China

2009-2010

Country Orientation Guide

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Fischler School of Education and Human Services
Office of International Affairs
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DISCLAIMER

The Country Orientation Guides are provided as a service for faculty travelling to international destinations for teaching purposes. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in the Country Orientation Guides, neither the Office of Training nor the Fischler School of Education and Human Services at Nova Southeastern University can accept responsibility for any errors that may appear in information, editorial content, maps, text, representation, or illustrations as printed. The publisher does accept any responsibility for content of editorial. Additional copies of this publication may be obtained in the Office of International Affairs at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services in North Miami Beach.
Welcome
Dear Colleagues,

Thank you very much for accepting to teach in China!

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services has prepared this country guide to provide you with basic and general information on the country you are about to visit.

This guide is intended to help you prepare for your trip. As you travel in the country, please let us know if you find that there are details that need to be added or changed so that we can keep our guides updated. Although we have tried to make it as comprehensive as possible, all of us know that our world moves very rapidly and changes happen everyday; however, we have tried our best to include all of the details you need to make sure you are comfortable in your new environment.

This information has been compiled with the help of the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Global Enterprises for Academic Development (SIGEAD), and the contribution from the OIA team members and our Field Associates and Regional Liaisons around the world. To all of them, and to you, thank you very much for helping these programs become as successful as they are today, and as a result, for making a difference in our students’ lives, wherever they are located.

Have a wonderful experience and please be sure to meet with us upon your return so we can discuss your experience and solicit your input for future cohorts. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be any assistance to your prior to your departure, or while you are teaching.

Bon voyage!

Anthony DeNapoli, Dean of International Affairs
Alejandra Parra, Associate Dean of International Affairs
**NSU Emergency Contact**

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<td>Dr. Anthony DeNapoli, Dean</td>
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**Travel Office Numbers**

| Travel Office 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Office-954-262-8888 |

Travel Office (ONLY after contacting airline or hotel directly)- 1-800-809-8858

There is a charge of $20 if you contact this number.
Passport Issues
A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies the identity and nationality of the bearer. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. Only the U.S. Department of State has the authority to grant, issue, or verify United States passports.

The Passport Services Office provides information and services to American citizens about how to obtain, replace or change a passport.

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of over 9,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver’s license.

Acceptance facilities include many Federal, state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. There are also 13 regional passport agencies, and 1 Gateway City Agency, which serve customers who are traveling within 2 weeks (14 days), or who need foreign visas for travel. Appointments are required in such cases.

You will need to apply in person if you are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time:

- If your expired U.S. passport is not in your possession;
- If your previous U.S. passport has expired and was issued more than 15 years ago;
- If your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16;
- Or if your current valid U.S. passport has been lost or stolen.

*To obtain more information on obtaining a passport please visit [http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_832.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_832.html)*

*To renew an existing passport please visit [http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/renew/renew_833.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/renew/renew_833.html)*
Weather Information
For weather information on specific countries please visit:
http://worldweather.wmo.int/

Central Intelligence Agency-The World Factbook

The World Factbook provides valuable geographic and demographic information. For more information on individual countries, please visit:

TSA Travel Tips

Make Your Trip Better Using 3-1-1

3-1-1 for carry-ons =

- 3 ounce bottle or less (by volume);
- 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag;
- 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin.

One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3 oz. container size is a security measure.

Consolidate bottles into one bag and X-ray separately to speed screening.

Be prepared. Each time TSA searches a carry-on it slows down the line. Practicing 3-1-1 will ensure a faster and easier checkpoint experience.

3-1-1 is for short trips. If in doubt, put your liquids in checked luggage.

Declare larger liquids. Medications, baby formula and food, breast milk, and juice are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag. Declare these items for inspection at the checkpoint.

Come early and be patient. Heavy travel volumes and the enhanced security process may mean longer lines at security checkpoints.

TSA working with our partners. TSA works with airlines and airports to anticipate peak traffic and be ready for the traveling public.
Useful Phone Numbers

Sources of information include:

U.S. Dept. of State Travel Advisory: tel. 202-647-5225 (manned 24 hr.)

U.S. Passport Agency: tel. 202-647-0518

U.S. Centers for Disease Control International Traveler's Hotline: tel. 404-332-4559

Lost & Found

Be sure to tell all of your credit card companies the minute you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen, and file a report at the nearest police precinct. Your credit card company or insurer may require a police report number or record of the loss. Most credit card companies have an emergency toll-free number to call if your card is lost or stolen; they may be able to wire you a cash advance immediately or deliver an emergency credit card in a day or two. To report a lost or stolen

*American Express* - To protect your information, you can only report a lost or stolen card by calling American Express Customer Service at 1-800-992-3404. Outside the United States call, collect 336-393-1111.

*Diners Club* - Call Diners Club Customer Service at 1-800-234-6377. Outside the United States call, collect 702-797-5532.


If you need emergency cash over the weekend when all banks and American Express offices are closed, you can have money wired to you via *Western Union*. Call tel. 1-800-325-6000


Identity theft and fraud are potential complications of losing your wallet, especially if you have lost your driver's license along with your cash and credit cards. Notify the major credit-reporting bureaus immediately; placing a fraud alert on your records may protect you against liability for criminal activity. The three major U.S. credit-reporting agencies are *Equifax* (tel. 800-766-0008; www.equifax.com), *Experian* (tel. 888-397-3742; www.experian.com), and *TransUnion* (tel. 800-680-7289; www.transunion.com). Finally, if you have lost all forms of photo ID, call your airline and explain the situation; they might allow you to board the plane if
you have a copy of your passport or birth certificate and a copy of the police report you have filed.

US Department of State - Tips for Traveling Abroad

Here are some quick tips to make your travel easier and safer:

- **Register so the State Department can better assist you in an emergency:** Register your travel plans with the State Department through a free online service at [https://travelregistration.state.gov](https://travelregistration.state.gov). This will help us contact you if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis where you are traveling. In accordance with the Privacy Act, information on your welfare and whereabouts will not be released to others without your express authorization.

- **Sign passport, and fill in the emergency information:** Make sure you have a signed, valid passport, and a visa, if required, and fill in the emergency information page of your passport.

- **Leave copies of itinerary and passport data page:** Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.

- **Check your overseas medical insurance coverage:** Ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas, and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. If it does not, consider supplemental insurance.

- **Familiarize yourself with local conditions and laws:** While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws. The State Department web site at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html) has useful safety and other information about the countries you will visit.

- **Take precautions to avoid being a target of crime:** To avoid being a target of crime, do not wear conspicuous clothing or jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of money. Also, do not leave unattended luggage in public areas and do not accept packages from strangers.

- **Contact us in an emergency:** Consular personnel at U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad and in the U.S. are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide emergency assistance to U.S. citizens. Contact information for U.S. Embassies and Consulates appears on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website at [http://travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). Also, note that the Office of Overseas Citizen Services in the State Department’s Bureau of Consular Affairs may be reached for assistance with emergencies at 1-888-407-4747, if calling from the U.S. or Canada, or 202-501-4444, if calling from overseas.
U.S. Customs Restrictions – What You Cannot Bring Back With You

Some items may not be brought into the U.S., or may only be brought in under certain restrictions. For information on U.S. customs regulations and procedures, see the Customs and Border Protection booklet “Know Before You Go,” available at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg.

Customs and Border Patrol Top 10 Travelers Tips

1. Have all required travel documents for the countries you are visiting, as well as identification for re-entry to the U.S.
2. Declare everything you are bringing in from abroad, even if you bought it in a duty-free shop. This merchandise is also subject to U.S. duty fees and other restrictions.
3. Be cautious when buying something from a street vendor. Keep in mind that the merchandise may be counterfeit and/or unsafe and you might have to surrender it to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when you get home.
4. Know that the things bought abroad for personal use or as gifts are eligible for duty exemptions. If you are bringing them back for resale, they are not.
5. Know the difference between prohibited merchandise (such as ivory, tortoise shell products, absinthe, and counterfeit items) and restricted merchandise.
6. Be aware that many foreign-made medications are not FDA-approved, and you cannot bring them into the U.S. Also, when traveling abroad, bring only the amount of medication you will need during the trip.
7. Do not bring any Cuban-made products into the U.S., not matter where you purchased them.
8. Do not bring any food into the U.S. without first checking to see if it is permitted. Also, any and all live birds and bird products, whether for personal or commercial use, may be restricted and/or quarantined.
9. Understand that CBP officers can inspect you and your belongings without a warrant. This may include your luggage, vehicle, and personal searches, and is meant to enforce our laws as well as protect legitimate travelers.
10. Read our helpful brochure, “Know Before You Go,” before traveling. Print copies may be requested online, or view the web version at www.cbp.gov under the Travel section.
Country Overview
China, one of the four oldest civilizations in the world, has a written history of 4,000 years and boasts rich cultural relics and historical sites. It is the inventor of the compass, papermaking, gunpowder and printing. The Great Wall, Grand Canal and Karez irrigation system are three great ancient engineering projects built 2,000 years ago. Now they are the symbols of the rich culture of the Chinese nation. China has gone over a long history of primitive society, slavery society, feudal society and semi-feudal semi-colonial society and the present socialist society.

The total population of China is 1.30756 billion (2005) which is about 22% of total population in the world. The Great Wall is a symbol of the ancient Chinese civilization. Stretching 3,950 miles, The Great Wall was built as a defensive structure. The best preserved and most imposing section of the wall is at Badaling, 50 miles north of Beijing and over 2,625 feet above sea level, but the magnitude and beauty of the wall can also be seen at Jinshanling, Mutianyu, and Simatai.

The Forbidden City, also known as the Palace Museum, is the largest and most well preserved imperial residence in China. Located in the center of Beijing, The Forbidden City was built between 1406 and 1420 under Ming Emperor Yongle, and served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. A 170-foot wide moat encircles the Forbidden City along with 32-foot high walls supremacy, and richness of feudal emperors. It is the largest palace in the world.

The Temple of Heaven is also located in Beijing. It was built in 1420 during the reign of Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty, and is located in the southern part of the city. The Temple of Heaven was the place where emperors of the Ming and Qing would pray to heaven for good harvests. It was one of the most strictly protected and preserved cultural heritages of China. It is the largest temple complex in China with 12 million people visiting the temple every year.
Banking and Business

Banking hours - Larger bank branches in Chinese major cities are open seven days a week from approximately 9am-5pm, although some banks close between 12-2pm. If you need to use banking services it is safest to go on a weekday before or after lunchtime.

Business Hours - The working days are from Monday to Friday. Most people do not work on weekend. Official hours are from 8:00am to 5:00pm with one hour for lunch.

Currency - Chinese currency is called Renminbi (RMB) meaning "The People's Currency". The popular unit of RMB is yuan. 1 yuan equals 10 jiao, 1 jiao equals 10 fen. There are parts of China where the yuan is also known as Kuai and Jiao is known as mao. Chinese currency is issued in the following denominations: one, two, five, ten, twenty, fifty and one hundred yuan; one, two and five jiao; and one, two and five fen.

Communication

Language - The national language is Putonghua (the common speech) or Mandarin, which is one of the five working languages at the United Nations. Most of the 55 minority nationalities have their own languages. Cantonese is one of the local dialects of southern China. As a written language, Chinese has been used for 6,000 years.

Internet – Internet access is widely available. Many cyberbars with quality computers and high-speed access can be found in places like the leisure area, busy street, schools and universities. The cost will vary from city to city, but generally, it is 1-5 Yuan per hour. In most of the starred hotels, internet service is offered in a special area to guests; however, the cost may be higher than in the cyberbars.

Postal Service - In China, post offices have a striking green logo and can be easily found everywhere in the cities. The operation time usually is 8:00 - 6:00 Monday to Sunday. It is not expensive to mail a domestic letter in China. The price varies according to the weight of the mail and the delivering distance. Letters should be less than 100g. For each 20g, 0.6 Yuan is charged if the mail is delivered in the same city, while 0.8Yuan is for the intercity mail delivery. If the letter is over 100g, for each extra 100g, 1.2 Yuan should be added for the mail delivered in the same city and 2.0 Yuan for the intercity mail. The delivering time is different based on the distance. It will take 5-7 days for domestic mail. Registered post is much safer but another 3.0 Yuan will be charged for each mail as the registration fee. EMS (Express Mail Service) in China is the best way to mail the letter or parcel. Delivery time is approximately 3 days. International postal service is also offered widely in China. Under normal circumstances, it will take about 1 week to 3 months for your mail to arrive according to the different delivering ways, but it only takes about 15 days if you use EMS service. Generally, airmail is the quickest way for delivering the international mail.
**Telephone** - Most of the cell phones bought in the US cannot be used in China. In China, only GSM and CDMA systems are available. The best thing is to purchase or rent a cell phone in China itself. Phone booths and other public telephones can be easily found on the roadside, hotels, railway stations, airports and large-scale emporia. Most of the public telephones in China are operated by inserting a phone card, whose par value ranges from 20 to 200 Yuan. There are also other stationary telephones offered by the peddlers of the small roadside shops and here you should pay cash. Phone costs vary depending on the carrier - China Telecom, China Netcom, China Tietong as well as the place and the length of the call. IP phone cards can save you much if you make the long-distance calls. Public fax machines and scanning services etc are also available. The cost of faxing ranges from 3 to 5 Yuan.

The international access code for China is +86. The outgoing code for international calls is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 00 44 for the United Kingdom). The city code for Beijing is (0)10.

There are also specific hotlines that you might need at some point. The most important ones are the following:

- **110**: Police
- **120**: Ambulance
- **119**: Fire
- **114**: Operator and information

**Documents Needed**
Visitors to mainland China require a passport that is valid for at least six months prior to entry. A visa is required to enter the People's Republic of China. Visas can be obtained in person at the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General in your area. If visiting the Chinese Embassy or Consulate is not convenient or possible, travel and visa agencies also handle the visa process for a fee. Tourist visas, or "L" visas, are usually valid for 3 months prior to travel and are then valid for a 30-day stay. The visa costs $50 for an American citizen, but may be more expensive if an agent is used.

**Electricity**
The electricity in China is generally 220V, 50HZ, AC (Hong Kong is 200V; Taiwan is 110V). Most of the hotels in China have both 110V and 220V electrical outlets in the bathrooms, though in the main portion of the guest room, only 220V sockets are available. As the shape of plugs also varies between countries, a portable plug converter may also be necessary. These can be purchased from travel stores (such as Franzus) or electronics stores (i.e. RadioShack, Best Buy).

**Emergencies**
**Emergencies** – To call the police, dial **110**; ambulance, dial **120**; fire, dial **119**.

**Embassies & Consulates** - Americans living or traveling in China are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department’s travel registration website so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within China. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or
By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

Beijing: The U.S. Embassy is located at No. 2 Xiu Shui Dong Jie, Chaoyang District, Beijing. The American Citizen Services section can be reached at (86)(10) 6532-3431 (8:30-12:00 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m., Mon-Fri) or after hours at (86)(10) 6532-1910. For detailed information please visit the U.S. Embassy’s web site at http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn. The Embassy consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Beijing, Tianjin, Shandong, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, and Jiangxi.

Chengdu: The U.S. Consulate General in Chengdu is located at Number 4, Lingshiguan Road, Section 4, Renmin Nanlu, Chengdu 610041, tel. (86)(28) 8558-3992, 8555-3119, after hours (86)(28) 1370 8001 422, and email at consularchengdu@state.gov. This consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Guizhou, Sichuan Xizang (Tibet), and Yunnan, as well as the municipality of Chongqing.

Guangzhou: The main office of the U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou is located at Number 1 South Shamian Street, Shamian Island 200S1, Guangzhou 510133. The Consular Section, including the American Citizens Services Unit, is now located at 5th Floor, Tianyu Garden (II phase), 136-146 Lin He Zhong Lu, Tianhe District, tel. (86) (20) 8518-7605; after hours (86) (20) 8121-6077, and email GuangzhouACS@state.gov. This consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, and Fujian.

Shanghai: The Consular Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai is located in the Westgate Mall, 8 th Floor, 1038 Nanjing Xi Lu, Shanghai 200031; tel. (86)(21) 3217-4650, ext. 2102, 2013, or 2134, after hours (86)(21) 6433-3936; email shanghaiacs@state.gov. This consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Shenyang: The U.S. Consulate General in Shenyang is located at No. 52, 14 th Wei Road, Heping District, Shenyang 110003; tel. (86)(24) 2322-2374; email ShenyangACS@state.gov. This consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Liaoning, Heilongjiang, and Jilin.

**Hospitals** - China is a developing country where one can easily find hospitals from top levels to sub-standard. Most of the hospitals of China are situated in the major cities like Beijing, Hong Kong or others. Rural areas of China lack proper medical facilities. The top or standard hospitals of China are mainly for delegates or for VIPs. Private companies like Medex, Global Doctor and SOS International fulfill the medical requirements and provide medical services in the many rural locations of China. Health care standards in
China vary from place to place and from hospital to hospital. However, in spite of these lacks of standard facilities China has some specialized hospitals that are well known among the national as well as between tourists also.

**Pharmacies/Drug Stores** – Drug stores are readily available in China. Chinese drug stores will stock both traditional Chinese medicines as well as Western medications.

**Police** – To call the police, dial 110.

**Holidays**
The following are official Chinese Holidays:
- January 1 – New Year’s Day
- March 8 – International Women’s Day
- April 1 – Tree-Planting Day
- May 1 – International Labor Day
- May 4 – Youth Day
- June 1 – Children’s Day
- July 1 – CCP’s Birthday
- August 1 – Army’s Day
- September 1 – Teacher’s Day
- October 1 – National Day

**Safety**
Americans visiting or residing in China are advised to take routine safety precautions; that is, travelers should remain aware of their surroundings and of events happening around them. Travelers should respect local police requirements to avoid travel in some areas. In light of the greatly increased numbers of older Americans traveling to China, U.S. tour operators should check that local guides are familiar with medical facilities and emergency medical evacuation procedures.

American citizens who rent apartments with gas appliances should be aware that, in some areas, natural gas is not scented to warn occupants of gas leaks or concentrations. In addition, heaters may not always be well vented, thereby allowing excess carbon monoxide to build up in living spaces. Due to fatal accidents involving American citizens, travelers are advised to ensure all gas appliances are properly vented or to install gas and carbon monoxide detectors in their residences. These devices are not widely available in China and should be purchased prior to arrival.

Security personnel may at times place foreign visitors under surveillance. Hotel rooms, telephones, and fax machines may be monitored, and personal possessions in hotel rooms, including computers, may be searched without the consent or knowledge of the traveler. Taking photographs of anything that could be perceived as being of military or security interest may result in problems with authorities. Foreign government officials,
journalists, and business people with access to advanced proprietary technology are particularly likely to be under surveillance.

Terrorism is rare in China, although a small number of bombings have occurred in areas throughout China. Recent bombings have largely been criminal activity, frequently the result of commercial disputes. The vast majority of these local incidents related to disputes over land seizures, social issues or environmental problems. While some incidents have grown to larger scales and involved some violence, these demonstrations have not been directed against foreigners.

Business disputes in China are not always handled through the courts. Sometimes the foreign partner has been held hostage, threatened with violence, or beaten up. Anyone entering into a contract in China should have it thoroughly examined, both in the United States and in China. Contracts entered into in the United States are not enforced by Chinese courts. Care should also be taken when entering into a lease for an apartment or house. There have been instances of foreigners being ejected from their apartments because of lease disputes, and being prevented from re-entering, even to retrieve their belongings.

Americans doing business in China should be aware that if they become involved in a business and/or civil dispute, the Chinese government may prohibit them from leaving China until the matter is resolved. Civil cases may sometimes be regarded as criminal cases and the defendant may be placed in custody. Civil law disputes may take years to resolve. There are many cases of American citizens being prevented from leaving China for months and even years while their civil cases are resolved.

**Time Zone**
Despite China, being a vast country geographically spanning several time zones the whole of China operates to a single Standard Time. The time zone in China is +8 hours GMT or +13 hours EST. China does not recognize daily savings time.

**Transportation**
**Air** – The main cities to fly into are Beijing, Chengdu, Dalian, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Harbin, Hohhot, Hong Kong, Kunming, Qingdao, Shanghai, Shenyang, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xiamen and Xi'an.

**Taxi** - Taxis cruise most city streets; while most cabs have meters, they usually only get switched on by accident. Motorcycle Taxi, motor-tricycles and/or pedicabs are available around most major train and bus stations. They are cheap and useful if you do not mind sudden traffic-induced adrenalin rushes. The best way to get around is by renting a bike and joining the pedaling throng.

**Water**
Unlike in most western countries, the tap water in China is undrinkable, even in the finest of hotels. Hotel rooms often feature a water dispenser, which delivers both cool and hot potable water. However, some hotels have no water dispenser but are instead equipped with a water
heater/hot pot, which you must use to boil tap water before drinking it. In some cases, hot water is provided in a thermos in the guest room, and four or five-star hotels may supply high-quality mineral water for free or for a minimal charge. Ordinary bottled mineral water and various beverages are commonly sold in many street shops, supermarkets, restaurants and hotel stores for about 3 yuan per bottle.

Academic System

Overview
In China, education is divided into three categories: basic education, higher education, and adult education. The Compulsory Education Law stipulates that each child have nine years of formal education.

Structure of School System

Primary
Length of program in years: 6
Age level from: 6 to 12

Junior Secondary
Length of program in years: 3
Age level from: 12 to 15

Senior Secondary
Length of program in years: 3
Age level from: 15 to 18
Certificate/diploma awarded: Senior High School Graduation Diploma

K-12
Compulsory education lasts for nine years, starting at 6 or 7 years of age. Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education extends over six years, divided into junior and senior secondary education. A graduation examination is taken at the end. Access to higher education is based on the Senior High School Graduation Diploma and a very competitive National Matriculation Test. Now, a reform of the National Matriculation Test is underway offering more freedom to the higher education institutions and to students in determining the subjects of the test. Online enrollment is gradually being introduced.

Higher Education
The State is responsible for the overall planning of higher education. It establishes higher education institutions with the active participation of society. Since 1998, the higher education institutions enjoyed more autonomy. Higher education consists of regular higher education, adult higher education and technical and vocational education and training. The academic degree system is divided into three levels. Most higher education institutions divide their academic year into two semesters, with the first semester starting in September and the second in February. Since 1992, there are private universities in China.
**Professor/Student Relationship**
Chinese view education as a process, not of learning how to think and creating an individual philosophy, but of memorizing standard knowledge in a field. Students and teachers in China enter into the deepest social relationship (teacher-student) other than that of the family. Yet they enter as outsiders. Students look to teachers for advice and role models as well as for instruction far more explicitly than in the West. Chinese teachers routinely advise their students on dress, eating, dating, and other matters, which would seem strange or improper coming from a Western teacher to Western students.

**Teacher Education**
- **Training of pre-primary and primary/basic school teachers** - Primary teachers are trained in junior teacher training schools where they follow three to four-year courses.
- **Training of secondary school teachers** - Secondary teachers are trained at teachers' training colleges or universities where they follow a three- to four-year course.
- **Training of higher education teachers** - There are three categories of faculty: professors who must hold a doctorate; associate professors who do not have a doctorate and assistants. To be able to train doctoral students, professors must hold a habilitation to conduct research studies upon their doctorate.

**Etiquette**

**Cultural Orientation**
The Chinese are generally circumspect toward outside sources of information, processing data through a subjective perspective. Family, school, work unit and local community are the basic social structures that give stability to a person’s life.

**Business Practices**
Punctuality is very important in China. Lateness or a cancellation is a serious affront. In China, meetings start with the shaking of hands and a slight nod of the head. Be sure not to be overly vigorous when shaking hands as the Chinese will interpret this as aggressive. The Chinese are not keen on physical contact - especially when doing business. The only circumstance in which it may take place is when a host is guiding a guest. Even then, contact will only be made by holding a cuff or sleeve. Be sure not to slap, pat or put your arm around someone's shoulders.

Body language and movement are both areas you should be conscious of when doing business in China. You should always be calm, collected and controlled. Body posture should always be formal and attentive as this shows you have self-control and are worthy of respect.
Business cards are exchanged on an initial meeting. Make sure one side of the card has been translated and try and print the Chinese letters using gold ink as this is an auspicious color. Mention your company, rank and any qualifications you hold. When receiving a card place it in a case rather than in a wallet or pocket.

**Protocol**

**Gifts** - Unlike many countries, the giving of gifts does not carry any negative connotations when doing business in China. Gifts should always be exchanged for celebrations, as thanks for assistance and even as a sweetener for future favors. However, it is important not to give gifts in the absence of a good reason or a witness. If possible, wrap gifts in red, pink or yellow. Do not use white, as it is the color for funerals.

**Entertaining** – Business lunches have become popular. When doing business, you will probably be treated to at least one evening banquet. You should always return the favor. Business is not discussed during a meal. Never begin to eat or drink before your host. Serving dishes are not passed around. Reach for food with your chopsticks, but do not use the end you put in your mouth. It is acceptable to reach in front of others to get to the serving dishes. Never take the last bit of food from a serving dish; this can signify that you are still hungry. The serving of fruit signals the end of the meal.

**Dress** – For business, men should wear conservative suits, shirts, and ties. Loud colors are not appropriate. Women should wear also wear conservative suits with high-necked blouses and low heels. Casual wear is still conservative.

**Gestures** – Use an open hand rather than one finger to point. To beckon, turn the palm down and wave the fingers toward the body. Do not put your hands in your mouth, as this is considered disgusting.

**Tipping**

In recognition of the good service from tour guides, drivers, skycaps, waiters or bellhops, tipping has become accepted as common practice in China as elsewhere in the world. In most Chinese cities, but especially the internationalized metropolis of Hong Kong and Macau, tipping is very common. Actually, it is not necessary but will be greatly appreciated by Chinese. Since tipping is a personal matter, please do not feel uneasy about it. What or when you choose to tip depends entirely on how you rate a service but you are not under any obligation to do so. Tipping frequently occurs when you are in a tour group, superior hotel, restaurant, train station and airport or somewhere else, you can enjoy service. Remember that it is not necessary to tip in roadside eateries or snack stalls. Sometimes the bill in some of the places or cities may have already included about 5% - 15% service charge. Although tipping is not required, gratuities may improve service. For the bellhops or waiters, 1 - 5 US dollars may be appropriate as the tip. If you are uncertain about how much to give, just tip based on your bill. Generally, 10% - 15% of the bill is the most proper amount. For the tour guide and the driver, 1 - 10 US dollars a day per person is adequate.
References


