Tips from Past Students

• Bring photocopies and electronic copies of all important documents, visa, passport, insurance card, JW202 & admission letter

Money:

• Travelers’ checks are hard to exchange here
• Credit cards are not accepted in most places but are nice for emergencies
• ATMs are very easy to find to take out cash, check expiration dates on your cards, contact your bank to let them know your travel plans and ask your bank if they are affiliated with any Chinese banks
• Physical size of dollar bills in China are much larger than US bills, you may want to bring an old wallet and buy a new one here
• If you go out at night, leave your credit cards and debit cards at the dorm. Just bring along however much money you think you will need. This will help you budget and protect you from pickpockets

Clothing:

• Bathing suits are very hard to find
• Thermal underwear is very helpful for the Yunnan Excursion and winters in Beijing
• Bring some warm thermal clothes rather than packing four jackets, thermals are easier to pack and lighter
• Dress in Beijing is informal and students on campus wear similar clothing to what you wear at your home university, but you should bring at least one nice outfit, especially students enrolled in the internship course
• It is very dusty and dirty in Beijing and even more so on excursions. It is best to bring older clothing that you might not care about bringing back
• Clothing in large sizes is very hard to find
• Shoes larger than women’s size 8 and men’s size 10 are almost impossible to find
• There are washing machines and dryers on campus, but on the excursions you will want to bring clothing you can hand-wash
• Dryfit clothing is nice when you’re doing laundry and have to hang dry it
• There are washing machines and dryers on campus, but the dryers do not work very well and most students will hang dry their clothing in their rooms on the lines provided by the dorm.
Over the counter medicine/toiletries:

- Pack western medication for allergies, traveler’s sickness and motion sickness – even if you had not had these issues in the past but you may in China. You will be introduced to new foods, plants and be traveling to higher altitudes.
- Stick deodorants are hard to find in China; it is best to pack enough for the duration of your stay.
- Hand sanitizer is very important and hard to find in China (large for your room, small for traveling).
- When you leave campus, bring some toilet paper with you as most restrooms will not provide you with toilet paper.
- If you have specific toiletry brands you only use then bring those, otherwise basic toiletries such as shampoo and soap are very easy to get.
- Contact solution is difficult to find in China.
- Sunscreen & insect repellent are hard to find in China – you will mainly need these on excursions, not every day.

Electronics:

- Bring a computer that can connect with the internet through an Ethernet cord or a USB to Ethernet adapter (easy to find in China) if you wish to use it on excursions.
- Electronics such as cameras are inexpensive but most are fake or used, you will not be able to return them if they are broken and it is very easy to get scammed.
- Bring a cheap smart phone or tablet something that can access the internet and download apps (not just a computer) - this is essential for downloading WeChat which the entire country practically runs on. This is something that is essential especially because I do not have a smartphone and it was a pain for the first months without being able to contact anyone. Buy a cheap smartphone to take care of this.
- Remember that Google is blocked in China. The Android marketplace is powered by Google. Baidu and Tencent have app stores that can be accessed on an Android device while in China, but it may not have all the apps you’d find on the Google-powered app store. Download apps before you go!
- The internet is very slow, but you will get used to it. It works best in early mornings or late at night.
- Bring extra memory cards that you might fill up or run out of when on long trips.
- A rapidly growing number of students are bringing smart phones with them, if you choose to do this check if your phone is unlocked or learn how to unlock it before you arrive. A data phone or a smart phone, while more expensive than a local Chinese cell phone, is still relevant to the cost of a phone plan in the US and gives you the added advantage of having access to the internet in more places.

Travel:

- It is advisable to look at your airlines baggage fee schedule, for some airlines it is better to pay for extra baggage than an overweight bag or vice versa.
• Traveling is really easy, the planes and trains are great for traveling. Even if you don’t speak any Chinese you will be able to get by
• Bring an extra duffel bag for all trips especially to pick up gifts
• A lonely planet guide book is great for small trips and on the excursion to find things that are awesome
• Book tickets early, people can always join you later and the tickets especially to places like Hong Kong go fast. See as much as you can and do it how you want too so budget accordingly, don’t spend all your money on one trip but also don’t not go places due to cost, there are lots of cheap flights and train tickets
• Go on the many TBC small trips, they are usually paid for or very cheap sign up for all the ones you want too and go

Classes:
• Make sure all your classes count for the right class, it is easy to add and drop but make sure you have a good plan going in
• Registering for classes back at home institutions is difficult due to time differences so have everything planned out before hand
• Note cards for studying are very hard to find

Other:
• Bring an empty suitcase, or buy one here, for when you return home
• Address list to send post cards
• Gifts for tutors, roommates and homestays are always a hit, the best gifts are small things like magnets, chocolates, mugs, etc. and ones that advertise your university or hometown
• Pictures from home to show new friends, homestays and roommates

If you are unsure about any of these items or have additional questions call 773.508.3899 or email beijing@luc.edu!