Join the Asian Century
AddChina.

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for more information on:
» courses taught in English and Chinese
» study abroad partnerships
» scholarships and applications

AddChina and see where it takes you . . .
AddChina: undergrad toolkit

Rising world power, future innovation hub and Australia’s number one trading partner—China is already shaping your future.

It’s no longer mostly arts students who are going to China. From mathematicians and scientists to engineers and nurses, students of all disciplines can add a bit of China and get ahead in the Asian Century.

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Print page one of this pdf as a poster to promote AddChina.
More and more international students are broadening their skillset and investing in their future by adding China.

Whether you’re fluent in Mandarin or can only say nǐhǎo, you have many options for both formal and informal study in China.

China’s best universities are widening their offerings of subjects taught in English, and foreign universities are actively setting up China-based campuses. Through a growing number of university partnerships, it’s becoming easier to transfer credits to your degree in Australia.

This toolkit presents the options available to Australian students considering study in China.

I’ve travelled across Australia speaking to students about what it means to AddChina—and it’s much simpler than most realise. Whatever you want to do—become a doctor, lawyer or writer—gaining a basic knowledge of China through spending time there will be rewarding both personally and professionally.

Andrea Myles
National Director, Engaging China Project
MA China Studies UTS/Yunnan Normal University, Kunming 2011
MA International Studies (China) UTS/National Political University, Taipei 2006
Why AddChina?

As a young Australian, China is more likely than any other country to be part of your future working life.

- In fewer than ten years China will likely overtake the US to become the world’s biggest economy by GDP
- China is an increasingly important science and technology hub—a 2012 KPMG survey shows almost half of global executives believe China will be the next world leader in technology innovation
- Chinese universities are rising in international rankings and the government is investing heavily in their future. For example Peking and Tsinghua Universities rank amongst the top 25 engineering schools in the world

Beijing is an international melting pot. Its centres of learning are packed with young people full of drive and passion. It motivates you to work harder. There are so many opportunities for graduates who engage with this exciting area of the world.

Henry Makeham
BA Law (Hons)/Asian Studies (Hons) ANU 2011
Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Award 2010
UC Berkeley-Tsinghua University Inter-University Program 2009-10
Co-founder, Australia-China Youth Association 2009

Henry pictured speaking at an ANU conference on Asia-Pacific Regionalism, Shanghai World EXPO, 2010
China’s diversity

Most Chinese provinces have more people than all Australia combined. Each region has its own distinctive food, culture and rhythm of life. From the Gobi desert to the renowned ice festival in Harbin near the Russian border; from a culture and climate more like Thailand in the southwest to cosmopolitan Shanghai on the east coast.

The following map highlights some of the educational institutions and attractions in China’s burgeoning cities.

View from the Shanghai Post Office along Suzhou Creek to Pudong on the far side of the Huangpu River
Tibet

Beijing: political heartland, thriving metropolis, home to China's 'silicon valley' and key campuses

Tianjin: former Treaty Port, maritime and high-tech R&D zone

Beijing:

Tianjin:

Hefei: rapidly emerging second-tier city, home to University of Science and Technology

Shenyang: Manchurian heartland, former socialist rustbelt rapidly developing into northeast investment hub

Qingdao: key eastern research, manufacturing and maritime services hub, brews famous beer

Xi'an: centre for China's space exploration, telecomms R&D centre, home to Terracotta Warriors

Shenyang:

Qingdao:

Hangzhou: technology and industrial hub, China's second 'silicon valley', elegant and scenic

Shanghai: cosmopolitan finance and commercial capital, media and fashion magnet, strong education sector

Nanjing: educated and prosperous, Yangtze region education centre, ancient capital

Wuhan: political, cultural, educational and transport heart of central China, optical-electronics, pharma, biotech, new materials industries

Chongqing: sparkplug for southwestern development, ambitious financial and communications hub

Chongqing:

Chengdu: governance and innovation powerhouse, popular central investment destination, rich in history and tea-houses

Kunming: ethnically and ecologically diverse, southwest communications nexus

Shenzhen: financial, trade and industrial hub thriving on Hong Kong access

Guangzhou: services the 'factory of the world', focus of innovative publishing

Ningbo: aspiring eastern entrepôt, fast-growing research and manufacturing sectors

Xiamen: close ties with Southeast Asia, outward-looking education sector, socially advanced, popular beaches

Guangzhou:

Shenzhen:

Hong Kong: political, cultural, educational and transport heart of central China, optical-electronics, pharma, biotech, new materials industries

Kunming:

Ningbo:

Xiamen:

Chongqing:

Chengdu:

Tianjin:

Beijing:

Hefei:

Shenyang:

Qingdao:

Xi'an:

Shanghai:

Wuhan:

Nanjing:

Hangzhou:

Guangzhou:

Shenzhen:
Choosing your path

I want to AddChina

University Partnerships
I’m a university student, my school has a partnership with a Chinese university
AND
I want a no-hassle short-term program that counts towards my degree

Finding my own program
I want to choose my own course and location - OR
I’m not yet in university - OR
My university doesn’t have a suitable partnership

Gap year options
I’m not yet a university student and want to spend some time in China

International universities
Chinese university
Language course
Volunteer

English-taught
Chinese-taught

Visit faculty advisor and study abroad or international office to discuss plans and course equivalencies

Apply for scholarships or funding
Apply for visa and book flights

AddChina.
Choosing your path: international partnerships

Choosing your path
If you’ve already started university, adding China to your current course by studying at a Chinese institution has never been easier. You can enrol in a short-term study abroad course by:

- attending one of your home university’s partner institutions
- attending an international university based in China
- applying directly to a Chinese university

The first option is the most popular. School partnerships mean it will be easier to:

- apply for a course in China
- transfer credits so they count toward your degree in Australia
- find scholarships such as those offered under the Australia Awards
- access other forms of government support (such as OS-HELP)

The best place to start your search is your school’s study abroad or international exchange office.

Your faculty may also have a contact person for international partnerships.

Connecting through university partnerships
There are now nearly 900 partnerships between Australian universities and faculties and Chinese counterparts.

You may be able to find information on your university’s website. Below is a small sample:

- The University of Melbourne
- The University of Sydney
- Australian National University
- Flinders University

Department or faculty partnerships can be found in different ways. Here is a sample:

- Various programs from Monash University
- University of Queensland’s Economics Department

Universities Australia also has information on university partnership links.
Choosing your path: International universities

Designing your own program

If you haven't yet started university, or you want to design your own overseas study program, options include: finding your own English-taught subjects, Chinese-taught subjects, or Chinese language courses. This can be done at an international university, a Chinese university, or through a third party.

If your school doesn't have a partnership agreement with a suitable university, you can apply as a fee-paying study abroad student and try to arrange course equivalencies separately.

International universities

A number of well-known international universities have recently begun setting up campuses in China. In 2012 Monash became the first Australian university to open a campus in China that will offer masters and doctoral degrees; see AddChina Postgraduate Toolkit for more details. At these schools the standard of teaching and administrative support may well match that of the home campus.

Jointly taught programs are another possibility. They are common in engineering and IT but also offered in business/management, creative arts, as well as health and general science. Australian universities have over 100 joint teaching programs delivered in China. These programs usually collaborate on teaching and are administered by the Chinese partner. The teaching and administrative support may not match that of the home institution. The majority of students enrolled in all such programs are Chinese.

China rates second to none for intellectual stimulation, regardless of your field. The diversity and complexity of Chinese society make it a fascinating place to live and study.

Joel Wing-Lun
BA (Hons) Asian Studies and Chinese Studies, Sydney University 2012
Peking University 2009-10
Larry Kwok Australia-China Scholarship 2009

Joel pictured at the ‘former residence of Dr Sun Yat-Sen’, in his father’s ancestral home of Zhongshan, Guangdong
Choosing your path: transferring credits/grades

Making it count toward your course in Australia

After you’ve done a bit of research, meet with the relevant faculty advisor at your university. If your university already has a partnership with the university in China, getting credit equivalency will be much easier. Either way, your faculty advisor might be able to help you:

• Ensure your studies earn you credit for your degree
• Ensure you get credit for general university requirements
• Decide whether it’s worth going on the exchange regardless

It took a lot of time and effort, but I’m so glad I was able to spend the last year of my UTS degree at Tsinghua. My supervisors at Tsinghua provided guidance and links to industry, government and other research students that extended my research way beyond what I would have been capable of on my own.

Katrie Lowe
BEng, BA, University of Technology, Sydney 2011
Visiting scholar, Tsinghua University 2010-11
Prime Minister’s Australia-Asia Endeavour Award 2010

Getting credit for my Tsinghua U honours thesis

Aug/Sept 2009:
• identified and secured the agreement for two Tsinghua professors to co-supervise my thesis—required many emails, referrals and queries answered about the level of support and resources I would require

Sept 2009:
• acquired a formal letter on official Tsinghua U letterhead to confirm supervisor agreement

Mar 2010:
• submitted/mailed my application as a visiting student to the Foreign Student Affairs Office, Tsinghua U. Application included the letter from my secured Tsinghua supervisors

Apr 2010:
• called Tsinghua U to confirm status of application—was advised that my papers would be ready by August

Mar-Jun 2010:
• found a third co-supervisor from UTS
• enrolled in both UTS Capstone (thesis) course and Tsinghua U. Normally a student would suspend enrolment at the home university and apply for recognition of credit. It may have delayed my graduation and I would only get a pass/fail grade in the course instead of a specific grade, so I enrolled in both courses

July/Aug 2010:
• arrived in China to attend language courses prior to beginning thesis work
• met with Tsinghua U supervisors, confirmed semester start and end dates and finalised proposed alternate assessment submission table

Aug 2010: enrolled in autumn semester at Tsinghua U
Sept 2010: finally started semester and thesis
Dec 2010: submitted thesis for combined assessment by UTS and Tsinghua U
Jan 2011: received assessment grading from UTS (based on combined UTS and Tsinghua U marks)
May 2011: graduated!
Choosing your path: Chinese university rankings

China’s top universities are improving in quality and many perform well in international rankings.

The first nine Chinese universities listed in Table 1 on the right are part of an alliance of China’s most prestigious schools known as the ‘C9 League’. These are often the most popular choice for students from abroad. These schools receive significant government funding and strategic support.

Rankings differ among disciplines. China’s universities are consistently ranked high globally in engineering and science. They also differ depending on the nature of ranking indicators, for example the number of academic citations or subjective indicators of reputation.

The quality of many schools or courses is not captured in the overall ranking system. For example, Beijing Normal University has repeatedly been ranked as China’s best university for education—China’s ‘Normal’ universities have a specific focus on pedagogy. ‘Jiaotong’ universities traditionally specialise in science and engineering. Similarly, China Agricultural University is best for agricultural-related courses and Renmin University is ranked top for philosophy and law, and high in social sciences generally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: International Rankings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peking U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tsinghua U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fudan U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai Jiaotong U</td>
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<tr>
<td>U of Science &amp; Tech. of China*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanjing U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhejiang U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xi’an Jiaotong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbin Institute of Technology*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tongji U, Shanghai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tianjin U*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun-Yatsen U</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Currently not offering English subjects
** Not ranked among the top 400 or 500

\(^1\) Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) 2011-2012. Published by a private British educational company, rankings heavily influenced by academic peer review
\(^2\) Thomson Reuters. Times Higher Education Supplement (THE) rankings 2011-2012. Weighted comparatively more toward academic citations
Choosing your path: Chinese universities

Is studying at a Chinese university right for me?

Applying independently to attend a Chinese university will yield the widest selection of subjects and locations. Many of China’s best universities offer English-taught subjects. This is an excellent way to immerse yourself in China and you’ll probably be able to practice your spoken Chinese in your downtime. It’s also much easier to find scholarships in this case (see scholarship section on page 15).

The main drawback of studying independently at a Chinese university is that administrative support levels vary and sometimes staff (or even teachers) have trouble communicating in English. This puts a premium on assistance from good teachers, student organisations and fellow classmates, whom students have found to be helpful.

Subjects taught in English

As indicated in Table 1 on page 11, most of China’s top universities offer subjects taught in English. There is no comprehensive list of English-taught programs. The best place to start is with rankings of universities in your field.

Subjects taught in Chinese

The benefit of studying in Chinese is that you will improve your professional fluency. It will also be easier to meet peers and possibly create a lifelong network of Chinese friends in your field. Formal rankings are also more applicable to Chinese-taught subjects for which the academic rigour is reportedly stricter than for those taught in English.

Whether you study biology or public policy, in English or Chinese, the experience is often valuable for many reasons beyond what is studied in the classroom.
Chinese language study

Even if you’ve never studied Chinese, one or two semesters of in-country language study may be rewarding. Don’t discount the serendipity that will happen once you’re in the country.

An important factor in your decision will be location. There are many different dialects throughout China—from Guangdong dialect (aka Cantonese) to the infamous Sichuan dialect. Within the educational system and in most business interaction, Mandarin is standardised across the country, however day-to-day interaction is often in the local dialect. So for an optimum experience, it is best to choose a location where Mandarin is spoken.

Intensive language programs

Another option, although more expensive, is a specialised Mandarin intensive program. Some well-known programs are:

- CET Academic Studies in Harbin
- Princeton in Beijing
- Inter-University Program (UC Berkeley Tsinghua U)

These programs are efficient pathways for native English speakers to develop high-level Chinese language ability. Some also allow students to tailor their classes to individual interests, to focus on anything from law, economics, medicine, or science. Many also require a language pledge, or a commitment to only speak in Chinese during the duration of the program.

A number of well advertised U.S. study abroad programs offer language courses in addition to English-taught subjects, for example:

- CET Academic Programs
- IES Abroad
- Alliance for Global Education
- CIEE
- The Beijing Center

Most of these programs include both a Chinese language component and English-taught content subjects. These programs rarely have cooperative agreements with Australian universities, meaning credit transfer can be difficult.

- Joanna Bayndrian
  Curatorial Assistant, Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest 2011-
  BA (Hons) International and Global Studies, University of Sydney 2011
  University of Sydney study abroad in Nanjing 2009
  Joanna pictured here with classmates in Nanjing, 2009

Studying in Nanjing was great. I was really immersed in the Chinese language and local life, more so than my friends who studied in Shanghai. For anyone wanting a bit of adventure, going a little off the beaten track is well worth it.
University and scholarship applications

Key dates
The school year in China starts in September. Usually school and scholarship applications are accepted between January and April of the year of first enrolment. This means, for example, that applications for students entering in September 2014 will be accepted around January to April of 2014. Because many Australian schools will be on vacation for part of this time, it’s best to get started as early as September or October of the year before.

University applications
If your school has a partnership with a university in China the application process will be fairly straightforward, but scholarships require more work.

Also, the university application process is different for Chinese government scholarship students than for self-funded or international scholarship students.

Applications for self-funded or international scholarship students are often handled by individual universities and each has their own process and set of criteria. For-profit intermediary organisations exist that help international students apply to Chinese universities for a small fee. These organisations are not impartial in recommending university options. Some of these organisations are listed in the last section on page 20.

I originally spent two and a half months studying and backpacking in China—it was truly an adventure and the time of my life! If you have ever wanted to live your live to the fullest, if you have ever wanted to truly challenge yourself, if you ever wanted to gain the most out of life; then China is the place for you.

Patricia Dias
MBA candidate, Renmin University 2011-
CSC Scholarship recipient 2011-13
BA International Business (Applied), RMIT 2011

Patricia pictured with classmates

Photo courtesy of Patricia Dias
A wide selection of scholarships is available—some more and some less competitive—so search thoroughly and strategically. This is another part of the process where the help of your study abroad and exchange and faculty offices, or previous scholarship recipients, will be invaluable.

**Chinese scholarships**

Chinese government scholarships abound. While they can sometimes be more difficult to find, often your university will be able to help. The Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) has a variety of scholarships for undergraduates, graduates, and language students. A popular China forum contains detailed and up-to-date information from students around the world who have received these scholarships.

Confucius Institute scholarships are also available for studies related to the aims of the institute, including: Chinese language, Chinese language teaching, or Chinese history and philosophy. While most of their website is in Chinese, some information on eligibility is available. Unofficial information on this scholarship can be found at the same forum mentioned above.

Scholarships are also offered at the provincial and city level, as well as directly through Chinese universities, although they are not well advertised outside large cities (e.g. Shanghai and Beijing). For example, there is a web page with an unofficial list of ten local government scholarships.

**Australian scholarships**

Although fewer, Australian government scholarships probably offer the best financial package. Students with high marks and good references will be strong candidates for scholarships like the Endeavour Awards, which can be used to support research or educational exchange in China.

Australian organisations such as the Australian Chamber of Commerce in China offer scholarships, and it is also worth contacting your local Rotary Club regarding district and global grants. Some foundations also provide funding for Australian students, for example the Walter Mangold Trust Fund.

Your state and city governments may also have scholarships available, for example the Hamer Scholarship through the Jiangsu-Victoria Sister-State relationship. Your city or state government website should have more information on the existence of similar scholarships.

University scholarships or research grants managed by your university are another source of funding, as are department or faculty-level scholarships.

**Financial assistance**

The Australian Government also provides OS-HELP loans to assist eligible undergraduate students to undertake some of their studies overseas.

If you are enrolled in a course of study with an approved Australian higher education provider and you wish to undertake part of your study overseas, you may be eligible to access a HELP loan for the portion of your overseas exchange. OS-HELP loans are available to Commonwealth supported students who want to undertake study overseas, whether this study is covered by a formal exchange agreement or not. Contact the student administration area of your provider for more information, or visit the OS-HELP web page.
What are Chinese government scholarships worth?

Divided into full and partial scholarships, they vary. A full scholarship usually includes:

- registration fees
- tuition fees
- fees for laboratory experiments
- fees for basic learning materials
- accommodation (usually in a shared student room)
- a monthly living allowance and a one-off settlement subsidy
- outpatient medical service

A partial scholarship will include some of these benefits.

Sue-Lin Wong

BA Asian Studies/Laws student, ANU 2008-
Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Award 2011
UC Berkeley-Tsinghua University, Inter-University Program 2011-12

My scholarship from Australia has been able to cover a year of intensive language study in Beijing and a year of internships in China. Without the year of intensive language study, I feel I would not be able to have the sort of internship and life experiences I am currently enjoying in China!

Applying for a Chinese government scholarship

Sept 2011: find information on CSC website about deadlines, eligibility, and required documents; also speak to the study abroad office at your university to learn more about how to apply

Nov 2011: begin researching schools in China and speaking to teachers about reference letters

Jan 2012: begin gathering various documents for the scholarship

Feb 2012: collect all documents needed; confirm with your referees (usually teachers) that reference letters are sent

March 2012: give application documents to your university, who then send them to the local Chinese consulate (or send them to local Chinese consulate yourself, depending on the school)

Jun/July 2012: cross your fingers as you wait to receive word about scholarship recipients

August 2012: arrive in China!
Living in China

Where would I live?
Usually Australian and Chinese government scholarships include shared accommodation at a student dormitory (see page 16). If you sign up early, many universities offer this for fee-paying students as well. Otherwise, many students stay in a hostel when they first arrive (about $10/night) and search for shared accommodation once there.

What about the cost of living?
Living in China will probably cost a baseline of around $400-$1000 a month in 2012-3, depending on the city in which you live. The cost of living varies significantly depending on where you are and your own lifestyle, for example a simple meal could cost anywhere from $1 at the local noodle shop to $15 for western food.

How can I learn about the city before I go?
A travel guide like the Lonely Planet is a good place to start. Most of China’s large cities have an international community that connects through websites or publications.

- The Beijinger
- GoChengdoo
- City Weekend Shanghai
- GoKunming

Some international students also connect through social media and other web-based resources.

I love the social scene in China. Everyone I’ve met there is incredibly open and friendly. Plus, Beijing and Shanghai have some of the best bars and restaurants in the world!

Jakob Braunack-Mayer
BA (Hons) Law/International Studies, Flinders University 2012
Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Endeavour Award 2011
East China Normal University, Shanghai 2011

Jakob pictured with friends in Wudaokou, the university bar district of Beijing, in 2011
**Living in China**

**What do people do there for fun?**
You can find sports, music, or other clubs through people at your university. ‘English Corners’ are also popular for university students. Nightlife can be more or less similar to at home, just with more karaoke.

**What if I don’t speak Chinese?**
Most students pick up enough Chinese to direct a taxi or find a bathroom, or rely on friends to help out. It’s usually easier to learn conversational Chinese in smaller cities outside of Beijing or Shanghai because fewer people speak English.

**How can I get around?**
Public transport is quite well developed in China and most large cities have a light-rail line and a good bus system. Bicycling is convenient in most cities, as are taxis with a flag fall of around one or two Australian dollars.

**How do I get travel insurance?**
Your travel agent or airline can recommend reputable companies. You should ensure that you buy travel insurance in Australia before you leave.

**Can I spend a gap year in China?**
Another option to AddChina is to go to China on a gap year volunteer internship or teaching English program, or study Chinese. There are many scholarships for studying Chinese language.

*It was stimulating working in a busy law office in Beijing learning about the issues for Australian companies in China. It’s a competitive city and people work long hours. Luckily China has some great get-away places . . .*

Helen Zhang
King & Wood Mallesons, Beijing 2011-12
ACC-Austcham Young Leader’s Scholarship Program 2011
BA Law/Asian Studies, ANU 2010

Helen pictured at the beach in Hainan with colleague Samatha Cook

Photo courtesy of Helen Zhang
Connect early with a local chapter of a network like the Australia-China Youth Association (ACYA). This will help you set up an invaluable network of Australian contacts with China-related interests.

Speak to as many people as you can: your relevant faculty advisors; your study abroad office; your faculty office; your Chinese department; teachers; friends who have studied in China and professionals in your field. These people may help you become more informed about what makes sense for you.

If you’re interested in Chinese language and culture, see if the Chinese government has set up a Confucius Institute in your area. The resources on the following page will also help the search.
Australia-China Youth Association: With chapters across Australia and China, ACYA connects youth in China and Australia. Their Facebook page includes discussion on everything from life in China to scholarship applications.

Australia Chamber of Commerce, Beijing
Asialink, The University of Melbourne
Australia Education International
Australia Awards
Study Overseas: Basic information on scholarships, living in China, and fees. Australian Government website.
Study Assist: OS-HELP Loans and Study Overseas

Sinograduate: Home to large database of Chinese universities searchable by course or location—as well as information on rankings, partnerships, topical issues on research, innovation and university reform together with job postings for young professional and scholars.

China’s University and College Admission System (CUCAS): A for-profit service, offers application services, consulting, scholarship opportunities, and other supplementary services.

Lonely Planet Forum: For general information on weather, lifestyle and culture, as well as non-academic opportunities in China.

http://www.aoehome.com: A website that advises on studying in China, scholarships and courses, among other issues. Keep in mind that advice is not impartial, but it may be a good place to start looking.

http://www.chinese-forums.com: A useful forum for information on scholarships, especially the Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) and life in China.