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China Internships

Trip Name: China Internships **Trip Code:** CHIN **Duration:** From 4 weeks

Key Facts

Our China Internship programme provides internships in over 150 companies across highly sought after industry sectors. Choose a role from our extensive list of internships that includes NGO's, marketing, international business, environmental, engineering, events management, finance, law etc.

Broaden your horizons culturally, socially and professionally by combining China's rich history with it's recent modernization and huge potential makes it one of the most exciting places to live in.

Our internship will not only kick-start your career but could also provide you with permanent employment after your internship.

Overview

- Improve your CV and get relevant, practical work experience in one of the fastest growing economies in the world.
- The potential to get a permanent position in China after your placement*.
- Immerse yourself in Chinese culture.
- Learn Mandarin and put it into practice both at work and with your host family.
- A great base to travel and see this amazing country in your free time

Destination Info

The country we know today as China actually derives from a long line of smaller civilisations dating back six millennia. China's influence on modern life is nothing short of remarkable having given the world a huge array of inventions such as paper, the compass, gunpowder and even pasta.

China Internships

China's rapid development over the last 20 years has helped transform it into a global economic super power, but its historic roots are here to stay. You only have to visit one of the many temples, the Great Wall or the Terracotta Army to see that!

Itinerary

Coming to China will enable you to showcase your skills, gain quality work experience, learn Mandarin and allow you to see how business works in one of the fastest growing economies. As employers look into China or develop a global focus, they will favour candidates with overseas experience especially those who are familiar with China. Give your CV the edge to land the job you've always wanted.

You will have numerous opportunities to build your social and business network. China draws people from around the world meaning you will make friends and business contacts across the globe, as you have access to networking events and social activities.

When you book you will be asked for a preference on what field you would like your placement to be in. Your placement will be based on both your preference and your background. Placements available are in industries including but not limited to;

- Accounting
- Advertising
- Consulting
- HR
- Hospitality (any placements in this area are for 6 months)
- Marketing
- Media
- NGO's
- IT
- Fashion

Many more are available, please contact us and we will see if there is an internship available in your chosen field.

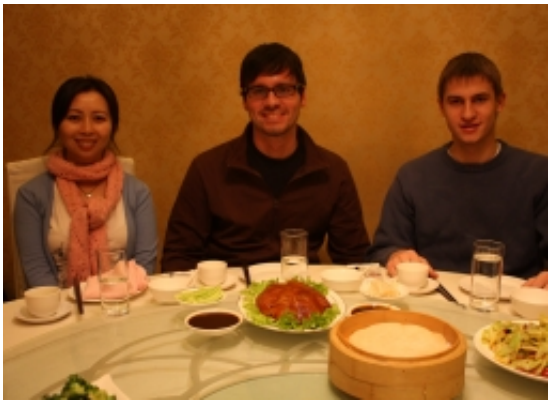
Interns should be keen to take on responsibility, show flexibility, accept challenges and be committed to

contributing positively to their companies.

You will be given multiple tasks and responsibilities at your internship where you will be able to showcase your skills, display initiative and work both independently as well as part of a team.

When you first arrive you will be met at the airport and taken to your accommodation, a shared apartment in Beijing/Shanghai (depending on where your placement is) before you start your orientation.

On your first day of your internship one of our in-country team will accompany you to your host company to make sure that you settle in and get to meet all the right people including your supervisor. Your supervisor will speak English so don't worry you won't be expected to be fluent in Mandarin although were possible we would recommend that you use your newly learnt language skills that you have learnt from the included online language course as it will help you settle. During your internship you will have the opportunity to join a numbert of networking events to improve your professional circle in China with the help of our24/7 support team.



Step 1: Application
To apply for this internship we ask you to either call us or apply online using the link below. When you apply we will request information on your emergency contact details, passport number and your health background and other important information. At this stage a deposit payment is requested, this deposit is non-refundable, unless your application is declined by our team in China.

• A completed application form (provided upon deposit payment)
• Current CV /resume detailing your work and study history

• A cover letter detailing the type of placement you are seeking

Note: If your internship is part of your university course, and requires accreditation this can easily be arranged. We request a letter from your tutor supporting your application for an internship.

Step 2: Telephone/Skype interview with our Internship Coordinator
Once we have your application pack we will contact you to arrange an informal interview with our internship coordinator who will be your main contact before you leave for China.

Step 3: Accepting the placement
We will send you a formal offer letter for you to sign, along with a clear summary of the types of roles you will be involved with during your internship.

Step 4: Interview with your host company
Your internship coordinator will arrange a date and time for an interview with your host company.

Step 5: Payment of full program fees and sign placement description and agreement
At this stage we will help you to organise your visa to enable you to work in China and help you with flights to Beijing.

While these are internships are aimed to help develop your CV don't forget that this is also an amazing opportunity to experience a new culture, explore a country and get to make new friends. You will get to meet new not only at work and at home but also through the internship network. Our in-country team will keep in touch with you throughout your internship to check all is well and to invite you to social gatherings that they arrange giving you a great opportunity to catch-up with your fellow interns.

Don't forget to also use some of your free time to try and explore some of this amazing country and see more of its iconic sites. Take a trip down to the walled city of Xi'an and see the Terracotta Warriors, the stunning scenery in Guilin, and of course take the opportunity to see a Panda with your own eyes. China has so much to see and do that you will be hard pushed to run out of new things to do.

Accommodation

Hospitality Internships

Hospitality interns will stay in a hotel, the room may be shared with a fellow participant of the same gender.

All Other Internships

All other interns will stay in a shared apartment based on a single private room with shared facilities. Electricity, water and gas are included in the internship cost though the internet may be payable by the intern. Generally linen is not provided in the accommodation however, furtniture and basic essentials are included.

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

Throughout China, Internet access is widely available. All villages have a place with cheap Internet access, usually a large Internet café with a broadband high-speed connection. There is Internet access available at most of the schools. There are also several large Internet cafés in the town. For one hour it will cost you approximately two Yuan.

Telephone

The international telephone access code for China is +86.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164 / +49 69 222226 475.

If you are looking to use a payphone to contact people at home whilst you are in China, your cheapest option would be to get an international phone card. Public phones are reasonably easy to come across, but your best bet is probably an Internet Cafe - most will have phones dedicated for international calls.

Your mobile handset should work in China – however you should check this with your provider. It is cheaper to buy a SIM card when you are there but you will need to check with your provider that your phone is unlocked and will accept foreign SIM cards. You can buy telephone cards for international calls and there are often special discounts on offer.

Laundry

There are laundry facilities available at in the shared apartment.

Electricity

All accommodation has plug sockets for you to use.

Meals

During your 4 day orientation all your meals are included.

What's Included

- Airport pick-up and transfer
- Orientation
- Shared apartment or hotel accommodation depending on type of placement
- Internship placement, support and supervision
- Some meals (varies depending on type of placement)
- 'F' visa extension
- Online Mandarin course

What's Not Included

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- External activities
- Spending Money
- Transport
- First part of your 'F' visa

Is This Trip For You?

This trip is ideal for those who are keen to learn and expand thier knowledge and experience within their industry. This is a practical programme that is designed to give you the best experience possible.

Additional Information

Visa

Approximately one month prior to your departure, we will send you a visa invitation letter for your placement. You will need to take this visa invitation letter, along with your passport, two passport-sized photos and your visa form to your nearest Chinese embassy or consulate where they will issue you with the first part of your F-visa. While you are in China, our partners will update and extend your visa if required.

Please note: The cost of the first part of your F-visa is not included in the price, however any in-country visa extension costs are included (although the cost of travel to Beijing is at your own expense).

Minimum Age

You must be between 18-30 years of age to take part in these internships.

Flights

Please do not book your flight until you have accepted your internship placement. Once you have this letter you can book your flights but we advise that you do not book these until you have your visa granted (approximately one month before you depart).

Your flight to China should arrive at Beijing or Shanghai Airport (dependent on the internship location) on your programme start date.You should book a flexible return ticket as your end date will not be confirmed until you are in China.

A provisional programme end date has been added, please note this will not be confirmed until you are in-country.

To book your flights, please contact your Travel Advisor who can look into the best flight quote for you.

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively, you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

FAQs

1. **How many host companies will I be offered?**
   Once you have booked on and sent us your CV and cover letter we will look for a suitable host company that best fits you. If the initial offer is not to your liking we will provide you an alternative host company.

2. **How much is the cost of living in China?**
   Living Expenses are extremely cheap compared to western countries. Generally speaking, a daily budget of

100RMB can easily cover food, transport and some entertainment.

3. **Do I receive an allowance?**
   Once you begin your internship you may receive a daily allowance on work days, this is usually around 50-100RMB per work day, however it can vary between internships. Occasionally, some roles may have a higher allowance but this would depend on the individual company and your related experience. Some host companies notable NGO's may not be able to offer a stipend or can only offer a lower stipend. You will be informed during the placement process with a potential host company if this would be the case.

4. **What is an 'F' visa?**
   You will need an 'F' visa to enter China, which is for business and cultural exchange programmes. Mandarin study is also permitted under this visa. As part of the price we will arrange the necessary documentation that will enable you to obtain an 'F' visa. The visas are linked to the programme and should not be used to obtain other work in China.

5. **What happens with my visa if I get a permanent position in China after the internship?**
   The 'F' visa that you use for the duration of your internship will not cover you to work after your placement is finished. If you are offered a permanent position in China after your internship it will be the responsibility of your new employer and yourself to arrange a 'Z' visa to cover your continued stay in China.

6. **How does the online Mandarin course work?**
   The online Mandarin course includes online courseware as well as 20 hours of one to one classes with a Chinese teacher conducted over Skype. It will be available for 6 months from when it is first started, which is normally 2 months before you travel to China to give you an opportunity to learn the basics before you arrive. You can then continue with the course for up to 4 months.

Police Check

This trip requires a Police Check to be carried out - please contact us for further information on how to do this.

Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip

begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

Money Matters

In China the currency is the Renminbi Yuan (RMB or CNY, symbol ¥), which is subdivided into 10 Jiao which is in turn equal to 10 Fen. Coins come in denominations of 1 Jiao, 1 and 5 Yuan and 1, 2 and 5 Fen. Notes come in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 Yuan.

Credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard, AmEx can be used at upmarket hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and department stores. ATMs that accept credit cards are mainly in large cities at branches of the Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, though a fee may be charged.

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 3.23 $

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 1.28 $
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 0.52 $
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 0.28 $

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

Passports and Visas

You will require a visa to enter China and you should consult your relevant embassy to ensure you can secure one. Once you have booked your trip you will be provided with further instructions and supporting documents to obtain the correct visa.

Passports and visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. As a general rule most countries expect that you will have at least 6 months' validity on your passport beyond your intended stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, and you should consult the relevant embassy.

Cultural Considerations

China is becoming more and more liberal all the time, so, especially in the major urban areas, you do not need to dress too conservatively. Bear in mind that you will get stared at, even more so if you go out and about in something outlandish!

This may happen, more so in rural areas and you might even find yourself being asked for a photo! This is not

meant in a hostile manner and although it may be annoying, just try to ignore it or feel flattered that they are taking such an interest in you.

Looking scruffy will not go down well, especially in restaurants and hotel check-ins. The best way to gain respect is to make an effort with your appearance.

Spitting is not considered to be anti-social in China. It may seem disgusting, but there isn't really anything you can do except ignore it- they probably think we are disgusting for something we do that we think is completely normal. Anyway, you'll get used to it… eventually!

"Saving Face" is an important concept in China which is based on social standings; so pointing out things negatively and criticising will cause immense humiliation for the person on the receiving end. It also means that getting stressed and shouting at someone will get you absolutely nowhere. If you need to be negative towards someone, make sure that you do it in a polite but firm manner, to keep embarrassment to a minimum.

When visiting markets and street vendors you will need to bargain for the item you wish to purchase. Generally when the vendor spots you are a foreigner the price will shoot up, so try offering a price about 70% lower and work from there. Don't get too aggressive and treat it as a bit of fun- you're only going to be arguing over pennies! This is also the vendor's living so paying that little bit extra will make a greater difference to them than it will to you.

Religion

Many religions are represented in China but generally the most popular are Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Chinese Folk religions, ancestor veneration and the worship of localised deities. Muslims, Jews and Christians also have a small representation.

Smoking, Alcohol

Smoking and drinking is acceptable in China and readily available. However, please respect other people. Smoking is not permissible in volunteer apartments or the host families' homes. Drinking is only permissible in moderation and must not impact upon any volunteer work you undertake. While we want you to have fun in your free time, antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated.

Bathroom Facilities

You will experience a range of different shower and toilet facilities. Unless you are staying in a hotel you will rarely have hot water. The cool water takes a little getting used to but I'm sure you'll find it refreshing after a hot and humid day. Toilets will be a combination of western and Asian. Remember to put all toilet tissue in the bin provided and not in the toilet.

Whist on excursions you will notice that many places do not have a western toilet and will have a typical Asian toilet; again this is all part of the Asian culture. Also, many places do not have soap in the bathrooms. It is a good idea to take a small bottle of soap gel and keep it in your day bag. This is an antibacterial gel that you don't need to rinse off. These are available in chemists in the travel section.

Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you keep safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your day sack without your permission
- Always walk around in groups
- Never go out alone after dark
- Stick with the escorted trips. If you do go out in the evening unescorted, you do so at your own risk. Please tell the co-ordinators where you are going and what time you will be back.
- Please do not get into fights or arguments with locals. We cannot guarantee your safety and it could provoke future attacks on other travellers
- Please do not leave your drinks unattended and do not accept drinks from strangers

ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if you card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

This information is not intended to scare you. Unfortunately, bad things can happen, as they can do in any country and we want you to be prepared. We want you to stay safe and have a good time.

The majority of the locals are friendly, warm and hospitable people who love meeting our travellers. Please be

friendly, respectful and stay aware and you will have a great time.

Language Guide

Mandarin is spoken by about 70% of the population, but Cantonese is also an official language. As it is such a huge country, China also has hundreds and hundreds of different dialects.

We suggest you obtain a Lonely Planet or language guide for the destination(s) you are travelling to.

Hello! - *Ni hao!*
Nice to see you! - *Hin gow shing jian dow ni!*
Goodbye/See you - *Zai jian*
What's your name? - *Ni jiao shen me ming zi?*
Who is he? - *Ta shi shui?*
How old are you? - *Ni dwo da le?*
Where is…., please? - *Qing wen…., jai nar?*
Please kindly send/drive me to X - *Qing song wo dow X..*
How much is that bag? - *Na gur bow dwo shao qian?*
I'll take this one - *Je ge wo yow le*
Thank you - *Xie xie*
You're welcome - *Bu ker chi/bu yong xie*
I'm sorry - *Dui bu qi*
That's all right - *Mei guan shi*
One - *Yee*
Two - *Er*
Three - *San*
Four - *Si*
Five - *Woo*
Six - *Liu*
Seven - *Qi*
Eight - *Ba*
Nine - *Jiu*
Ten - *Shi*

Food & Drink

Everyone knows Chinese food, or thinks they do anyway! Just like with India you will find that the Chinese food we have here and the actual Chinese cuisine are somewhat different. They also have some slightly strange dishes too if you fancy something a ittle different – (like chicken's feet and river snails)! Due to China's vast size there are many regional variations, making for an extremely diverse cuisine.Some areas go for subtle flavours whereas others go for very strong, somewhat odd mixtures but all are united in terms of fresh vegetables, rice and noodles. Dim Sum, which means 'little eats' are very popular all over China, made up of buns and pancakes, and dumplings are generally eaten for breakfast!The best place to get authentic Chinese snacks is from small vending stalls on the streets, which are also good for breakfast! Western food is pretty widely available, especially in the more touristy locations. In Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong you'll even be able to get your Starbucks coffee fix!

Of course, the main difference on the Chinese dinner table is chopsticks instead of a knife and fork, but that's only superficial. The real difference is that in the West, you have your own plate of food, while in China the dishes are placed in the middle of the table and everyone shares. If you are being treated to a formal dinner and particularly if

the host thinks you're in the country for the first time, he will do the best to give you a taste of many different types of dishes.

The meal usually begins with a set of at least four cold dishes, to be followed by the main courses of hot meat and vegetable dishes. Soup will then be served (unless in Guangdong style restaurants) to be followed by staple food ranging from rice, noodles to dumplings. If you wish to have your rice to go with other dishes, you should say so in good time, for most of the Chinese choose to have the staple food last or have none of them at all.

Perhaps one of the things that surprises a western visitor most is that some of the Chinese hosts like to put food into the plates of their guests. At formal dinners, there are always "public" chopsticks and spoons for this purpose, but some hosts may use their own chopsticks. This is a sign of genuine friendship and politeness. It is always polite to eat the food and if you do not eat it, just leave the food on the plate.

People in China tend to over-order food, as it is embarrassing if all the food is consumed. When you have had enough, just say so. Or you will always overeat!

Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country. However, although businesses and government offices are closed on public holidays, tourist attractions and shops are almost never closed. The main impact on the tourist of these holidays is the increased competition for travel and accommodation from Chinese who use long weekends to get away from the big city.

To view a list of the public holidays for China, please see the link below:

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/china/

Weather

The best times to visit China tend to be in the spring, March and April and in the Autumn, September and October in the lower plains, whereas the higher altitude areas are best between June and September. Although daytime temperatures may be reasonable, between 20C to 30C, the nights can still be really cold. China is such a vast country that it is worth bearing in mind that northern and southern areas will have completely different climates, so it is best to research the area you are going to, rather than the country as a whole. The south is subtropical with the temperatures in Yunnan ranging from 20°C in the winter to 29°C in the Summer, while Beijing's climate in the north ranges from 1°C to 31°C.

Time

China is 8 hours ahead of GMT

Electricity

In China the electric system is 220 Volts and frequency 50 Hertz. Outlets in China generally accept 2 types of plug:

Flat blade plug

or

V-shaped flat prongs

Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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