



北京大学 深圳研究生院
Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School



Life at PKU Shenzhen

Frequently Asked Questions



Getting Settled at PKU Shenzhen

What is included in orientation?

PKU Shenzhen offers a campus life orientation lasting about two weeks in the fall or three days in the spring. PKU Shenzhen staff and your school's staff will assist you with school registration and the process of applying for your residence permit (for degree-seeking students). We will organize a campus tour, a Chinese language survival course for beginners (fall only), a trip to IKEA, and have an excursion to the city center. We will also assist you with buying a metro/bus card and familiarize you with the metro and buses that serve campus. Your Campus Advisors (Chinese students assigned to assist you in your transition to China) will also have events to get to know China and the cohort better.

How can I open my personal bank account?

Your campus card is already linked with a Ping An Bank personal bank account. Shenzhen University Town has a partnership with Ping An Bank and there is a Ping An Bank branch on campus. You are also welcome open a personal bank account outside of campus. You will be required to present your passport to the bank when opening an account. You will find their addresses and directions in the Campus Guide given to every PKU Shenzhen student at the beginning of the year.

Do I need to buy medical insurance?

Yes. The purchase of medical insurance is in your invoice. All students of Peking University are required to be medically insured throughout their entire period of study by a local Chinese insurance company. PKU Shenzhen arranges for students to automatically purchase the Comprehensive Insurance Plan of Foreign Students provided by Ping An Insurance Company (recognized and recommended by the Chinese Ministry of Education), which covers accidental injuries, hospitalization and some outpatient care. A year-long subscription costs 800 RMB, and one semester is 400 RMB. It should be noted that this insurance does not cover international English-speaking hospital wards and/or clinics. You will be covered from the beginning of your arrival on campus if you make your payment on time.

Should I exchange money before I get to China? Will I be able to use ATMs?

Your campus card is automatically linked with a Ping An Bank account and serves as a debit card. CNY (RMB) is the only legal currency in mainland China. You may convert most of the world currencies at any Bank of China branch in Shenzhen.

If you have an international credit card belonging to either the Mastercard or the Visa network, you can withdraw RMB at ATMs belonging to those networks. The transaction fee will depend upon your bank. There is a Bank of China ATM located on campus beside Mirror Lake that will allow withdrawal from foreign account. Travelers' checks



in USD are accepted by many Chinese banks but the procedure to cash them is very lengthy. It can take a month to cash Travelers' check, so we do not recommend that you use this method. You must visit Ping An Bank in order to have your local Chinese bank account set up to accept wire transfers of foreign currency.

How much cash should I bring?

For most students, the cost of tuition, housing, and insurance has already been settled. In this case, 2000 RMB is about all you should need. This will cover your transportation to school, your payment for the preloaded 100RMB on the campus card, utility payment, and initial deposit into your account, health check (if needed), and food or initial basic expenses.

You can bring more USD, Euros, or RMB if you wish to be safe in case you encounter problems with your debit card. Please remember to notify your bank about your travel plans.

If you are arriving late to campus, you should receive a "guest card" card preloaded with 50RMB on it. You will only have to pay for the cost incurred on the guest card during the time you used it.

Living on Campus

Can I join a sports team? Can I join a Chinese student club for volunteer activities?

You are encouraged to join any of the student associations at PKU Shenzhen and to take part in all the events organized by the school. Student associations include art troupe, golf, football, boxing, English language school newspaper, and dance, just to name a few. In addition, you will be informed by email or through PKU Shenzhen website of the events organized by the school. To join or set up an association, please contact the Student Affairs Office (H Building 102B).

Are there sports facilities on campus?

Yes, sport facilities include a gym, ping-pong tables, badminton courts, pool tables, tennis courts, a track and field, a football field and basketball courts. A gym membership at the PKUSZ Fitness Center costs a minimal fee per month, semester, or year. Separately, the University Town Sports Center also includes a swimming pool, gym, tennis courts and basketball courts. For current information on the sports facilities, hours and membership costs, please email nathanf@pkusz.edu.cn with your inquiry. Student associations (football, basketball, rugby, boxing, etc) often organize activities open to all students.

Is there campus security? Is the campus in a safe location?

Yes, University Town and PKU Shenzhen are gated with 24 hour security and



surveillance. All campus entrances and dormitory buildings have security guards on duty 24 hours. In addition, the campus card only allows residents to enter dormitory buildings. Any visitors are required to register with the security guard in the lobby.

The campus is located outside the city center of Shenzhen. The campus is primarily surrounded by the Shenzhen zoo, a golf course and other natural areas. There are also dense urban areas nearby campus where you should beware of petty theft. Campus is highly secure, but you should beware of theft. Always lock your dormitory doors and take care of your belongings. Student resources will be provided on what to do if you believe you are the victim of a crime.

Does PKUSZ have Chinese language classes?

Yes, PKU Shenzhen provides basic and more advanced level course offerings for enrolled students and faculty/staff. You can also request to be paired with a language partner to work with you one-on-one through the English Association and International Student Union. Advanced courses are contingent on sufficient enrollment.

Do international students have any student counselors? Is there an international student's office on campus? Whom should I turn to if I have questions or difficulties?

The School of Translation Law and HSBC Business School have staff members specifically to serve the needs of international students. Please feel free to turn to them for any questions or difficulties.

The Student Service Office of PKU Shenzhen provides 8 counseling sessions free of charge to all students. All counseling services are by appointment only. Students should email pkupsy@pkusz.edu.cn to schedule an appointment during counseling hours.

PKU Shenzhen also provides student Campus Advisors to assist international students in some of the living difficulties, such as calling for maintenance and communicating with campus services.

Can I travel on my own in China during the holidays?

Yes. You are free to visit China, alone, with friends, or with your family. Some areas/regions are under strict control at some periods, you should make sure that no part of your trip covers restricted areas and obtain prior approval from the Chinese authorities.

Can I invite my family members and friends to come to China during my holiday? How can I help them to get the visa?

To apply for a long-term stay visa on behalf of your family members (spouse and children younger than 18), you are required to submit the required documents to Shenzhen Municipal Public Security Department. For a short term visa for friends or



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non-dependents, you may write your own invitation letter that states your status in China, and your friends and other family members can use this letter to apply by themselves at a Chinese embassy or consulate. Your family cannot stay with you in the dormitories, but you can find a visit of nearby hotels for your family [here](#). There is also a 72 hour visa on arrival for Shenzhen. Please research online whether your guests would be eligible.

Housing and Dining

What will my dorm room be like? Should I bring my own blankets and sheets?

On campus dormitories include a private bathroom with a western style toilet and a balcony. All dorm rooms are equipped with basic furnishings: single bed(s), dresser, desk, chair and bedside table. The first floor of the dormitory has a laundry room with washing machines. For a better picture of our campus and dormitories, peek into current international [student rooms](#) and take our [3D Tour](#).

You will need to provide your own bedding. Basic bedding is available at the campus shops or you can bring your own bedding with you. Student orientation will also include a shopping to trip to the nearby Ikea where you can buy everything you might need for your room.

I'm a married student; can I live on campus with my spouse?

Dormitories are reserved for PKU Shenzhen students only. If you and your spouse are both enrolled, we can arrange a shared room for you. If your spouse is not a student, he or she cannot live in the dorms with you. We can provide basic assistance on living off campus, but you will ultimately be responsible for arranging your own off campus housing.

Is WiFi on campus and in the dorms?

Yes, the University Town's wifi network covers the entire campus, including the classrooms, the library and the dormitories and costs 20 RMB per month for the basic speed. Once a student has received his/her username and password, the internet will be available for use on a 24-hour basis. If students sign up with China Mobile on campus during arrival day, the package often includes free campus wifi provided through China Mobile.

The campus is also covered by the CMCC network by China mobile, which you can access by registering your China mobile cell phone number. The CMCC network costs 1 RMB per 100 minutes.

There is free WiFi at the University Café around Building 3 at Mirror Lake. The password is *uc999999*. (Temporarily unavailable during spring renovation)



Can I take my electronics? Will I be able to use my laptop?

You can use your own electronics in China, and the majority of the plugs fit several countries standards, including Europe and the United States. The voltage is 220V; you will need an adapter if the voltage in your own country is different. Electronics such as laptops and smart phones often have a built in converter. Smaller electronics such as hair dryers and razors will require a separate converter. It is recommended to buy smaller electronics in China as it is often cheaper than buying an international converter.

How early can I get in the student dormitories?

You may enter the dormitories on February 13. You may not move in before that date. The Campus Service Center is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 12:30pm and from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. For exchange students, it is not recommended to arrive to China much earlier than the arrival date given unless you are willing to go through the process of extending your visa if it is expires before the end of your study.

What if I am a late arrival?

If you are arriving at a later date, or at a time (before 10pm or on weekend) when the Campus Service Center will be closed, we will still make an effort to get you into your room. You must email your school coordinator and Nathan Faber (nathanf@pkusz.edu.cn) your arrival details. Nathan will try to arrange a student helper to provide you with a temporary room key to access the dorm room.

What are the food options on Campus? Is there non-Chinese food available? Are there Muslim and Kosher food options?

There are two dining halls on campus (a meal costs between 10 and 25 RMB) and two restaurants (one Halal). Unfortunately, the campus is in the process of getting renovating and getting several new food and commercial vendors. Before the end of the next semester, there will likely be several more eating options. Students can also make a short walk to other areas of University Town for other canteens and restaurants.

Living in Shenzhen

What is the city like?

PKU Shenzhen is a diverse and globally-conscious campus in the thriving entrepreneurial city of Shenzhen. Forty years ago, Shenzhen was a fishing village of little more than 20,000 inhabitants. Today, this Special Economic Zone is leading China's modernization and development movement with a population of over 12 million. Located in Guangdong, the most vibrant province in China, Shenzhen is adjacent to Hong Kong and Macau, and only one hour by train from Guangzhou (Canton). Shenzhen also has growing expatriate community. You can find many international restaurants, shopping malls and grocery stores in Shenzhen. It is also a growing city of design, and home to many young entrepreneurs and start-ups.



Is it easy to buy things in Shenzhen? Are there international brand stores?

You will be able to find many international brand stores, such as Ikea, H&M, Uniqlo, Decathlon, etc. You will be able to find almost everything you need in Shenzhen, so there is no reason to over pack. For more information on what to pack for China see our [Packing list](#).

What kind of clothing should I take?

Shenzhen climate is sub-tropical, very hot and wet in summer, with frequent storms and abundant rainfall, while humidity makes winters rather cold, even if the thermometer rarely drops below 11C (51F). Spring and autumn are the best seasons with temperature varying between 29-36C (80-95F).

Can I use my cell phone in China?

You can use a Chinese SIM card in most cell phones. During orientation, you must register for a SIM card if you do not already have China domestic SIM card. Companies often offer special student plans when you register for a SIM card on campus (please have your admission letter and passport prepared).

Also, students with older phone models or brands that are not available in China have sometimes not been able to connect to the 4G network. Please do your own research if you are concerned.

Most communication happens on the app WeChat. Please download the app before arriving. However, also be aware that WeChat often blocks international accounts once they arrive in China. In some cases, the best option is to open a new account in mainland China.

Android phone users should download a Chinese app store before arrival. Google Play Store is blocked and cannot be accessed without a VPN, which is unreliable. Learn more about Chinese app stores [here](#).

What is there do to in Shenzhen?

As a young city, Shenzhen lacks the cultural sites of Beijing and Shanghai, but has many hiking opportunities, city parks and beaches to explore as well as a growing expatriate community. See the [PKU Shenzhen website](#) for directions to popular tourist sites. You can find out what events are happening in Shenzhen in the expatriate magazine [That's Shenzhen](#). [Shenzhen Party](#) also list events. Campus Advisors send out a weekly newsletter which includes both on campus and off campus events for the upcoming week every Friday.

Getting Around



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How will we be able to get around town? Are taxis affordable? Are buses easy to use if you don't understand Chinese?

Shenzhen has a large network of buses and 8 subway lines. The closest subway station is 15 minutes away on foot from campus and a bus stop serving the city center is 5-10 minutes away on foot. The campus of PKU Shenzhen is closest to the Xili Lake Metro Station on Line 7. However, it is also within walking distance to University Town Station on Line 5.

The presence of bike shares makes it extremely easy to travel short distances. Many people choose to bike from PKU to the subway station and just leave the bike shares there. For more information on how bike shares work in Shenzhen, please visit <https://thenanyan.com/transportation-shenzhen/>. While it can seem overwhelming to navigate public transportation at first, the increasing use of English makes it very accessible. The subway is very modern and practical, and all directions are indicated both in Chinese and English. The radios on most buses and all subways announce the stops in both Chinese and English and most major bus stops are written in English or Pinyin.

Taxis are also very convenient and relatively inexpensive, and easier to take than a bus, provided that you hand the address of your destination written in Chinese to the driver. PKU Shenzhen being close to several natural sites however, traffic is not as heavy as in downtown; consequently taxis are also not always easy to find around the campus. You can see a map of transportation around the campus and a [map](#) of Shenzhen subway. Most students use Didi Chuxing (Chinese Uber equivalent with an English interface) to get around town. A Didi account must be attached to your WeChat Wallet/AliPay/Unionpay card to activate.

We provide students and faculty with all the information they need to navigate the Shenzhen transportation system during the first few weeks of their arrival, organize trips and shopping days in Shenzhen and help them with all their transportation-related issues.

Is it easy to travel to Hong Kong?

In October 2018, the high speed train from Hong Kong (Kowloon) to Shenzhen (Shenzhen North Train Station) was opened, significantly reducing the time between the Hong Kong city center and Shenzhen. The distance time between downtown Hong Kong and our campus is now as little as 90 minutes. For information on how to take the high speed train, see our [blog](#).

If you go to the border by car, it is about 30 minutes. There are 5 border checkpoints that are accessible by the metro, bus, or ferry. It takes about 1 hour by metro to the border and then about another hour by subway to central Hong Kong. For example, the Huangguang border checkpoint is on the same subway line as the station closest to campus, Xili Lake



Station (Line 7). There is also a ferry and direct coach buses (also about one hour) to central Hong Kong. Depending on the day and time you visit the border, it can take 20 minutes to 2 hours to pass through customs.

While for most nationalities a visa is not required for Hong Kong, some nationalities are required to have a Hong Kong visa. Be sure to due proper research.

Where can I learn more about campus life at PKU Shenzhen?

Most up to date information and easiest way to have your questions answered is to join our Facebook group or send an email. Facebook group invites have already been sent, contact school staff if you have not received.

Blog: <http://thenanyan.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/PKUShenzhen>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/PKUShenzhen>

Official Website: <http://english.pkusz.edu.cn>