you have dietary restrictions, be adventurous and try new dishes. As in the US, different parts of China serve different types of food. For example, northeast China cuisine tends be heartier (e.g. dumplings and stews) whereas Yunnan food tends to be lighter (e.g. peppermint salads and pineapple rice).

Basic ingredients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bamboo shoots</td>
<td>笋尖 sǔnjǐān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bean sprouts</td>
<td>豆芽 dòuyá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>豆子 dòuzǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>牛肉 niúròu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitter melon</td>
<td>苦瓜 kūguā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black bean sauce</td>
<td>黑豆豉 hēi dòuchǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>白菜 báicài</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrot</td>
<td>胡萝卜 húluóbo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashew</td>
<td>腰果 yāoguó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td>菜花 cáihuā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>鸡肉 jīròu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate</td>
<td>巧克力 qiáokèlǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congee (rice porridge)</td>
<td>粥 zhōu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crab</td>
<td>蟹 xiè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumber</td>
<td>黄瓜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eel</td>
<td>鳗鱼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>鸡蛋</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>鱼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic</td>
<td>大蒜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginger</td>
<td>姜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green-leafed vegetables</td>
<td>绿叶蔬菜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ham</td>
<td>火腿</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb</td>
<td>羊肉</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotus root</td>
<td>莲藕</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meatballs</td>
<td>肉丸子</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monosodium glutamate</td>
<td>味精</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushrooms</td>
<td>蘑菇</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noodles</td>
<td>面条</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>洋葱</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsley</td>
<td>香菜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepper (vegetable)</td>
<td>辣椒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanut</td>
<td>花生</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork</td>
<td>猪肉</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potato</td>
<td>土豆</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radish, white</td>
<td>萝卜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice noodles</td>
<td>米线</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>盐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sausage</td>
<td>香肠</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sesame</td>
<td>芝麻</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp</td>
<td>虾</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>菠菜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soup</td>
<td>汤</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squid</td>
<td>鱿鱼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straw mushrooms</td>
<td>草菇</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>糖</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet potato</td>
<td>红薯 / 地瓜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofu</td>
<td>豆腐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tofu skin</td>
<td>豆皮</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>蕃茄</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermicelli</td>
<td>粉丝</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinegar</td>
<td>醋</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water chestnut</td>
<td>马蹄</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter melon</td>
<td>冬瓜</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood-ear fungus</td>
<td>木耳</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accompanying food and snacks

Vegetarian options in boldface (many are available with meat)

Measure words:
- order (e.g. two orders)
- each
- dish
- bowl

Bread
- 面包 (miàn bāo)

Broad noodles, stir-fried
- 炒河粉 (chāo hé fēn)

Buns, stuffed
- 包子 (bāo zi)

Buns, plain
- 馒头 (mán tou)

Chocolate
- 巧克力 (qiǎ okè lì)

Cold dishes
- 凉菜 (liàng cài)

Congee (rice porridge)
- 粥 (zhōu)

Crepe, savory
- 煎饼 (jiān bìng)

Dessert
- 甜点 (tián diǎn)

Dumplings, boiled/steamed
- 饺子 (jiǎo zi)

Dumplings, boiled (specifically)
- 水饺 (shuǐ jiǎo)

Dumplings, fried
- 锅贴 (guō tī)

Fried dough stick (for congee)
- 油条 (yóu tiáo)

Fried gluten balls with mayo, wasabi-like sauce, and meat shreds
- 丸子 (wán zi)

Glutinous rice balls in soup
- 汤圆 (tāng yuán)

Hamburger
- 汉堡包 (hàn bāo bāo)

Hot dog
- 热狗 (rè gōu)

Ice cream
- 冰淇淋 (bīng qí lín)

Noodles
- 面条 (miàn tiáo)

Noodles, instant
- 方便面 (fāng biàn miàn)

Noodles in spicy broth
- 担担面 (dàn dàn miàn)

Omelet
- 摊鸡蛋 (tān jī dān)

Pancake, stuffed
- 馅饼 (xiàn bǐng)

Pizza
- 比萨 (bǐ sà)

Rice, white
- 米饭 (mǐ fàn)

Rice, fried
- 炒饭 (chāo fàn)

Rice cake
- 年糕 (nián gāo)

Sandwich
- 三明治 (sān mǐng zhì)

Skewers, meat
- 肉串 (ròu chuàn)

Spring roll
- 春卷 (chūn juǎn)

Wontons
- 馄饨 (húntún)
Cooking methods

Boiled  煮  zhǔ
Fried (deep-fried)  炸  zhà
Fried on griddle  煎  jiān
Hot pot  火锅  huǒguō
Red-cooked (stewed in soy sauce)  红烧  hóngshāo
Roasted  烤  kǎo
Steamed  蒸  zhēng
Stir-fried  炒  chāo
Stir-fried without sauce  清炒  qīng chāo

Common dishes

Vegetarian options in **boldface** (some available with meat)

Measure words:

order (e.g. two orders)  分  fēn
dish  盘  pán
bowl  碗  wǎn

**Bean sprouts, stir-fried**  炒豆芽  chǎo dòuyá

Beef and green onions, quick-fried  葱爆牛肉  cóng bào niúròu

Beef on sizzling plate  铁板牛肉  tiěbǎn niúròu

**Braised eggplant with potatoes and spicy green peppers**  地三鲜  dì sānxiān

**Candied/caramelized sweet potatoes, pears, or other fruits, served hot**  拔丝 红薯/梨  bási hóngshū/lí

Chicken, sliced, over crispy rice cakes with tangy sauce  锅巴鸡片  guōbā jīpiàn

Chicken with bamboo shoots and baby corn  筷尖嫩玉米炒鸡片  suōjiān nènyǔmǐ chǎo jīpiàn

Chicken with cashews  腰果鸡片  yāoguǒ jī piàn

“Crossing-the-bridge” noodles (from Yunnan)  过桥米线  guòqiáo mǐxiàn

**Egg fried rice**  蛋炒饭  dàn chǎofàn

**Eggplant, stir-fried**  鱼香茄子  yúxiāng qiézi

**Hand-pulled noodles**  拉面  lāmiàn

**Knife-shaved noodles**  刀削面  dāoxiāomiàn

Kung pao chicken  宫保鸡丁  gōngbǎo jīdīng

Mapo tofu (with chopped meat)  麻婆豆腐  má pó dòufu
Mu shu pork
Peking duck
Potato, shredded, stir-fried with vinegar
Rice pilaf (at Uyghur restaurants)
Squid with green pepper and black beans
"Three-flavored____" (often shrimp, mushroom, pork)

Tofu, home-style
Tofu and spinach soup
Tofu stir-fried with vegetables
Tomato and egg stir fry
Tomato and beef stir fry

Condiments
Hot oil
Hot sauce
Sesame oil
Sesame paste
Soy sauce
Vinegar

Beverages/drink-related words
Measures:
cup
bottle
Americano
Black tea
Beer
Bottled water
Bubble tea
Chrysanthemum tea
Coca Cola
Cold
Coffee
Diet Coke
Fanta
Green tea
Iced tea
Jasmine tea

Condiments
家常豆腐
菠菜豆腐汤
豆腐炒蔬菜
番茄炒鸡蛋
番茄炒牛肉
家常豆腐
菠菜豆腐汤
豆腐炒蔬菜
番茄炒鸡蛋
番茄炒牛肉

Condiments
热油
辣椒
香油
芝麻酱
酱油
醋
热油
辣椒酱
香油
芝麻酱
酱油
醋

Beverages/drink-related words
Measure words:
cup
bēi
cup
bēi

Americano
美式咖啡
měishì kāfēi
Black tea
红茶
hóngchá
Beer
啤酒
píjiǔ
Bottled water
矿泉水
kuàngquán shuǐ
Bubble tea
珍珠奶茶
zhēnzhū náichá
Chrysanthemum tea
菊花茶
júhuā chá
Coca Cola
可口可乐
kèkǒu kèlè
Cold
凉的
liàng de
Coffee
咖啡
kāfēi
Diet Coke
健怡可乐
jiānyí kèlè
Fanta
芬达
fēndá
Green tea
绿茶
lǜchá
Iced tea
冰茶
bīngchá
Jasmine tea
茉莉花茶
mōlihuā chá
Juice       果汁       guǒzhī
Milk        牛奶       niúnǎi
Nonfat milk 脱脂奶       tuōzhī nǎi
Orange juice 橙汁       chéngzhī
Pepsi Cola 百事可乐     bāishíkèlè
Soda        汽水       qǐshuǐ
Soy milk    豆浆       dòujiāng
Tea         茶水       cháshuǐ
Water, boiled 开水       kāishuǐ
Yogurt (yes, it’s a drink in China) 酸奶       suānnǎi

Fruit
Apple       苹果       píngguǒ
Banana      香蕉       xiāngjiāo
Dragon fruit 火龙果     huǒlóng guǒ
Grape       葡萄       pútáo
Honeydew    哈密瓜     hāmíguā
Longan      龙眼       lóngyǎn
Lychee      荔枝       lìzhī
Mango       芒果       mánɡguǒ
Orange      橙子       chéngzi
Peach       桃子       táozi
Pear        梨         lí
Persimmon   柿子       shìzi
Plum        李子       lǐzǐ
Pomegranate 石榴       shílú
Pomelo      柚子       yǒuzi
Watermelon 西瓜       xīguā

Miscellaneous dining words
Bowl        碗         wān
Bringing out a dish 上菜       shàng cài
Chopsticks  筷子       kuāizi
Clean       干警       gānjǐng
Date of expiration 过期日期   guòqí rìqí
Date of production 生产日期   shēngchǎn rìqí
Deliver (to door) 送（上门） sòng (shàngmén)
Dirty       脏         zāng
Fork        叉子       chāzi
Greasy      油腻       yóuni
Healthy     健康       jiànkāng
How many people? 几位？ Ji wèi?
Knife 刀 dāo
Light 清淡 qīngdàn
Menu 菜单 cài dān
Napkin 餐巾 cānjīn
Plate 盘子 pánzi
Please add less oil 请少放油 qīng shǎo fàng yòu
Pot 锅 guō
Set meal 套餐 tàocān
Single item (i.e. set meal not wanted) 单点 dāndiǎn
Spoon 勺子 sháozǐ
To-go 打包 dábāo

Other helpful words

In the dorm
Air conditioner 空调机 kòngtiáo jī
Bed sheets 床单 chuángdān
Card key 房卡 fáng kǎ
To clean (a room) 打扫房间 dǎsǎo fāngjiān
Clogged 堵了/ 塞了 dūle/sāile
Clothes hanger 衣架 yījià
Desk lamp 台灯 táidēng
Ethernet wall port 网口 wǎng kǒu
Fax 传真 chuánzhěn
Front desk 前台 qiántái
Kitchen 厨房 chúfáng
Leaking 漏水 lòushuǐ
Mailbox 信箱 xìnxiāng
Mosquito repellant tablet 蚊香片 wénxiāngpiàn
Password 密码 mìmà
Printer 打印机 dǎyìnǐ
Pillow 枕头 zhěntou
Pillowcase 枕头套 zhěntoutào
Safe 保险箱 bǎoxiǎnxiāng
Scanner 扫描仪 sǎomáoyǐ
Stove, electric 电子炉 diànzǐ lú
Toilet 马桶/ 厕所 mǎtǒng/ cèsuǒ
Towel 毛巾 máo jīn
Water dispenser 饮水机 yǐnshuǐ jī
Travel

Airport bus
Airport Express Train (Beijing)
Bus, public
Bus stop
Capital Airport
Direct bus (for long distance)
Direction
Light rail (e.g. subway line 13)
Luggage
Passport
Refill (a card)
Safety check
Shortened route bus
Swipe (a card)
Subway
Subway station
Taxi
Terminal, airport
Terminal (last stop)
Ticket
Train
Train station
Visa

Miscellaneous shopping – including payment vocabulary

Acceptable
Bank card
Cash
Cheap
Color
Credit card
Credit card, foreign
Different
Discount
Expensive
Impossible
Kidding, to be
Length
Long

Acceptable
Bank card
Cash
Cheap
Color
Credit card
Credit card, foreign
Different
Discount
Expensive
Impossible
Kidding, to be
Length
Long
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Simplified Chinese</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrow</td>
<td>窄</td>
<td>zhǎi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance (a show)</td>
<td>表演</td>
<td>biǎoyǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print (on clothing)</td>
<td>图案</td>
<td>túàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor (quality)</td>
<td>差</td>
<td>chà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor student (moneywise)</td>
<td>穷学生</td>
<td>qióng xuéshēng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>质量</td>
<td>zhìliàng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt (handwritten)</td>
<td>收据</td>
<td>shōujù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt (official invoice)</td>
<td>发票</td>
<td>fāpiào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt (register printout)</td>
<td>小票</td>
<td>xiǎopiào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>一样</td>
<td>yīyàng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short</td>
<td>短</td>
<td>duǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similar</td>
<td>差不多</td>
<td>chábùduō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>大小</td>
<td>dàxiāo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting price</td>
<td>开价</td>
<td>kāijià</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>合适</td>
<td>hêshì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To swindle</td>
<td>骗</td>
<td>piàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twenty percent off</td>
<td>打八折</td>
<td>dá bā zhé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
<td>不行</td>
<td>bùxíng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuitable</td>
<td>不合适</td>
<td>bù hêshí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide</td>
<td>宽</td>
<td>kuān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>宽度</td>
<td>kuândù</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 51 Things To Do During The FSP!

1. Order a jiānbǐng from the stand outside the east gate and watch them make it, and then enjoy it!
2. Watch the flag raising ceremony at Tiānmén Square at sunrise. If you’re on the Fall LSA+, make sure to do this on National Day (October 1st)! Take the first 22 bus out to Qiánmén from Tiěshīzǐfēn at 5:05 AM and then walk over to the Square.
3. Get a cream puff (泡芙 pào fú) from Beard Papa.
4. Get custom tailored clothing and/or super cheap glasses.
5. Go KTVing.
6. Share a huge shaved ice with friends at Bellagio.
7. Have a hotpot meal.
8. Mingle with locals at parks.
9. Take an extracurricular art class (e.g. taichi, calligraphy, kung fu, and painting).
10. Make friends with students at BNU.
11. Try different types of tea.
12. On the first or second day, load a Yīkǎtōng (subway card) provided by the DA, and use it to travel all over the city.
13. See some of Beijing’s best preserved hutongs.
14. Learn to bargain (讨价还价 tǎojià huánjià).
15. Have a great vegetarian buffet at lunch or dinner after seeing Yōnghégōng Lama Temple, Guozijian, and the Confucian Temple/Imperial College at Xù Xiāng Zhāi Restaurant.
16. Ride a train in China: high-speed or conventional.
17. Go to Dàyú, an all-you-can-eat-and-drink restaurant on the east side of Gōngtī.
18. At the Dōnghuá màn Night Market and Wángfǔjìng Xiāochī Jiē, watch for moving scorpions and eat a deep fried one. Bargain for your food.
19. Get cheap DVDs and have a movie night.
20. Try lǎo Běijīng snacks at Hùguósì Xiāochī.
21. Have Peking duck.
22. See a show at the National Centre for the Performing Arts, also known as The Egg.
23. Have skewers, especially lamb.
24. Try bubble tea.
25. Try the delicious pastries at Dàoxiāngcūn (not the pre-packaged ones).
27. Send a postcard back home.
29. Visit Hòuhǎi and rent a paddle boat.
30. Visit Mao’s Mausoleum and take in the silence in the austere hall.
31. Have roasted sweet potatoes and chestnuts, especially in the fall, or simply take in the aroma as you walk down the street.
32. Eat skewers of lamb and other meats or veggies.
33. Try mochi from the specialty shops (e.g. in Xīzhīmén, Xīdān, and Wángfǔjìng).
34. Ride the world’s longest escalator at Xīdān Joy City.
35. Watch knife-shaved noodles (刀削面 dāoxiāomiàn) and hand-pulled noodles (拉面 lāmiàn) being made.
36. Climb Xiāngshān.
37. Study in the National Library of China.
38. Visit the 798 Art District, even if you’re not into contemporary art.
39. Fly a kite off the Great Wall.
40. Shop with locals at Tiānǐ Pǐfā Shíchāng.
41. Hug your director/assistant director before leaving Beijing.
42. Learn about Beijing’s story at the Capital Museum.
43. See the Beijing city planning at the Beijing City Planning Exhibition Center at Qianmen.
44. Enjoy a large bowl of lǎo Běijīng zhājiàng miàn.
45. Have a nice long brunch and study session at Sculpting in Time, and draw on the lamp shades.
46. See the variety of items sold at Walmart.
47. Learn a Chinese pop song.
48. Try green tea ice cream (matcha or jasmine).
49. Enjoy a view of the Forbidden City from the peak of Jīngshān Park.
50. Try a durian-flavored food (ice cream or pastries are good choices).
51. Have a great term in China!