



BEIJING, CHINA

The Beijing Center for Language and Culture (TBC) was founded in the summer of 1998 to introduce the world-wide academic community to modern-day China. Its first and largest program is a semester or year-long study-abroad program for undergraduate students. The undergraduate program integrates language study, a choice of forty seminars on Chinese topics, adventure travel, and interaction with Chinese students. Since then TBC has expanded to add a variety of summer options, plus programs for faculty members and select graduate students. In the few years of its existence TBC has established itself among the top China-study programs.

Several components of this program work together to create a full and rich experience of China:

Academic: The academic offerings include:

- (a) required intensive language courses.
- (b) classes and seminars on topics of Chinese culture taught by senior professors from China's top universities.
- (c) foundation level business courses allowing undergraduate business majors to attend.
- (d) a summer program with basic language courses and limited cultural courses.
- (e) graduate courses in the summer to supplement existing home-university programs with multi-cultural courses.

Student life: Students live on campus at University of International Business and Economics (UIBE). Several programs exist to integrate TBC students with local Chinese students.

Exploring China: The Beijing Center program includes several major adventure-travel style trips to the far corners of China, using local transportation and staying in local hotels. Usually there is a required two-week academic-style adventure travel expedition each semester, plus a one-week vacation trip each semester. Also there are several fieldtrips to local business, political, and cultural events and guest lectures by leading Chinese authorities.

Admissions: Priority is given to students who come for the whole year and to students coming from Jesuit universities. In order to enroll in the program, students must send in the (1) the application form, (2) an official transcript, (3) two letters of recommendation (one from a professor), (4) recommendation from the Dean of Students (or equivalent), and (5) the application fee of \$50. Only when the packet is complete will the application be considered. Students may apply for the fall or spring semester or for the full academic year. Preference is given to students applying for the full academic year, and who have a 2.8 or higher cumulative GPA. If you're planning to apply, please pick up an application packet at the International Center, DuBourg Hall 150.

Language of Instruction: English.

Scholarships: ALL SLU scholarships will go with the student. Also, extra scholarships can be found at <http://www.iie.org/programs/Freeman-ASIA/>

More Info: For more information, please go to the web site at <http://www.thebeijingcenter.org/>

Location: The Beijing Center for Language and Culture (TBC) is housed at Beijing's University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) in the Chaoyang District of Beijing. You may visit www.UIBE.edu.cn to learn more about it. The campus location provides easy access to most places in the city: 25 minutes by taxi to Beijing's International Airport, 15 minutes by taxi to the central business district, 11 minutes by taxi to major shopping centers. Campus is ideally located between the Third and Fourth Ring Roads, walking distance from the new Metro Line, providing access to all points in Beijing. On campus: 24 hour medical clinic, 4 cafeterias, tennis and basketball courts, a soccer field, track, outdoor swimming pool and workout facilities. Off campus: numerous wonderful Chinese and Western style restaurants, markets, Kodak developing shop.

Communication: The best (quickest & cheapest) way to communicate with family and friends is by E-mail. The central computing lab at our home campus has 170 computers all connected to the Internet. Some students keep their home school e-mail account when that address is accessible over the web. Others open new web-based e-mail account for their stay in China. There are many free web-accessible servers such as Yahoo.com and Hotmail.com. Telephones with access to major US servers are available in each bedroom allowing easy access to make and receive international calls. It is wise to have a phone card (AT&T, MCI, Sprint) before leaving home. Some students invest in discount phone services. See our student manual for more information. There is a post office near campus. Letters are 60 cents and take 7 to 10 days to reach the USA.

Housing: TBC students live with Chinese and other international students on the 3rd floor of the International Student dormitory on the Campus of UIBE. Each TBC student is provided a language tutor and a UIBE host student. Students with advanced language skills may also request to live with a Chinese roommate. During their second semester at TBC, students have the option of living with a University host family on campus. Accommodations are semi-private rooms (limited single rooms available for an additional fee) with western style bathroom. Each room is furnished with beds, desks, lamps, closets, and bookshelves. All rooms are equipped with 24-hour hot water, telephone, heat & air conditioning and mini-refrigerator (for rent). TBC also has a private TV lounge with a large screen TV, DVD, VCD, and VHS player. An Internet computer lounge, laundry room and convenient store are also located in the TBC Residence. Also located in the basement of the Residence is the TBC library, which boasts over 6000 volumes and is hailed the largest collection of books in English about China in Beijing. The library is styled in traditional Chinese Architecture, and provides a lovely atmosphere for our students to study in peace. The TBC offices, library, TV lounge, and study lounge are conveniently located in the International student dormitory building. A full-time staff member resides with the students.

Food: Food in China is plentiful and delicious. On the UIBE campus there are four main student cafeterias and several smaller ones. Here the food is simple and cheap. A hot meal (beef and rice, for example) would run slightly under 50 cents. There is a wide variety in the cafeterias. Many restaurants are also on campus and surrounding the campus. These vary greatly in price and quality so you have a lot of choice. Several western style restaurants are within walking distance. Several large grocery stores carrying western food are also nearby, as well as small stores located on campus. Kentucky Fried Chicken, Kenny Roger's Rotisserie Chicken, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Pizza Hut, TGI Fridays, Subway and other fast-food restaurants are available around Beijing. The cheapest beverage in China is tea, which is usually free in restaurants, followed by beer, which costs about 25 cents a liter for local brews. Coke and Sprite are available everywhere. Bottled water also is available everywhere.

Integration: The Beijing Center makes every effort to have you meet and get to know Chinese students and make Chinese friends during your time in Beijing. To help you get to make Chinese friends, you will have available:

Host Students: All TBC students are matched with a host student prior to their arrival in Beijing. The students establish contact over e-mail developing a relationship with their first Chinese friend before they even set foot on the Mainland. After our students arrive to China they then have a peer to show them "the ropes" of living in Beijing. Host students are volunteers who show the TBC student around Beijing and the Beijing student scene.

Student Tutors: Also during orientation, each student is assigned a "student tutor." The tutors are Chinese students paid by the program to go over your Chinese language homework with you. Each tutor meets on a one-on-one basis with the TBC student for four hours each week. Usually, they help you learn the vocabulary before the class session.

Host Family: During a student's second semester with TBC, each student may have the option to live with a host family. " These families introduce the TBC student to family life in China. Often time is spent just hanging with the family and learning how Chinese live at home.

Chinese Roommates

Students in Advanced Chinese class may elect to have a Chinese student as a roommate. Often the Chinese student speaks little English forcing the TBC student to speak Chinese on a regular basis. On occasion the roommate is also employed as the tutor.

"English Corner"

Beijing's largest English corner" is located at Peoples University near our home campus of UIBE. An "English corner" is a place where Chinese of all ages and occupations meet at a specific time and day of the week to speak English with one another. Any native English speaker is a star at these English corners. Our students have found themselves surrounded several deep as Chinese try to practice English with natives.

Host students, host families, roommates, tutors, and the proximity of Beijing's largest English corner — as far as we know, no other study abroad program in China does so much to help students meet and make friends with their Chinese counterparts.