

# Contents



● <b>Studying in China</b>	1
001 What Changed After I Decided to Study in China?	2
002 Psychologically Not Prepared Before Studying in China?	4
003 How Can I Create a Good Study Environment?	6
004 What's the Most Suitable University to Choose?	8
005 Can I Apply for a Scholarship to Study in China?	10
006 Are There Any Scholarship Opportunities?	12
007 What Makes the Chinese Academic System Different?	14
008 Where Can You Study Standard Chinese?	16
009 Where Can I Learn Standard Chinese?	18
010 What Is Campus Life in China Like?	20
011 Is Studying in China Really as Ideal as You Think?	22
012 What Are the Biggest Problems You'll Run into Studying Chinese?	24
013 How Can I Properly Learn Chinese?	26
014 Can HSK 6 Properly Measure Your Chinese Proficiency?	28
015 How Long Will It Take Me to Be Fluent in Chinese?	30
016 What Are the Tips for Learning Chinese Tones?	32
017 Are the Four Tones a Nightmare or Not?	34
018 Where Can You Learn Chinese Martial Arts?	36
019 How Did I Come to Like Taijiquan?	38
● <b>Living in China</b>	41
020 If You Can't Speak Chinese, Can You Talk with Chinese People?	42
021 How Not to Arrive in China (and Some Tips How to)	44



022	How Can You Find an Apartment to Rent in China?	46
023	What Should I Do When I Get Sick in China?	48
024	What Do Chinese Holidays Have to Offer?	50
025	How Can I Get a Chinese SIM Card?	52
026	What Can You Experience During Spring Festival?	54
027	What Is a Red Envelope?	56
028	What Will You Experience in Chinese New Year's Celebrations?	58
029	How Did I Come to Love Living in China?	60
030	An Application You Can't Live Without!	62
031	Cellphones in China: Of What Help Are They?	64
032	Can You Really Do Everything with Your Cellphone in China?	66
033	What Does Chinese Elderly Lifestyle Mean to Us?	68
034	You Got Fat!	70
035	Do I Have to Tip in China?	72
036	Can I Work While Studying in China?	74
037	China's Spectacular Delivery System	76
<b>● Traveling in China</b>		<b>79</b>
038	Is Renting a Bike as Easy as Scanning a QR Code?	80
039	What Makes the Chinese Subway System Special?	82
040	What's It Like to Drive in China?	84
041	How Can You Get a Chinese Driver's License?	86
042	What's the Best Way to Take a Taxi in China?	88
043	Is It Convenient to Take Public Transportation in China?	90
044	Will I Struggle with Chinese Navigation Applications?	92
045	Should I Travel by Plane or by Train?	94
046	Traveling by High-Speed Train	96
047	What Is the Experience on the High-Speed Rail Like?	98
048	Would You Travel by "Fire Car"?	100



049	When Had You Better Not Travel in China?	102
050	When Is the Best Time to Travel in China?	104
051	How Do You Get Past Language Barriers When Traveling?	106
052	Is Traveling in China Safe?	108
053	What Are the Must-See Attractions in China?	110
054	How Do You Plan for a Great Trip in China?	112
055	How Do You Plan an Affordable Trip in China?	114
056	What Can You Expect Traveling with Tour Groups in China?	116
057	What Kind of Hotels Can You Choose When Traveling in China?	118
 <b>● Eating in China</b>		121
058	How Do You Order Food in a Chinese Restaurant?	122
059	How Do You Order Food Online?	124
060	What Can I Have for Breakfast in China?	126
061	Chinese Fast Food, How Does It Taste?	128
062	What Can I Expect from Street Foods in China?	130
063	What Are Some Famous Local Flavors?	132
064	Is Dumpling a Must-to-Eat During Chinese New Year?	134
065	Do You Like Chinese Noodles?	136
066	Will the Chinese Drink You under the Table?	138
067	Why Do I Like Hotpot?	140
068	Do Chinese People Drink Cold Water?	142
069	What Do You Know about Chinese Tea?	144
070	Are You Confused or Frightened by the Names of Chinese Dishes?	146
071	How Do You Take Your Seat at a Formal Chinese Dinner?	148
072	Do Chinese People Eat Communally?	150
073	Who Takes the First Bite at the Table?	152
074	What Do You Know about Chinese Table Manners?	154
075	To AA or Not to AA?	156



## ● Entertainment in China 159

076	What Can You Do When Hanging Out with Chinese Students?	160
077	How Is Beijing's Bar Scene?	162
078	Interested in Seeing a Movie While in China?	164
079	Is Chinese Opera Worth Going to See?	166
080	Which Television Shows Are Most Beneficial to Learning Chinese?	168
081	How Do You Learn Chinese by Watching TV?	170
082	What Kind of Games Do Chinese Students Like to Play?	172
083	How Can You Experience Making Chinese Ceramics?	174
084	How Can the Arts in Beijing Be Enjoyed?	176
085	Which Attractions Are Worth Visiting in Beijing?	178
086	The Charming Alleyways of the East	180
087	What Can You Expect from KTV in China?	182
088	What Apps Can Keep You Entertained?	184
089	So You Want a Diverse Student Experience?	186

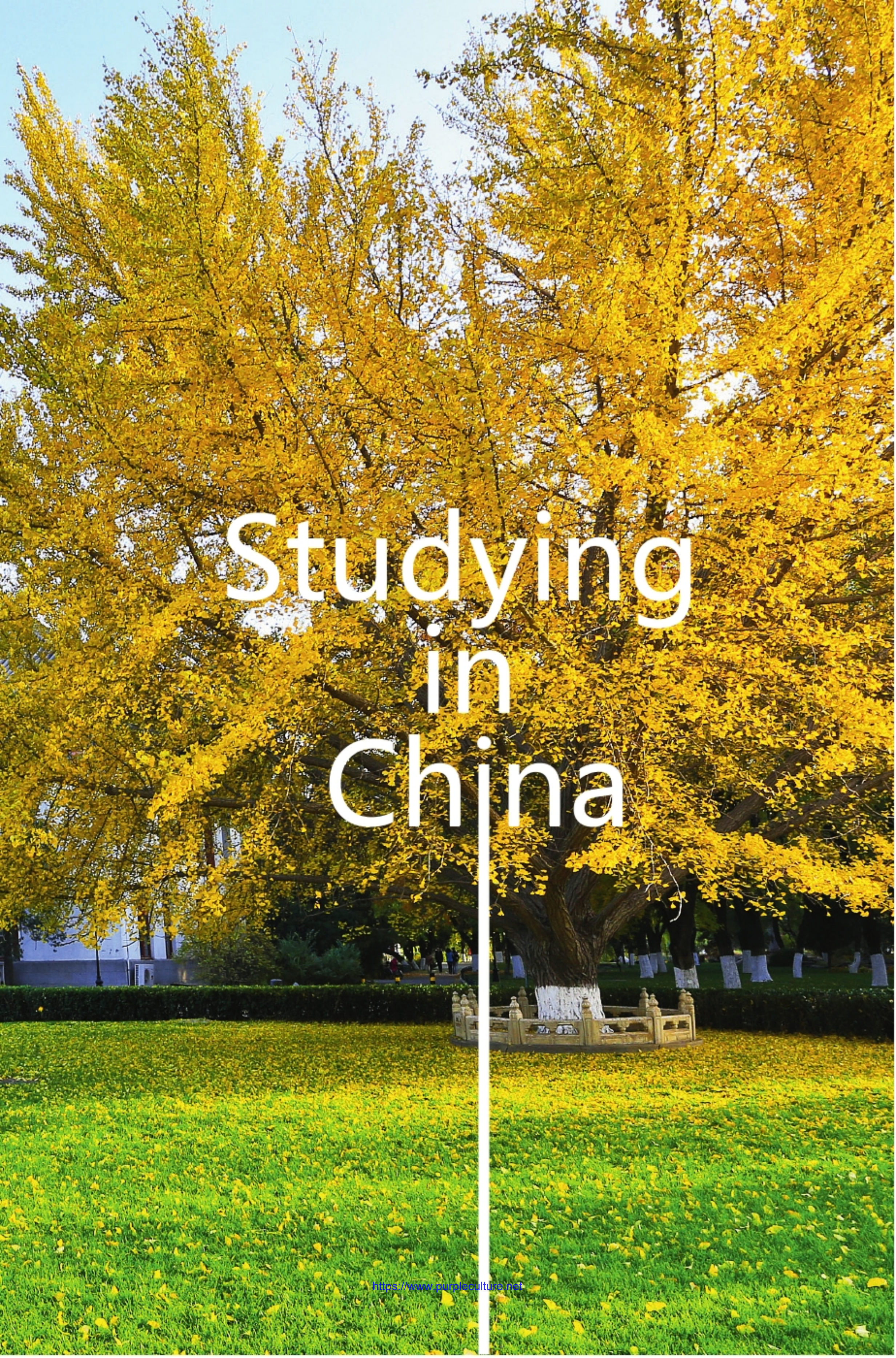
## ● Shopping in China 189

090	Are There Any Shopping Festivals in China?	190
091	Can You Buy Quality Goods When Shopping Online?	192
092	How Can You Save More Money While Shopping?	194
093	Can Shopping Be an Easy Thing for Newcomers to China?	196
094	Is Shopping Online Safe in China?	198
095	Can You Buy Food from Your Own Country in China?	200
096	How Do We Choose Gifts to Bring Back Home?	202
097	What Do You Need to Know about Gift Giving in China?	204
098	What Are the Do's and Don'ts of Shopping During Trips?	206
099	Why Is Xiushui Street a Distinctive Shopping Mall in Beijing?	208
100	Is Everything in China as Cheap as They Say?	210
101	What's the Most Popular Payment Method in China?	212









# Studying in China



# What Changed After I Decided to Study in China?



When people ask me what it's like to earn a four-year degree in China taught entirely in Mandarin, my answer is: "Easier than you might imagine and tougher than you can possibly believe." In truth, it's also far more rewarding than one might think.

Generally speaking, people's world views are shaped by the environment in which they live. For me, a shy homeschooled kid coming from a small town in America, I saw the world from a very narrow point of view. During the first few years here in China, the hardest part about living and studying in such a challenging environment was accepting the changes in myself brought about by constant interactions with a culture and a world view drastically different than my own. Being part of Chinese society was not about changing my world view or my ideals to fit in, it was about opening my mind up to learning from another language and seeing the world through the eyes of another culture. This is, after all, the point of an education, is it not?



Ultimately it was the decision to let myself accept changes within myself that became the defining moment of my studies in China, and perhaps of my entire life. My initial plan of spending three months studying Mandarin in Beijing quickly became seven, and soon after I changed my educational direction to a business major. Two years later, the shy young man who had walked hesitatingly through the school's south gate was nowhere to be seen. He had been transformed into someone new altogether: a far more outgoing person with a focus and direction. This "new me" was entering language competitions, hosting university events, and being interviewed by Chinese media.







There are four highlights that I distinctly remember, marking the improvements made in my linguistic ability. The first was around four months after my arrival when I had my first, albeit simple, conversation with a Chinese friend entirely in Mandarin. The second was the first time I dreamed in Chinese. The third, a taxi ride in my second year where I discussed politics with the driver, who didn't speak a word of English. The final highlight came in my third year when my wife and I were at a Chinese blind massage parlor. Thirty minutes into the massage, and after I had spent most of the time chatting with the masseuse, my wife asked her where she thought I was from. She guessed China's northern region, based on the accent. When my wife informed her that I was in fact Caucasian American, her disbelief encouraged me to no end.

In my opinion, for anyone who is considering studying in China, the right questions are not, "Will it land me a good job? Will I become fluent? Isn't learning Chinese incredibly difficult?" But rather, "Can I accept the changes within myself and the way I will see the world?"

Your answer to that question will determine the amount of effort you put into your studies, and by extension, become a determining factor in the level of your success.

The following are some helpful tips for those considering a Chinese education:

-  First and foremost, you can do this! While becoming truly fluent in Chinese (and any other language for that matter) is a task that requires years of devotion, it is absolutely possible. It depends mostly on your ability to push yourself and accept personal changes.
-  Don't be afraid to try. While the idea of traveling halfway around the world is a daunting one, it is one I believe no one will regret. What you learn here will stay with you forever and may just be the highlight of your life.
-  It doesn't matter if you are from a small town or a big city, when you arrive in China it is as if you are starting anew. The opportunities available to a small-town kid are no different than those to someone from a big city.
-  Just as you set your own limit, it is you who gives yourself the opportunity to come to China.



**Name:** Seth Mattson  
**Nationality:** American  
**University:** Beijing Language and Culture University  
**Time Spent in China:** 4 years  
**Place of Residence:** Beijing