

A) Program of study

Exchange students at Tongji are enrolled in the university's School of Economics and Management. The school offers a variety of courses in English at the undergraduate level. The full course list, including detailed syllabi can be retrieved at:

http://sem.tongji.edu.cn/semen/?page_id=6663

Personally, I am enrolled in 5 courses:

- Chinese: 6 hours per week. Written midterm, final examination, homework, and in-class participation are all components of the final grade.
- Capital Markets Analysis: 1.5 hours per week. Course grade composed of: attendance, group work, midterm, and final individual project.
- Private Equity and Venture Capital in China: 1.5 hours per week. Course grade composed of: attendance, case studies, and final individual project.
- E-Commerce in China: 1.5 hours per week. Course grade composed of: attendance, group work, midterm, and final individual project.
- Business Negotiation in China: 3 hours per week. Course grade composed of: attendance, group work, and final group presentation.

B) Calendar of Study

The fall and winter semester at Tongji University are punctuated by the Chinese New Years festivities. Since the Chinese New Years is based on the Chinese lunar calendar the dates will vary year by year, therefore next years dates will vary from this year's. Nevertheless the calendar from this year will be attached to the email submission.

C) Upon arrival.

Before arriving in China you absolutely must download the WeChat, it is your lifeline. Taxis in China are very cheap. Student's arriving at Pudong International can choose to either take a taxi or the subway, the taxi being the less stressful option. Students shouldn't pay more than RMB150 (\$30CAD) for the ride to the campus. The students staying on residence can go directly to residence where the staff will accommodate them and let them into their dormitory. The following day (or day after if arriving early) the SEM will have a welcoming and informational session on campus where students can learn about all the steps for setting up their life in China. The most important three I will repeat though, and they must be done in this order:

First. Getting a sim card and Chinese phone number. There is a China Unicom store on Campus which will get you a fantastic deal on cell service. \$40 CAD got me 6 months of coverage with 1GB of mobile data perday.

Second. This is the most important step, getting a chinese bank account. Any of the banks around Tongji's campus can serve foreign students but I had a particularly good service from China Merchant's Bank which is just across the street from the SEM building A. If they are not too busy they can set up WeChat pay for you otherwise find a foreign student to do it for you, this is basically the most convenient technology ever and you'll be able to live cash free with it, you will also need it for the next step.

Third. Getting your metrocard. If you took a cab from the airport you probably don't have one of these yet. Once you have your wechat pay set up it's very simple to get a metrocard. You simply go down into any metro station and find a metro card dispensing/refill machine. Select english -> issue card and follow the instructions from there on. I would recommend putting RMB50 (\$10CAD) at a time on the card as this will buy you 10-12 trips on the subway.

Beyond this you can follow the departments instructions to get a student card so you can eat at the cafeterias (there are 7 and they're great). As far as social activities there are far too many things to mention, with a population of 25 million there's no shortage of things to do, see, and experience in Shanghai. I would be glad to advise outgoing students directly on this.

D) Budget

I will outline this section assuming the students have not received CLIC funding. I will elaborate these things further on.

- Residence : Approx: RMB3500/Month on campus
- Food : ~RMB50/Day (you can go lower or a lot higher however)
- Travel : Round trip from Ottawa to Shanghai cost me \$1750 CAD.
- Shanghai transit: ~RMB120/Month

Leisure expenses will vary depending on the amount of going out and travelling you do.

E) Application Process

I have attached the application guide provided by Tongji which was more than sufficient

F) Housing

Housing on campus at Tongji is quite reasonably priced and reasonably comfortable by chinese standards, costing around RMB3500/Month. Housing off campus has quite a huge range, Tongji's international students office can assist with a real-estate agency should you not be able to get on-campus accommodation.

H) Recommendations

WeChat is everything you really need to survive here. Apply for the CLIC program, write a convincing cover letter, and apply early. The CLIC funding makes this exchange very affordable in conjunction with Telfer's mobility scholarship.

I) A few words on my experience in Shanghai so far:

Where to begin? Shanghai is a place which is on a scale that is quite outside the Canadian experience. One cannot help but be swept up in it's relentless human tides. The sights, sounds, smells, and beauty of the place are a never ending surprise. And yet, despite the immensity of it all -- and in a uniquely Chinese way -- there is peace, stability, and order. The city is clean, despite the air not always being so, and the rhythm of life is mechanically precise. The trains arrive on time almost to the second, as do busses, something that will be sure to impress any canadian familiar with our own transit systems. The calculated chaos of the streets, once you get used to it, just makes sense and you quickly become one of the many independent notes in a thrilling symphony. Tongji University itself is an impressive place, steeped in the history of Shanghai it is a true privilege to study here. The faculty and professors are as hospitable as they are knowledgeable and the campus is renowned for its beauty. The experience of living in Shanghai, travelling more widely inside the Middle Kingdom, and having access to what will soon be the world's largest economy is really of immeasurable value. For students who are considering going on exchange I would say this is an opportunity you would be foolish to not attempt to seize.