

Additional information for international students travelling to China

For our international students it is imperative that they download either WeChat or AliPay apps on to their phones to be able to pay in most shops in China.



WeChat and Alipay

WeChat is a Chinese instant messaging, social media, and mobile payment app, similar to Whatsapp and Instagram (for the social media section). It provides a variety of features including text messaging, voice messaging, broadcast (one-to-many) messaging, video calls, photograph and video sharing, as well as location sharing.



We use WeChat in our Chinese summer camps to communicate with our staff and leaders, and for our individual students within their guardian groups.

WeChat is also useful for payments. WeChat enables international users to link their credit or debit cards to the WeChat Pay platform. Once your cards are successfully linked, you can use WeChat Pay to make payments to merchants across various sectors, including dining, shopping, and transportation.

Alipay is an eWallet app which allows users store debit or credit card details to make online and in-store purchases using their phones and is a popular method of payment in China. It works as a mobile wallet-based payment method, similar to apps such as Apple Pay.



Alipay is a good alternative to WeChat, but it does not offer the messaging and social media services that WeChat uses. It is, however, an ideal eWallet app for students travelling with group leaders as part of a group.

International Communication

Whatsapp can be used in China if using your own mobile phone data, but is not accessible when using wifi. Most international travellers set up an eSIM for their phones before they travel to China and these work well. We recommend that you purchase an eSIM and set this up before you travel.

Some popular websites are not available to access in China. These include many social media sites such as Facebook, X, YouTube and Instagram, as well as search engines, news and productivity sites Google, New York Times, Dropbox and Microsoft OneDrive. To access these websites in China, you will need to download/install a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to your device(s) before travelling to China. VPN's vary in cost and speed of access but include ExpressVPN and NordVPN. While Embassy Summer does not endorse any particular VPN's we do recommend you install one on your device if you wish to access certain sites while in China. However again, if you are using your own mobile phone data and not using wifi then a VPN will not be necessary.



Important additional information for those taking flights in China



Battery restrictions on flights

Since June 28th, 2025 all electronic devices containing batteries, backup batteries and power banks are restricted on flights in China, following the Civil Aviation Administration of China's (CAAC) safety rules.

- Devices with lithium batteries and portable chargers, batteries and power banks are not allowed in checked luggage.
- Portable chargers, batteries and power banks with a capacity of less than 100 watt-hours are allowed in hand luggage only if they have a visible Chinese 3C (CCC) safety certification mark.
- Each passenger is allowed to carry no more than two portable batteries or power banks with a capacity between 100-160 watt-hours.
- Devices with lithium batteries, backup batteries and power banks with a capacity above 160Wh are strictly prohibited and will be confiscated.
- Devices, batteries and powerbanks with an unspecified capacity (including illegible or damaged labels) are not allowed on the flight.

Lithium batteries are usually used in notebook PCs, mobile phones, power banks and digital cameras.

Please note that while these regulations are 100% enforceable for all domestic flights in China, some airlines will enforce the rules for flights in to China and travellers may lose their electronic devices when departing China to return home. Power banks with the Chinese 3C (CCC) safety certification mark can be purchased in China if required.

Power Sockets in China

Key Information for China Power Sockets:

Plug Types: Type A, Type C, and Type I.

Voltage: 220V (50Hz). Devices from 110V countries (US/Japan) need a voltage converter if they are not dual-voltage.

Best Adapter: A universal travel adapter that handles Type I (three flat pins in a triangle) is recommended for maximum compatibility, though Type A (two flat pins) works in many sockets.

Frequency: 50 Hz. While voltage matches many regions (e.g., UK), the 50 Hz frequency may affect some 60 Hz devices.

Socket Compatibility: Many outlets in China are designed to accept both Type A (parallel flat pins) and Type C (round pins) simultaneously.

