

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in China



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GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning
COVA	Chinese Online Visa Application
CUCAS	China University College Application System -- a centralized application system for international students
JW201	This is a form submitted to you by your university after admission. If you are being funded by Chinese-government scholarships, you will receive this form.
JW202	The W202 is issued to self-sponsored international students.
Comprehensive Universities	Comprehensive universities offer courses in a variety of different areas.
Normal Universities	Normal universities in China are used primarily for teacher training purposes
yuan	Chinese currency

Note: all costs listed within this country profile are in Chinese Yuan (Chinese currency) with conversions in USD. This information has been collected in 2018-19, and may be subject to change in the future. For most accurate information on costs, you are recommended to visit university websites. If you wish to compare costs between China and another country (e.g. UK), you can convert the Chinese cost into UK pounds and see the differential, if any.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO CHINA

China has become a fairly popular destination for Pakistani students in the last few years. According to the [Express Tribune](#), over 22,00 Pakistani students were studying in China in 2018-19, making them the third largest group of overseas students in China.

Why do international students apply to China for higher education?

Wen Wen (Associate Professor of Higher Education at China's Tsinghua University) and Die Hu (Ph.D. Candidate in International Education at the University of California, Los Angeles) conducted a [study](#) analyzing the various motivations of students for attending Chinese universities, and they found that some students go to China because of **economic cooperations** done between China and their home country. They do so because they feel that it could boost their career prospects. Among other things, they also found that some Asian students also went due to the **reputation of Chinese universities**, which were ranked higher than many other universities in Asia (excluding Japan). Financial factors also attract international students to China; the Chinese government tends to offer some **scholarships**, particularly to students from developing countries. [Click here](#) for an overview on their findings.

Why do Pakistani students, in particular, apply to China for higher education?

In order to promote cooperation and exchange between the two countries, there are a number of scholarship opportunities offered by the Chinese Government to Pakistani students. You can find these listed on the [Higher Education Commission](#) website. There might be some field-specific/university-specific scholarships available as well (more information can be found in the Funding Section).

Subject Choices:

According to the Express Tribune, Pakistani students typically go into the following fields of study: engineering, economics, management, agriculture, medicine, informational technology, communication and language. Some also study China's history and culture and other subjects.

Job Prospects

Despite the fact that China is one of the largest economies in the world, job prospects are not particularly great in China for international students. Many international students want to work after studying in China, however, they experience difficulty in finding jobs (it is not difficult to find *any* job per se, it is just difficult to find the right one), according to the South [China Morning Post](#). Some sources also claim that international students usually secure a job in international companies, as opposed to companies that are 100% Chinese. Good knowledge of Chinese will improve your chances of acceptance, as many firms are often looking for bilingual candidates.

Note: you are advised to conduct your own research as well on the sort of job opportunities that exist in China, for the degrees/fields you are interested in (you can consider getting in touch with your university, or other Pakistanis who have studied in China before). The information above may not be fully representative for all fields.

Working while studying

You are not allowed to work in China while studying, unless you go through some specific avenues. In an attempt to make higher education in China more attractive, the government adjusted the previous policy on working while studying (which did not allow international students to work while they are studying). According to this policy, international students in Beijing and Shanghai can take part-time jobs or internships off-campus as long as they can obtain the necessary approval from their academic institutions and the entry and exit administrative authorities. If they accept this work opportunity, they will leave a note in your residence permit allowing you to work part-time or in an off-campus internship. Note that you can not apply for an internship or part-time job opportunity that exceeds the time of your residence permit. When searching for such work opportunities, you should consult your university career or student service centre, and make sure you follow the laws and guidelines ([China Daily](#)).

An option for part-time work includes teaching English, to locals, whether it be kindergarten students or business professionals seeking to improve their grasp over the language for work purposes. If you are proficient in English, and preferably if you have an ESL (English as a second language) teaching certificate, you may be able to teach English to locals. Previous teaching experience for such jobs is an advantage but not necessary in most cases. Otherwise, part-time jobs are limited, and so you should not use them as a means for funding your study.

Working in China after graduation

According to [China Daily](#), post-graduate students and those who graduated from "a well-known universities can obtain Chinese work permits after graduation." The previous policy was that students were required to get 2 years of work experience outside China before they could apply for a work permit.

Additionally, since mid-2017, a tier system was set up, aiming to categorize people according to their talent. For more information on the evaluation criteria for the tier system, please click [here](#). [This](#) is another useful link you can go through to learn more about how to qualify for each tier.

To work in China, you must follow the following steps:

Apply for a Work Visa (Visa Z)	This allows you to stay in China for 30 days, during which you will have to apply for a Temporary Residence Permit.
Temporary Residence Permit	This should last for the entire duration of your contract. Generally it has a minimum of 90 days requirement and a maximum of 5 years. This permit determines the duration of your stay in China.

OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The table below gives an overview of the senior secondary school and tertiary school system in China (and the Pakistani equivalent). The final few years of secondary school study are spent in Senior Middle School, Vocational School or Secondary Professional School in China (equivalent to A-Levels/HSSC). Following this, students in China can choose to go for an Associate's Degree or a Bachelor's Degree -- and eventually for a postgraduate degree (Master's/Doctorate).

	China		Pakistan
16-18 years	Secondary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Middle School (3 years long) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational School OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary professional school 	A-levels or HSSC or equivalent
18+ years	Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 year Associate's degree • 4-5 year Bachelor's degree • Master's or Doctoral Level Degree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 year Bachelor's degree, • Master's or Doctoral Level degree

HIGHER EDUCATION - TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

There are different kinds of universities in China: some focus on specific programs, others focus on specific fields and some are 'comprehensive universities' -- meaning they offer courses in a variety of different areas. There are some 'normal universities' in China as well, which are responsible for training teachers.

Some of the specific program universities in China are listed below:

- Sport Universities
- Agriculture and Forestry Universities
- Art Universities
- Medicine Universities
- Language Universities
- Engineering Universities
- Economics and Management Universities

For more information on the different types of universities in China, please go through this [link](#).

SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN

To be eligible for admission into an undergraduate program in a Chinese university, you will need to have completed 12 years of schooling with high school graduation or equivalent.

British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels) OR International Baccalaureate

If you have completed or are completing your A Levels, you will typically be eligible to apply directly for an undergraduate program in China. You will be subject to university-specific and program-specific requirements, such as how many subjects you have to take at what level, and what grades you need to get. Make sure to view these requirements very clearly on the relevant university websites.

Note that in some universities, you may still be expected to do a university entrance examination.

Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)

In a lot of Chinese universities, you will be eligible to apply directly to an undergraduate program if you have passed your HSSC. You will be subject to university-specific and program-specific requirements, such as how many subjects you have to take at what level, and what grades you need to get. Make sure to view these requirements very clearly on the relevant university websites or contact the universities you are interested in.

Note that in some universities, you may still be expected to do a university entrance examination.

Language Requirements

For degrees taught in Chinese, you will have to pass the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) with at least a Level 3. More information about the test can be found [here](#).

For degrees taught in English, you may have to submit your TOEFL or IELTS scores. Each university may have different requirements in terms of your scores in these tests, so make sure to confirm these before applying.

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS (CERTIFICATIONS AND DIPLOMAS)

There are some non-degree programs available in China as well. They will typically require students to be high school graduates. There are a number of different kinds of non-degree programs that are available to international students. Some of them are listed [here](#). You should also make sure you go through university-specific pages to find out which non-degree programs are being offered. Ensure you meet the specified criteria as well before applying.

SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S

To gain admission into a Master's program, you will need a Bachelor's degree. You may have to pass the Chinese college entrance examination along with this. For Chinese medium courses, you will have to pass the Chinese proficiency test at a certain level (depending on the university) between 5-8. More information on the test can be found [here](#). For more specific information, please visit your prospective university website.

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs

You will typically need a Master's degree before you can apply for a PhD in China. You may have to pass the Chinese college entrance examination along with this. For Chinese medium courses, you will have to pass the Chinese proficiency test at a certain level (depending on the university) between 5-8. More information on the test can be found [here](#). For more specific information, please visit your prospective university website.

Subject Specialization

To find out which subjects are commonly offered to international students, please visit your prospective university website.

SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

When applying to China, you will typically be able to apply through two ways: through CUCAS (China's University and College Applying System, an official online portal for international students) or independently. If you are applying through CUCAS, please make sure you go through the application process stated [here](#). If you choose to apply independently, you should visit your prospective university website or get in touch with the admissions committee about the application process.

Application Components

- Application form
- Transcripts
- Highest Degree Certification
 - For Undergraduate programs: Secondary High School Certification or its equivalent
 - For Master's programs: Bachelor's Degree certification
 - For PhD programs: Master's Degree certification
- Reference form
- Study Plan (similar to a personal statement, detailing your motivation for studying in China/in the university etc.)
- Language Proficiency Tests
 - English-medium universities (taught in English) require one of the following proficiency tests:
 - TOEFL
 - IELTS
 - Chinese-medium programs (programs taught in Mandarin) requires students to show proof of Chinese-language proficiency
- Entrance Exams or Proficiency Assessments
 - For undergraduate programs: usually this is for undergraduate programs in science, engineering, medicine and agriculture.
 - For Master's/PhD programs: If you can not take the required examination, you will need to pass all courses and their relevant exams, or else they will not get permission to work on your graduate thesis. If you fail to do so, you will graduate with the status 'trainee'.

Other components required for Master's/PhD programs:

- Study Plan (similar to personal statement, detailing your motivation to apply)
- Recommendation Letters, usually 2 of these are required

For more information pertaining to application components, you are advised to visit your prospective university website or contact the admissions committee.

Note:

- You may also be required to supply proof of your good health.
- Some universities have an age limit for applicants. For undergraduate programs, the maximum age is usually 25 years.

Application Cycle

This information was taken from [CUCAS](#)

Autumn Semester	Applications must be submitted between late February and late July
Spring Semester	Applications must be submitted between late October and late January

Application process and timeline

The following is a general and basic outline of how to apply.

Information in the table was extracted from [CUCAS](#). This timeline is valid, even if you are applying independently (not through CUCAS)

For applications for the Autumn Semester (starting in September)

Late February/Early March	This is when most applications open, and so you should start preparing your required admission components. Check each university's deadlines and plan your components accordingly.
April to May	After collecting all the material, you should submit the application. Early applications are often given preference, especially if the university accepts a limited number of students
June	This is when applicants who applied early are likely to receive their letters of acceptance, if accepted.
Late July	Most application deadlines occur at this time. Make sure you submit the application before this if so.
Early August	Most admission letters will be submitted during this time; universities usually send the admission letter and the JW202 form (discussed in the Visa sections). Once you receive the letter, make sure to apply for a visa as soon as possible.

For applications for the Spring Semester (starting in late February or early March)

Late October	This is when most applications open, and so you should start preparing your required admission components. Check each university's deadlines and plan your components accordingly.
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November to January	After collecting all the material, you should submit the application. Early applications are often given preference, especially if the university accepts a limited number of students
Early January	This is when applicants who applied early are likely to receive their letters of acceptance, if accepted.
Late January	Most application deadlines occur at this time. Make sure you submit the application before this if so.
February	Most admission letters will be submitted during this time; universities usually send the admission letter and the JW202 form (discussed in the Visa sections). Once you receive the letter, make sure to apply for a visa as soon as possible.

TRANSLATABILITY KEY

How applications to China are different to those to the US and the UK?

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for China compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

COMPONENTS	Are they required? Compare importance to UK/USA
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	Statements of purpose may be referred to as study plans in China. You will usually need to talk about your motivation to apply in these.
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	Letters of recommendation may be required.
STANDARDIZED TESTS	Language proficiency tests are required and are very important. You will have to make sure you meet the minimum criteria.
TRANSCRIPTS (which qualifications are accepted; if they are not, then what happens?)	Most Chinese universities will accept the Pakistani qualifications (3 year Bachelor Degree, HSS Certificate) but

	you should visit your prospective university website to confirm this. You will typically not be required to have your transcripts evaluated as is the case in the USA.
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FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

FEES

Your tuition fees will depend highly on the type of university you go to and the program you apply for. If you go to private universities or international campuses, you should expect to pay higher fees. According to Times Higher Education, you are typically expected to pay between **11,480 - 20,880 yuan per year** (USD 1660-3015 as of June 2019) for a Chinese degree, with undergraduate degrees typically remaining at the lower end of the scale. If you however, do a program in medicine, business, or engineering, the cost could average **159,300 - 331,885 yuan** per year (USD 23,007-47,934 as of June 2019).

If you choose to study at an international campus, you will be expected to pay between **53,100 and 99,565 yuan** per year (USD 7670-14380, as of June 2019). An average Bachelor's degree at these institutions costs **79,650 yuan** per year (USD 11503, as of June 2019). An average Postgraduate degree at these institutions costs **89,610 yuan** (USD 12942, as of June 2019) per year.

BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Application fees (can go up to 1,400 yuan = USD 202, as of June 2019)
2. Travel expenses
3. Health and travel insurance
4. Accommodation and living expenses
5. Travel and sightseeing
6. Textbooks and other course materials
7. Food and drink
8. Miscellaneous

Accounting for these costs, you will typically be spending between **4500 - 5000 yuan per month** (USD 650 - 722, as of June 2019) in metropolitan areas such as Shanghai and Beijing. The cost could go down in other cities.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Some scholarship requirements are as follows. Some of these may vary by specific scholarship -- so make sure you look at the eligibility criteria specified before choosing to apply.

- You should be academically competent, i.e. you should have a good academic standing
- You should not be awardees of any other scholarship or grant
- If you have any extracurricular certificates then your chances of getting a scholarship may be improved
- You may have to submit your TOEFL or IELTS English proficiency tests
- You will have to submit your resume, transcripts and/or CV

Scholarship Types:

As mentioned in the introduction, there are a number of scholarships that are available to international students. Some of them are listed below. You are also advised to visit your prospective university websites to find out about other options available.

In addition to that, as a means of increasing cooperation and exchange between China and Pakistan, China in collaboration with HEC Pakistan offers some specific scholarships for study in China as well. Please make sure you keep checking the [HEC website](#) for current and upcoming scholarships.

- [Local Government Scholarships](#)
- [Chinese Government Scholarships](#)
- [Enterprise Scholarships](#)
- [School Scholarships](#)
- [Confucius Institute Scholarships](#)
- Some of these may not be applicable to undergraduate and postgraduate programs, so please make sure you check which ones you are eligible for before you apply.

For tips from CUCAS on how to apply for various scholarships as an **undergraduate** student, [click here](#).

APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA

If you wish to study in China, you will need to apply for a Student Visa. If you intend to study in China for a period of more than 180 days, you will need an X1 Visa. If you intend to study in China for a period of 180 days or less, you will need an X2 Visa.

HOW LONG DOES VISA PROCESSING TAKE

It will typically take 4 working days for your visa application to be processed (subject to the consular officer's decision).

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY

Although the visa processing does not take very long, you should still try to apply as soon as you receive your enrollment letter. It is recommended that you try to arrive in China, a few days before the start of your semester so that you can adjust and finalize accommodation for yourself (especially if you are living off-campus; for more information, visit the Accommodation Section).

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

Diplomatic Passport holders and Pakistani Ordinary Passport holders are exempted from visa fees. To find out what the visa fees is for other countries' Ordinary Passport holders, visit the embassy webpage.

Valid Health Insurance: please check your university/visa website to find out how to apply for health insurance.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN CHINA

An X1 Visa is typically issues for multiple entry will validity of upto 5 years -- but ultimately the length of your stay will be determined at the discretion of the consular officer.

With an X2 visa, you will be able to stay in China for 180 days (or for the length of your study -- whichever is lesser).

APPLYING

This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit this link in case the process has changed.

After you receive your letter of admission, your school will send you a JW201 or JW202 form, which you will need to fill and submit along with your application for the **X1 Visa**. The JW201 form is issued to international student who are being funded by Chinese government scholarships, and JW202 is issued to self-sponsored international students.

Process

You will need to submit some basic documents, and some supporting documents (specific to the X1/X2 Visa) including: your admission letter from your school, your visa application (Form JW201 or JW202) and diploma. Note: the Embassy may require original documents **and** attested photocopies. For more instructions, please visit the [Embassy webpage](#).

After July 2018, all applicants are required to complete the **online visa application form** and schedule an **appointment for submission online**. For the visa application form, click [here](#); and to schedule an appointment, click [here](#).

OTHER INFORMATION

- For the X1 and X2 Visas, you will need to go to the Embassy for your interview. The validity, duration of stay and number of entries during that period will be finalized at the discretion of the consular officer.
- The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad will also collect the fingerprints of all of foreign applicants for Chinese Visas. Holders of diplomatic passports will be exempt from this.
- Your visa will need to be valid for the next 18 months, and have at least 4 blank pages (note: this information was collected in 2018; the requirements may have changed now).

Residence Permit

- Holders of the X1 Visa will need to register at a local public security bureau, within 30 days of arrival. You will be issued the China Residence Permit then.
- If you choose to work while studying (since international students are permitted to do part-time work in China), the police station or security bureau will mark "Part-time-work; Part-time-study" on your visa.

ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL OPTIONS

As an international student living in China, you can either choose to live on campus in your university dormitory or you can live off-campus.

On-Campus Accommodation

The cost of on-campus accommodation will usually vary from university to university. In some places, accommodation might cost as much as 25-150 RMB per day and in others, it may cost 450 RMB per semester.

Most university dorm rooms will differ as well: some may be single occupancy rooms, others will be shared; some will have an attached bathroom while others will have a communal bathroom on the same floor. All rooms -- irrespective of size -- will typically have internet, electricity and running water (the cost of which will be included in the overall accommodation cost). Dormitories will also have communal kitchens, refrigerators, air conditioners/heaters etc.

Note: some universities (such as UIBE, Peking University, Beijing Language and Culture University) will have limited space for international students and therefore, will not be able to guarantee accommodation for all international students. Normally, it is not possible to share accommodation with Chinese students because international students and Chinese students are separated. If you, however, want to have more opportunities to practise Chinese, you can request to live with students from Hong Kong or Taiwan.

Off-Campus Accommodation

If you choose to, or have to, live off campus, you will need to arrange for your accommodation yourself. It is recommended that you book a hotel room for yourself for the first few days following your arrival, and then start exploring more permanent accommodation options.

After you have landed in China, you can begin your apartment search through estate agents or online. Some universities will have a list of reliable agents you can contact to help you find off-campus accommodation -- if your university offers this, you should utilize the service. It is also recommended that you should have someone who has been living in China accompany you when you visit your prospective accommodation. They will be able to give you advice about the kind of accommodation you should select, and will be able to help in the negotiating process as well (bargaining rental rates is common and acceptable in China).

Apartments in student areas, i.e. areas where students commonly live/areas that are close to your universities, will typically be taken at the start of the semester -- so you should begin your search as

early as possible. You can even consider arriving a few days in advance of the start of your semester. So that you can get accommodation close to your campus.

Normally, apartments are available for one year. If you are in China for a shorter period, or plan to leave the apartment and move somewhere else, you will have to pay more. The cost depends on the size and location of the apartment -- but you should be able to find reasonably-priced options.

If you are considering getting off-campus accommodation, you can also try to find a roommate (or flatmates) to help cover the total cost. That will reduce the per person cost significantly.

Advantages

<p>On-Campus</p>	<p>Proximity -- you will be much closer to the campus, and will not need to spend money travelling to class.</p>	<p>On-campus accommodation will typically be much cheaper than off-campus accommodation, and much easier to register for.</p>	<p>If you are a new student in China, on-campus accommodation will be really beneficial because it will help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet and socialize with other international students, - Remain connected with on-campus activities
<p>Off-Campus</p>	<p>Off-Campus Accommodation will help you experience the culture in China. If you are living in an apartment, you might be able to meet more locals.</p>	<p>Although off-campus will be more expensive, you will have more privacy and will be more independent. You will not be expected to follow any rules (like curfews etc.).</p>	<p>If you are able to find off-campus student apartments, you will be able to find plenty of opportunities to socialize with other international students.</p>

International Student Hotels

There are three-star hotels and serviced apartments that offer long-term stay packages for foreign students. You should make reservations for these before arriving in China. (Keep in mind: these will be most likely be more expensive than the off-campus apartments). To find out more about serviced apartments and hotels in China, you can go through this [website](#). It lists down the available options in each city.

Cities ranked according to cost of living

Generally speaking, accommodation tends to be more expensive in some of the major cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. In Beijing, international students typically pay around RMB 1500 - RMB 3000

per room per month (excluding utility bills). Some of the smaller cities will have considerably cheaper options as well.

Usable Resources

- [This](#) is a search engine you can use to find student accommodation in China (including student houses, flats, halls of residence, and larger private accommodation). You can search by location or by university.

CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers.

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

We encourage you to consult this source for additional information and guidance:

- [Education of international students](#)

Other sources that were also consulted include:

[English.gov.cn](#), [The People's Government of Beijing Municipality](#), [China Daily](#), [China Briefing](#), [Working in China](#), [CUCAS](#), [Times Higher Education](#), [Wikipedia](#), [INTOStudy](#), [InsideHigherEd](#), [Campus China](#), [China Admissions](#), [China Schooling](#), [Travel China Guide](#), [China Edu Center](#), [China Accommodation](#), [SICAS](#), [Tier System](#), [South China Morning Post](#), Tribune [1](#) and [2](#), [Journals.Sage](#), [HEC](#)