



On behalf of CHEER/WLSA, we welcome you to join our Beijing team in this exciting city. The following is some information you may find useful for starting your life here.

## Introduction

Beijing (北京), the capital of China, is looking much more into the future than into the past. Nowadays, it is a city crowded with tourists from China and all over the world. But just a stone's throw away in the past, the city was hardly ever visited by any foreigners. Since 1989, many things have changed and Beijing has been growing into a huge metropolitan area with around 20 million people living on a vast, expanding area. The old residential neighbourhoods, the Hutongs, have been almost entirely replaced by apartment buildings and shopping malls and the road system seems to change almost every day!

The city doesn't look as modern as Hong Kong or Shanghai, but it remains one of the most important cities in China from a cultural and political standpoint. The Forbidden Palace, in front of Tiananmen square, is a good example; but hidden between the high rise buildings and 10-lane motorways are some other magnificent examples of culture and religion, like the Temple of Heaven and the Temple of the Sleeping Buddha.

## Neighbourhoods

Beijing's neighbourhoods are quite confusing and informal. In general everything inside the 2nd ring road is considered the city centre. The more formal system is the districts. There are districts in Beijing City and also in the greater Beijing area. The eight urban districts in Beijing are Dongcheng District, Xicheng District, Chongwen District, Xuanwu District, Chaoyang District, Haidian District, Fengtai District and Shijingshan District.

Here are our office and school centers' addresses:

### **Beijing No. 8 High School**

Baiwanzhuang Campus (百万庄校区)  
No.14 Baiwanzhuang South Street, Xicheng District, Beijing  
北京市西城区百万庄南街 14 号

### **Beijing No.101 High School**

Yiheyuan Road 11. Haidian District  
北京市海淀区颐和园路 11 号  
Subway Line 4 , Yuanmingyuan Station, Exit A 圆明园站 A 口

### **CHEER Beijing Office**

Room 1903, Building 16, Jianwai SOHO, Chaoyang District  
朝阳区建外 SOHO 16 号楼 1903 室  
Subway Line 1 , Yonganli Station, Exit C 永安里站

## Weather

Except for the summer months, it usually is pretty dry in Beijing. Summer months can be very hot with temperatures up to 40 °C, but average highs being around 30 °C mostly from June to August, nights being around 20 °C. Winter months on the other hand can be bitterly cold with temperatures below -15 °C at night and snow, although not much, is common. Average daytime temperatures from December to February are slightly above zero, while nights are between -7 °C and -10 °C. The best times of the city are the spring months of April and May and autumn (October). Precipitation is possible year round but tends to concentrate during the warmer summer period.

## Transportation

### By Car

Traffic could be terrible in Beijing especially during rush hour. The taxi's have a flagfall of RMB14 and go up.

## By Subway

Subway is a very easy way to get around the city. The several subway lines can get you around the city pretty easily. It is also the good way to avoid the traffic.

## By Bus

There are countless public buses in Beijing. Just remember you pay different amounts depending on the distance. Usually the ticket seller is walking around the bus in a purple uniform, most journeys cost between RMB1-2.

- ***Metro-card could be used both for Subway and Bus. You may buy and charge it at any Subway station. RMB 20 will be deposition. Ask your Chinese colleagues to help you with about 100 RMB so you can travel in your first week.***

## By Bike



**Photo: Mobike**

The charm of riding a bike around Beijing is rising with several brands of city bikes (Mobike, OFO, and etc. ),that you can rent with an app.

having access to Mobike or OFO will make your life a lot easier. For Mobike, they make you take a picture of your passport as well as of yourself with a passport.

## Phone

The country calling code to China is 86. To make an international call from China, the code is 00.

Since you will work in Beijing for a few coming years, it would be wisely to buy a prepaid Chinese SIM card; this gives you a Chinese phone number with a certain amount of money preloaded. If you need a phone as well, Chinese phones, unlike those sold in many Western countries, are never "locked" and will work with any SIM card you put in them. China's two big operators are [China Mobile](#) and [China Unicom](#).

- *You may ask assistance from one of our Chinese staff to help you to get a Chinese-simcard.*
- *Please bring your passport and the police registration as well.*

## VPN

Get one BEFORE you go to China.

## ATM and Bank Card

Ask one of Chinese colleagues to take to nearby ATM and find a workable ATM that you can get money accepting Dutch debit card using Maestro/Cirrus.

Meantime you will need a bankcard from **China Construction Bank** and a card from **Bank of Beijing**. Those two cars are used for receiving salary from the School and CHEER. It would also be very helpful here to have a translator with you.

Construction Bank was a lot easier but they don't send you automatic text messages keeping you updated on your bank status, like Bank of Beijing does. You have to do that separately.

# Police registration

Please bring the contract as well as a copy of the ID of your landlord and your own passport. Every time your visa changes, you need to register again! Keep the piece of paper they give to you because you need it for your visa.

# Legalization of documents

in order to get your documents (no criminal record, degrees etc.) legalized in the Netherlands you need to do that in the following order:

1. your degrees need a stamp from DUO first (you can either travel all the way to Groningen or send them but then it will take them two weeks to do so);
2. with the stamp from DUO you go to the foreign affairs office and only then can you go to the Chinese embassy.
3. So: DUO, foreign affairs office, Chinese embassy.

# Housing

The following areas are popular for foreigners to rent an apartment:

Gulou 鼓楼

Dongzhimen 东直门

Sanlitun 三里屯

Dongcheng 东城

Surely the rent for those apartments will be higher than other areas.

You may also find the useful information on [www.thebeijinger.com](http://www.thebeijinger.com)

In case you are unable to find an apartment with the help of the assistant, Lianjia(链家) is a good housing agency that can help. They do, however, charge a fee. It would be helpful to bring someone to translate, especially because the contract is in Chinese. Also, make sure you bargain on the rent. Water, internet and electricity needs to be paid separately.

- You may ask our current foreign teachers for advice and also may ask Chinese colleague to help to look for apartment via agencies.
- The landlord usually will ask one-month rent for deposition and 3-month rent in advance