

Meet your CAs

The Campus Advisor (CA) Program consists of eight Chinese student leaders looking to help new international students transition to life in China. Each international student is assigned two CAs who they can turn to for basic questions, language barrier problems, or even just advice for where to have the best hot pot!
Get to know this year's new group and join them for some fun around Shenzhen:



Yiqi (Qi) 姚奕淇
School of Transnational
Law, 2L

Hometown: Shantou, Guangdong. It is a coastal city of Guangdong Province where you could find much of the best food in the world.

Academic interest: Transnational law / public interest law / sociology

Favorite place in Shenzhen: Shenzhen Bay. I like places by the water, and with fresh air. Shenzhen Bay is a wonderful spot for night view / sunset / sunrise.

Advice for international students: Experience matters. Enjoy the journey, talk to people, understand Shenzhen, China in early 21st century, and reach out whenever you can.



Ironwill 冯勇
School of Transnational
Law, 3L

Hometown: Shaanxi Province, northwestern part of China.

Academic interests: IP law and business law.

Favorite place in Shenzhen: Shenzhen Bay where we can relax a lot.

Advice for international students: Feel free to ask help from us.



Fenny 冯寅
School of Transnational
Law, 4L

Hometown: Miluo, Hunan Province (middle China). Famous for delicious food, especially spicy food.

Academic interest: Most interested in Civil Law.

Favorite place in Shenzhen: Yitian Holiday Plaza. It's the nearest shopping center to our school with many great restaurants, fashion brands, and a movie theater.

Advice for international students: 1. Learn to use WeChat and WeChat Wallet, without it you can never enjoy your life here in China. 2. As a CA, we are here to help!

Hometown: Hunan and Guangxi Province; As a Hunaner, I am definitely a fanatic of spicy food (just cannot live without it)!

Academic interest: Civil and Commercial Law.

Favorite place in Shenzhen: My favorite place in Shenzhen has always been Hongshulin (Shenzhen Mangrove Forest Nature Reserve) since it is one of the few places where I can really slow down and observe the world around me.

Advice for international students: Learn local culture and overcome culture shock. Make new friends. Travel to different provinces of China, like Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Tibet, Sichuan, Guangxi, Yunnan and etc. Have fun and enjoy life here. And research and study of course.



Grace 肖丹
School of Transnational
Law, 3L



Celia 衡喜丽

School of Transnational Law, 3L

Hometown: Xiangyang City, Hubei Province. It is an ancient city in the Three Kingdom’s Period. The most delicious food in Xiangyang is the Xiangyang beef noodles and hot, spicy crayfish.

Academic interest: Arbitration and Criminal Law.

Favorite place in Shenzhen: The Shenzhen Mangrove Seashore Ecology Park. It is a perfect place where you can enjoy shaded walks, cycling, or you can just sit and enjoy the views across to Hong Kong.

Advice for international students: Face directly towards the cultural shock. Engage more in conversations with Chinese people around you to know about Chinese lifestyle, worldview and culture. Do not simply criticize or reject Chinese culture just because it is different from your hometown culture. Try to adjust to the new environment, embrace new lifestyles and enjoy this special experience.

Hometown: Shenzhen, the young and vibrant city that PKUSZ is located in. As the world’s fastest growing city, Shenzhen has transformed from a small fishing village to China’s technology and innovation hub in just forty years. A lot of exciting stuff to explore here!

Academic Interests: Comparative study between American law and Chinese law.

Favorite place in Shenzhen: Shenzhen Bay Park. The sunrise there is especially mesmerizing. A night stroll along the bay in breezy weather is also very relaxing.

Advice for international students: Try as many Chinese dishes as possible, and don’t be afraid of the seemingly strange food (e.g. chicken feet). They are very tasty!



Karen 金霄佳

School of Transnational Law, 2L



YoYo 唐艳艳

School of Transnational Law, 3L

Hometown: Dalian, Liaoning Province, in the northeast of China. Dalian is a small beautiful seaside city. People living there are sturdy and simple. It is a good place to spend your summer vacation with your friends in China.

Academic interests: I study Anglo-American Law and Civil Law. I love Chinese civil law most.

Favorite place in Shenzhen: One of my favorite places in Shenzhen is Sea World. There are many bars and restaurants. The one I love the most is the bar called Baia. The burger there tastes good and every Saturday there is a Salsa party which begins at 10pm. Many foreigners love spending weekends there.

Advice for international students: Enjoy life in China. There are many places worth your visit. Also, make friends with Chinese students and other international students, sharing your thoughts and opinions with them. It is a great opportunity to learn about different cultures from each other. I would be very happy to share China’s amazing food and traditional cultures with you. Please do not hesitate to contact me when you need some advice.

Hometown: My hometown is located in Meizhou, a beautiful city in the east part of Guangdong province. Meizhou is the world of Hakka, one of the minority ethnicities of China. It is famous for its culture, football, and Chinese overseas. There are lots of tourist attractions, such as Yannanfei Tea Plantation, Yinna Mountain, Changtan and so on. There are also lots of delicious Hakka foods in my hometown.

Academic interests: My major is a Juris doctor in American law and Juris Master in Chinese law. My interests are primarily in corporate law.

Favorite place in Shenzhen: Xi Chong beach! Xi Chong beach is the largest beach in Shenzhen. The water is very clean there, and there are not so many people compared with Dameisha beach. You can swim there, or you can barbecue with friends there. The beach is so quiet. You can bring a bottle of beer and just enjoy your time.

Advice for international students: First, don’t be afraid to ask for help if you are really in need of it. Second, don’t be afraid of making friends with Chinese students!



Jimmy 肖远进

School of Transnational Law, 3L

Last but not least, a warm welcome to you, dear international students! Welcome to Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School, or affectionately known as Nanyan. As you begin to settle down and try to find your way around campus, University Town and beyond, we will be here to help.

It can seem overwhelming at first, even just on campus, with three universities in the University Town, two subway lines around and two urban villages surrounding the schools. Not to mention all the food you will get to eat: beef hotpot, Szechuan hotpot, tacos, dimsum, bubble tea (lots of them), HaiDiLao (you will find out about it soon enough) and much much more. And this doesn't even include the countless waimai options (food delivery) at your finger tips. Shenzhen is a migrant city and it is an amalgamation of the vastly different cuisines from all over China. You will also find that these cultures meet and blend in together in different corners of the city. In an urban village called Shuiwei, a taco bar is right in between a local barber shop and a beef noodle store. Right across it is an Italian bar/bistro surrounded by a hardware shop and a grocery store both ran by villagers. Such is the beauty of urban villages and Shenzhen.

We at the Nanyan Observer will help you make the best out of your time in China and become immersed in the wonderful food, culture, and people!



Restaurant Review: Bionic Brew

by Nathan Faber



Feeling the heat of the summer? It can be the most punishing season of the year here in Shenzhen. Nevertheless, you have made it this far and the chances are you have something to celebrate---maybe it is finishing up the final week of a thankless internship, a reunion with friends, making it through step one of The National Judicial Examination, or finally settling into your new home here at Nanyan after a long flight and an even longer visa application process. So get your old friends and your new friends together and consider making your way over to Bionic Brew in Baishizhou because a good celebration calls for a good beer.

Bionic Brew was founded 4 years ago by an American brewer in Shenzhen. As the name suggests, the bar was a bit of an experiment. In 2014, with an exploding tech industry, growing startup culture, and plenty of young universities, the question was simple: Wasn't it time to establish Shenzhen's first craft brewery?

Thankfully for us here at PKU Shenzhen, founder Joe Finkenbinder decided on Baishizhou in the Nanshan District of Shenzhen as the location for this great experiment. It is only 5km from campus, about 40min on the 43 bus from the Harbin Technology University bus stop, and positioned in the middle of one of the best night streetfood markets you're going to find in the city.

The setup is really straightforward. Bionic Brew wants to serve the best Chinese beer you can find in Shenzhen, or anywhere else, in a casual setting. It is a small space with three or so tables and a completely exposed front entrance where more seating spills out into the food street. Being Shenzhen's first brewery (and a mighty fine one at that) there are always customers, but there is never a shortage of available seating. They brew their own delicious beer made from world-class ingredients, the most popular of which is called Bionic Ale. In China, we may get used to the cheap 15-20RMB domestic beers, but considering the quality of this beer, it's hard to complain about the 40RMB price tag. The selection is limited to ten beers on tap and a few different bottles. However, you never feel the need for more choices because there are new options each time you go. Out of all the beers on tap the evening I visited, three were made by Bionic Brew and the rest were from craft breweries around China. There were very appealing selections from Beijing, Nanjing, and Dongguang.

I normally feel like supporting the local brewery so that made my first choice easy, the Bionic Ale. This is a great choice, especially for those that are looking to enjoy a refined beer but don't have a strong preference yet for what kind of beer they most enjoy. There is a balanced presence of both hops, a dried flower that gives a distinctive bitter and floral quality to craft beer, and malted barley, a dried cereal grain that gives beer an earthy, caramel color and taste. The Bionic Ale isn't very bitter, and the dark tan color complements the caramel-vanilla hints of sweetness that you taste when sipping the beer. I see why it has become a favorite in a city that is just developing an audience and community for craft beer; it carries the flavor and body (or feel) elements that make



craft beer special without pushing any extremes. And I'm not too ashamed to say that of course alcohol content is an important factor for some of us spending a little extra money on a beer---at 5.6% it is certainly respectable.

For my next choice, I had to go with something a little more fresh and unique so I chose the Osmanthus Ale by Master Gao Brewing. Master Gao Brewing hails from Nanjing and seems to specialize in using distinctive Chinese flavors to create beers that subtly and tastefully proclaim their homeland. My first taste of the Osmanthus flower was when I had the famous guihoa green tea from Guilin (a city named after the Osmanthus flower). I have been hooked ever since, but it is a delicate flavor that needs to be used with extreme care. The Osmanthus Ale was a light and cloudy beer with a small head (the frothy foam top). The brilliance of this beer is its sourness which makes it incredibly crisp and refreshing in the muggy heat of Shenzhen. The sourness also gives a nice background for the key flavor, the Osmanthus flower, to be appreciated without seeming like an unnecessary or cheap device for expressing 'Chinese characteristics'.

As for food, NYPD pizza can be purchased at the bar. However, I highly recommend making a trip down any of the four food streets that are right around the bar. Honestly, there should be a whole other review around the food in this area because there's tons to try. I will just say it is exactly what you want for street food in China and the prices are cheaper than most other areas of the city. Don't miss the one street that is more like a night market in the style of Taiwan's famous Shilin market, but less crowds. When eating, switch back to the typical Chinese beers.

Part of Bionic Brew's mission is to help introduce bolder and more diverse flavors to consumers who are accustomed to light beers (that pair great with Chinese food) but are new to craft beer. They take pride in making sure that whenever there is a curious customer eager to learn something about their beers or the industry in general, there is a knowledgeable and friendly staff person to chat with. Sitting for an evening at Bionic Brew you are sure to see the regulars pass through who have enjoyed the beer since its opening, as well as curious first-timers. As a novice beer drinker myself, I learned a lot in conversations with the Canadian bartender, who then swiftly transitioned to fluent Chinese to introduce beers to a group of new customers who fired back more probing questions. The whole exchange: me sitting there with my Osmanthus Ale, samples being passed around by curious but discerning Chinese customers, a passionate bartender who had his own hand in creating the product, all in the middle of a mecca for local street food, made a few of his words stick out in my head: "It's Chinese beer. It's not about who is making it---whether it is a foreigner or not. It is made in China for Chinese people. It's Chinese beer."

Is there a better way to send off the summer and bring in the school year than enjoying some of that?

Our Top 5 Shenzhen Escapes

by Dominika Mindekova

New and returning students welcome! For your own sake, stick this piece on your desk, board, or another place for super important stuff that you want to come back to in the future---you will need it sooner or later. Coming to a new city can be exciting and refreshing, especially after a couple of years studying as an undergrad or going through a daily work routine. As for exchange students, this is time to enjoy every minute of your brief stay. We are all trying to get 100% out of our experience and leave PKUSZ with many wonderful memories which we can cherish for the rest of our lives. But, with keeping up with the daily chores, attending classes, and being around the same crowd, life in Shenzhen will make you a little restless at times. Annoyed by the same food on campus? Feeling like the classes are getting the best of you? Not so happy to see a few of those classmates on a daily basis? When that happens remember to pull out this list and take a break to recharge!

Being one of the countries with the most geographical and cultural diversity in the world, China has a thousand places worth seeing. Not to mention, Asia offers endless opportunities for exploration. But often the time and budget are not in our favor. We are, however, in a prime location which offers many possibilities for a quick getaway. Here is the list of five places to go to take a deep breath and have a break from your life in Shenzhen.

1. Guilin (桂林)

For a quick but memorable getaway, there is nothing like going to Guilin. Though it's located in the neighboring province of Guangxi, Guilin is very reachable thanks to the high speed trains (3 hours). In Guilin, you are facing many choices about how to spend your day. You can head to the rice terraces or take a boat ride to Yangshuo or just explore the sights in Guilin (Sun & Moon pagodas; Red Flute Caves are a must). The city sits along the Li River, and it is widely known as one of the most beautiful areas in China.

2. Dapeng Fortress (大鹏古城)

Close to Shenzhen, the nearly 600 years old fortress of Dapeng is a true escape from the scenery of the city. If you want to see some history and feel like you're in a different era, definitely make the journey. You need to first take the subway and change for line 5 at the Xili station and continue until Yijing station where you will change for a bus heading for Dapeng.

3. Kaiping's diaolou (开平碉楼)

To get to Kaiping you will first need to take the bus from Shenzhen and be there in 3.5 hours. The most praised sight is definitely the Zili village Diaolou where you can find barbacans built by local overseas Chinese to protect their property. The towers are an interesting mix of foreign and Chinese architecture situated in open space that does not fit into the general idea of what an old Chinese building traditionally looks like. Still, they are just breathtaking and definitely an unexpected sight. For quicker transportation, take a taxi from the station (around 600 Y but can be negotiated) and get the tour around different diaolou for the whole day.

4. Huizhou (惠州)

A 30 minutes ride by speed train from Shenzhen North station, Huizhou is a town known for its West Lake (same name as the lake in Hangzhou) where the famous Song dynasty writer Su Dongpo got inspiration for his work. Then you can continue to the Gao Bang mountain where you can try the local honey and slow down for a cup of tea before "climbing" the mountain (it's really a hill). Once you make it to the peak, you can enjoy a lovely pagoda and a view of the Huizhou city.

5. Hong Kong – Lantau

Lantau Island is actually the largest of all the islands in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Even though you feel very removed from the insane urban environment of Hong Kong, Lantau is still packed with tourist attractions. The most popular is of course Hong Kong Disneyland, which has already completed many parts of its massive expansion, which includes Marvel, Frozen, and Moana attractions. Lantau also holds the Ngong Ping 360 cable car, which provides you an amazing photo taking opportunity and drops you off at the base of Hong Kong's famous big Buddha. For those looking to avoid these tourist attractions, there is Tai O fishing village. Famous for its delicious food and unique stilt houses over the water, it is a beloved cultural area of Hong Kong---if you are really looking to go all out, stay or eat at the gorgeous Tai O Heritage Hotel, which was awarded a Cultural Heritage Conservation award by UNESCO.

Tik Tok: The new national obsession

by Wandong Yang



In this age of smartphones, more often than not you will find people walking on the streets or sitting down in a café always looking down at their phones, swiping or typing away. However, nowadays if you walk past someone who’s smiling or laughing at their phone, more often than not they are watching short videos on Tik Tok (抖音) .

You might ask, what is 抖 音 ? To put it simply, it’s a combination of Music.ly and Vine plus a whole bunch of new features that are bound to keep you captured. In fact, browsing through Weibo (刷 微 博) for hours is no longer the thing to do (刷 抖 音) has quickly and overwhelmingly replaced Weibo as the way to pass time on train rides and queues.

If you are an international student trying to find out what’s trending online, or why are your Chinese classmates are all humming one addictive tune, you should definitely check out Tik Tok. More often than not the jokes or songs they are talking about come from this app. Language barrier is not too hard to overcome because a lot of the videos don’t even involve someone talking. Quite a number of foreigners have also found Tik Tok and started to create content, such as 15 second language crash courses or just doing what’s trending on the app.

Why is it so addictive? Users young and old alike have complained that once they open the app it’s impossible to stop until at least two hours later. One reason it is so hard to stop swiping up for more videos is probably because the way the app is designed. There is literally no end when you start swiping down for more videos. Moreover, each video is 15 seconds (although more popular uploaders can apply to get longer uploads), so you won’t feel how time passes.

The contents in Tik Tok varies from singing, to lip-syncing, techniques with the camera, dancing, and just talking. The search page also displays trending #s, some of them even made it onto Youtube as users compiled certain challenges and uploaded them onto Youtube. One such trending hashtag is the “Karma is a bitch” challenge. Using a sound clip from the drama Riverdale saying “Karma is a bitch”, millions of users upload their before and after make-up and dress-up video, making the transition by throwing a towel or bedsheet over the camera and then revealing their full-on make up and clothes. The Fine Bros on Youtube even created an episode of Youtubers React to this challenge.

Surprisingly, Tik Tok has also become an unexpected way for certain shops, cafes and places to become internet-famous (网 红) overnight. In Shenzhen, a bar in Coco Park with the entrance disguised as a fridge with drinks became internet-famous after several short videos on Tik Tok revealed how to enter the bar became trending. Restaurants hidden in alleys, cafes with great photo taking spots,

sceneries undiscovered by the majority all became famous through Tik Tok, with videos receiving more million likes per video. On my weekend trip to Changsha, Hunan, a road-side stall selling sausages had the Tik Tok Check-in sticker. A long line followed as people chattered and waited with their phones out, presumably taking short videos on Tik Tok and “checking-in” into this place.

Not only places, people are also getting internet famous very rapidly through Tik Tok, for all sorts of reasons. Some are pure good looking (lots of them), some take on the comedian role, while some display their talents. In a good way, many people who are in less well-known places, less accessible to the public even, or professions less exposed to people are gaining attention. For example, a monk in Tibet takes you to the temple he lives in, while traditional Chinese opera actresses teaches you how to make expressions in their world of art. You can even get tips on losing weight healthily from the many gym trainers that have appeared on Tik Tok.

Other platforms have also picked up trends that Tik Tok started. If you search “抖音同款” on Taobao, all sorts of items will be listed. Ranging from phone cases, to mops (yes, you read it right),

However, issues have surfaced as well. Just recently, a short video of a girl grooving to the lyrics “Gucci Gucci Prada Prada” went viral. Not long after that, the video was deleted (after millions of likes). The girl in the video, named Wen Wan, was rumored to be underage, and apparently had a terminated pregnancy, drug abuse problems, and went to the club regularly. It seemed that she also commented before that “there was no use in going to school, because having money alone was enough”. It was never verified, but the video was removed anyway, for “having bad influences and corrupting moral values “on the viewers. This incident brought forth the issue of Tik Tok’s lack of content filtering and received much debate online.

Tik Tok has also launched international versions in Korea, Japan, and much of Southeast Asia, with much success. It has reportedly covered more than 150 countries, topping the app store charts of more than 40 countries, according to App Annie. During its quick advance into the international market, the same issue of content censoring surfaced and has resulted in Indonesia banning Tik Tok for a short period of time in July for having “contents inappropriate for young people”.

My personal experience with Tik Tok is that there are an alarmingly large number of people who are good looking. A quick dance or trending hashtag challenge from them will guarantee millions of likes in the blink of an eye. With Tik Tok’s users being mainly young adults or underage students, it is very easy to mistake “good looking” for “easy success”.

Movie Review : Farewell My Concubine

by Sun Qing



In my opinion, Farewell My Concubine is Chen Kaige's best film. When I first watched it, I was still a junior high school student and I couldn't fully understand it. As I grow up, each time I watch it leaves me with different feelings.

The story happened in China. During the Republic of China, the situation in Beijing was turbulent. The protagonists are two actors in two Beijing opera troupes. One of the men dresses as a female character in the traditional Chinese opera, and they cooperate in performing the Beijing Opera piece Farewell My Concubine.

Dieyi Cheng, a stubborn person who does not believe in fate, falls under the fate of his feet. The first revolt against fate begins with the losing of an extra finger. The master of Beijing opera said to Cheng’s mother, “I want to take him, but he can’t perform.”

The stubborn mother does not believe, and she cuts off her son's extra finger with a knife. It drips blood but everything is starting to get better.

Entering the Beijing opera troupe, his colleagues laugh at him as the son of a niece. He angrily burned what his mother had left for him. When he is feeling lonely, Duan Xiaolou appears. The small encounter is like the unpredictable lake; it waters plants, and he desperately seized it. But he did not know that plants were only plants, after all, there will always be a day that you have to let go of them.

“I was a man, not a woman,” he sings again and again, and not once did he compromise to the knife that hit his body. But when the person that he most cares betrays and abuses him by putting tobacco bags into his mouth, he bowed to fate.

He eventually does become a superstar. When he thought it could be a lifetime of singing, Ju Xian appears, a woman he both hated and missed. She is splendid and tender, like his mother. Cheng knows that he does not have any hope, but he must go all the way. He found a baby boy by the side of the road. The master said, “Everyone has his fate, it can't be changed, let him go with him.”

After liberation, all evil forces are overthrown. Ten years later, the Cultural Revolution begins. It is not only a catastrophe of culture but also the mad disclosure of the shadowy side of the society. Under the drive of their own interests, Duan changes.

After all kinds of hardships, Cheng and Duan recommenced themselves on the stage. Cheng sang naturally "I was a man and not a woman." Unfortunately, he sings wrong again and commits suicide after, only to leave Duan stranded.

Fate is the most difficult thing to ponder. We can only ask questions about it, but are completely unable to answer them.

The (Unofficial) Chinese Corner	
吃瓜群众 ch ī gu ā q ú n zh ò ng	Refers to people who are not involved with a certain matter and are only observing from the side. Usually applies to events that happened on the internet. Literally means the crowd eating watermelon (because they are standing by the side and it is none of their business). e.g. This war between the fan clubs of the two stars is none of my business but I want to observe from the side. 两位偶像的粉丝开始撕啦，吃瓜群众已经就坐。