



Things to remember

1) Credit/Debit Card

Since the ATM banking system in most Western countries switched from Maestro to V-Pay, most of the standard bank cards do not work anymore at Chinese ATMs. So, if you wanted to withdraw money from your home countries bank account you would have to apply for a VISA or Master Card. These work at almost every Chinese ATM. Alternatively you can receive money in China via Western Union. This is possible at all Agricultural Bank of China (ABC) branches. However, the formalities can take up to 1.5 hours.

2) Online Banking

TAN procedures using short messages usually don't work in China as Western banks do not send automated short messages there. If you wanted to use your online banking in China, please switch to another TAN procedure after consulting your bank

3) Facebook/Youtube

Similar to Chinese online streaming websites, which are blocked in most countries outside of China, some Western websites are blocked in China as well. These include Facebook and Youtube. To visit those websites in China you will need a VPN client. If you still do not have a VPN client, please contact your program coordinator.

4) Address in China

You will have to state your address in China before entering the country. Already in the plane you will receive a small immigration card, on which you will have to state your address in China besides other things. Therefore, please print out your invitation letter/homestay certificate and take it with you, so you have your address in China conveniently at hand during your flight.

5) Unlocking international phone calls

Using Chinese SIM cards, the option for international phone calls has to be unlocked. So, if you want to use your mobile for international calls, please ask your personal advisor in China to help you unlocking this service option for you.

6) Prepaid system

Many services in China use the prepaid system. Among others, these include mobile credit, electricity, water and heating. Therefore, if your mobile stops sending/receiving in China it's usually because you have no phone credit left. Cards to recharge the credit can be bought in almost every little kiosk alongside the street. Your host family/personal advisor will help you to purchase those cards. This also means when the electricity goes out or the water stops, there is usually no credit left for the apartment as your host family/host institution might have forgotten to recharge it. So please, don't worry!

7) Documents

Please, make sure that you take the originals of your criminal record, health certificate and latest school certificate, as well as a photo with you. Those might be required during registration procedures etc.

8) Insurance

An accidental and health insurance will be provided for you. However, we want to point out that the Chinese health system is probably very different from the one of your home country. Therefore, we recommend to familiarize yourself with the details:

<http://www.starexchange.eu/files/website/Downloads/Insurance%20Overview.pdf>

Especially if you are from a country with strong public health care, you should consider to get additional insurance.

9) Flight booking

Please make sure to not book flights without reconfirming the dates with your coordinators first.

10) Communication with Star Exchange

We are here to help you! So, to support you as best as we can during your stay, please inform us about your plans, problems, questions etc. So please, keep in touch with personal coordinator from Star Exchange!

We wish you an awesome adventure
that you will never forget!
Your Star Exchange Team! 😊