

St. Mary's University School of Law Institute on Chinese Law & Business
Sunday May 24 to Sunday June 28, 2020

Estimated Costs of Study in China

Revised January 14, 2020

The Financial Aid Office will prepare a different budget for student loan eligibility. That budget is likely to include numbers that are higher than those shown below. (**Loan money is available through Financial Aid to cover all costs associated with study abroad.**) These numbers were prepared by Professor Vincent R. Johnson and reflect *his opinion* on how a student focused on minimizing expenditures might limit the costs of studying in China.

Tuition (\$1,315 per hour for 6 credit hours)	\$7,890¹
Fees and books	\$ 250²
Accommodations at Beihang University Training Center (double occupancy and breakfast included)	\$ 1,000³
Meals	\$ 740⁴
Airfare and Arrival/Departure Ground Transportation	\$1,800⁵
Weekend Travel	\$????⁶
Chinese Visa	\$ 190⁷
Misc. expenses	\$ 740⁸
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Total costs	\$ 12,610 + any weekend travel

¹ All students take six credit hours: International Business Transactions (2 credits); International Intellectual Property Law (2 credits); Introduction to Chinese Law (1 credit); International Sports Law (1 credit).

² There are no special fees for participation in the China program. The cost of books varies depending on whether they are new or used, and would be essentially the same if the courses were taken at the home campus.

³ The \$1,000 estimated cost, noted above, is based on purchasing accommodations for 37 nights (at the exchange rate of \$1=6.7 Chinese currency).

⁴ This number reflects a budget of \$20 per day for 37 days. That is probably a fair estimate, unless you eat at “western” or upscale restaurants. Breakfast is included with a room at the Training Center. It is easy to find lunch or dinner at an ordinary Chinese restaurant for \$5 a meal (including a beverage). I often buy my lunch or dinner at the deli counter at a campus grocery store for less than a dollar (not including a drink).

⁵ The price for flights to China varies and continually changes. Typically, the cost from the U.S. to Beijing is between about \$1500 and \$2000. A taxi ride between PEK and the Beihang campus is less than \$20. Alternatively, the subway from the airport costs only a few dollars.

⁶ Our first weekend will be spent on attractions in the Beijing area including the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. The program will pay for bus or subway transportation, admissions, and lunches on those days. You therefore do not need to budget much money for the first weekend. As to the two three-day breaks and one five-day break, it depends on what you want to do. In past years, students have spent about \$800 on a weekend trip by air to Shanghai and one of the neighboring cities (Hangzhou, Suzhou, or Nanjing); going to Hong Kong or Guilin costs much more. One advantage of the five-day break is that it is easier to travel by rail or bus and thereby minimize travel expenses. Of course, one could easily stay in the Beijing area and have a great time during every break. There are endless things to do, and it is easy to take day trips to nearby places, such as the city of Tianjin or the imperial retreat at Chengde. One good low-cost option might be a weekend trip to Qu Fu, the ancestral home of Confucius (train to Jinan; day trip to Tai Shan, a holy mountain; day trip to Qu Fu; return to Beijing).

⁷ If you do not have a passport, that will entail an additional expense. Information about obtaining a passport is available on the State Department website: <http://travel.state.gov>.

⁸ This estimate is based on \$20 per day for 37 days. Subways and city buses in Beijing (and Shanghai) are very cheap—something like 50 cents a ride, depending on distance. It seems unlikely that you would need to spend more on miscellaneous expenses in Beijing than in the U.S.

The Real Additional Cost of Studying in China

For purposes of understanding the “real cost” of studying in China, it is useful to compare China with the costs of study at the home campus in San Antonio. Expenditures on tuition and books would essentially be the same in San Antonio and Beijing. Expenditures on meals and miscellaneous expenses of daily life might be more in San Antonio than in Beijing. The additional costs of study in China are airfare, accommodations, visa, and any weekend travel. Thus,

Real cost:

\$3,730 + any weekend travel (beyond what you would likely spend in the U.S. on tuition, books, meals, and miscellaneous expenses)