

Renmin University of china

Let me start by telling you it is a very highly reputed university in china. I did my exchange from sept 2016 to January 2017 (block 1 and 2 of my third year). China is a great place to go on an exchange. It is very different compared to Netherlands and exciting!

Preparation

The most important thing when it comes to china is apply for visa beforehand. You must be able to get one easily as renmin university sends all the required documents (needed for visa application) to your home university or your home address(I received it at my home address as it is more convenient). Everyone who applies gets a single entry visa. Which means that you can enter china only once with that visa. Since lot of exchange students want to travel to nearby countries this can be troublesome. But you need not worry, once you get there you can apply for a multi entry visa at the university by paying around 70euros. Once you get it you will be able to travel to nearby countries and re-enter china.

Another important thing to arrange before going is accommodation on campus. The apartments off campus are quite expensive hence it is highly recommended to live on campus. As all the international students live on campus it is also a great way to meet people by living on campus. You can get a single room or a double room (you will share it with one other person). Quality of rooms is pretty good. Even though there is a kitchen in the dormitory, no one cooks as it is cheaper to just eat at the canteen.

You need not worry about selecting your courses at this point. You can do it once you reach there.

Arrival

You can take a taxi from the airport to the university. Make sure to download an image of the university name(written in Chinese) so that you can just show it to the taxi driver as the taxi drivers do not speak English. on campus you can find lot of people who speak English. Once you are on campus straight away go to International student office (also called Korean building). They are open 24/7, they will help you with your room and other registration process. There will be an orientation day where you will have to buy insurance and you will be officially enrolled as an exchange student and given a student card. It is quite important so do attend it.

Courses

In general the courses that you study at Renmin are quite easy and work load is less compared to ESE.

Development economics (School of economics) 4 ECTS

It is a very basic course where you study about how china's economy has performed in the past century or so. The course is taught by an American professor and it is quite interesting. You will have mid term, group presentations, field research and a final exam.

International trade and its applications in china (School of economics) 4 ECTS

The material is quite similar to what you study in international trade at Erasmus University. 100% of your grade depends on a paper you submit the end of the semester. You will write a paper of around 20 -25 pages on a topic related to international trade and china.

Central banking and monetary policy in china (School of finance) 6 ECTS

The professor of this course is very good. Again in this course you will write a paper related to central banking and monetary policy. You will also have a final exam which will account for 30% of your grade.

Cross cultural management (school of business) 4 ECTS

You will basically study cultural difference among different nationals and how to address these cultural differences during business negotiations. You will have to do a case study by picking a company.

International management (school of business) 4 ECTS

The professor of this course is very enthusiastic and quite interesting. You will have weekly assignment where you will solve cases. In groups of 2. The course is also very interesting as you will also have a visit to a manufacturing plant (Hyundai). This course is relatively hard.

Brand management (school of business) 4 ECTS

It is a fun course. There are regular exams and at the end of the course you submit a business idea, just the way you did for marketing course in IBEB 1st year.

Principles of marketing (school of business) 6 ECTS

It is quite similar to the marketing course that you study during IBEB 1st year. You will have exams, group presentation and marketing report to submit.

Note- Take into consideration the dates of final exams before selecting the courses as some course have exams in the 4th week of January as well.

Major costs to take into consideration

Flight tickets – variable

Room- 170 – 350 euros per month (depends on single or double room)

Mobile phone – 35 euros (this was for six months contract of china Unicom)

Food - around 300 euros per month (typical meal on campus costs around 3-6 euros)

Travel – one way trip costs around 70 cents in subway. A bus ride costs around 25 cents

Insurance – less than 100 euros for 6 months.

Note- expenses can vary a lot depending on how much you travel within and outside china and also how much you spend on shopping. Since things are quite cheap international students end up spending a lot buying clothes, shoes, watches, and electronics.

Daily life

Beijing is the cultural capital of china. The city is huge and dynamic. There are lot of tourist spots within the city. There are many well-known cities close to Beijing so you can visit them. The best way to travel is by trains. There are lots of places with bars and clubs. Sanlitun and wudaoku are very popular districts among international students. These two areas have very good restaurants and malls.

Make sure you download VPN as you cannot use Facebook, google etc without it. You can use your Dutch bank card to withdraw money in most of the ATMs in china (I used my ING card). Always check the bank notes before accepting them from shop owners or taxi drives as many of them give fake notes to foreigners.

The university also has a very good debating club, here you can meet lots of English speaking Chinese students. It is a great way to make local friends as most of the time you will be other international students. Also make use of the many volunteering opportunities that you will get (there few organizations on campus if you want to volunteer) usually you will teach English to small kids in underprivileged schools. It is a very good experience.

You will also get to eat amazing food at cheap prices. It is great way to explore East Asian countries while studying in china. The people are very helpful. I dint face any serious problems during my stay in china. If you have any questions feel free to contact me – usmanshf96@yahoo.com or just find me on facebook (usman shariff)

Good luck with your exchange!