

I went on the Fall 2015 exchange term to Renmin University of China (RUC). I was admitted to the Business Management () faculty, and my stay was between September 2015 to December 2015.

Preparation for exchange

Since I was born in China and hold a Chinese passport, preparation for the trip was relatively easy. I did not need to apply for a visa nor study permits. SFU and RUC did not send a detailed list on what to bring, but I find everything common sense and self-explanatory. There is no need to bring bedding (bed sheets, quilt, pillow, etc.) as the school provides each student with a complete set. It is collected and washed every two weeks, but you can wash them on your own if you find that more sanitary. Don't pack too many clothes, as closet size is very limited, unless you plan on throwing some out during your stay. Many of the daily necessities that you usually use are very cheap and easily available online or in supermarkets (there are several convenience stores on campus, one supermarket right across from the east gate, and you can always purchase items online and have them delivered to campus). I would suggest bringing just basic items and the rest could be purchased in China. Two large suitcases and at most one carry-on would probably cover everything you will need. There are numerous bus lines near campus. Subways (line 4 and line 10) are also within walking distance. Taxi fares are not expensive either, but it might be hard to get one during rush hours (you can download apps like Uber to help you). I would suggest taking a shuttle bus then hitch a taxi instead of using public transportation to get to the campus from the airport, because normally buses and subways can be crowded and it would be hard to commute carrying luggage. The school demands dormitory fees to be paid in cash only, so I had to rush to the bank (there is one right across from the east gate and one on campus) to withdraw 5000. I would suggest bringing some cash with you so you wouldn't have to go to the bank last minute. All scholarship and financial

aids are transferred under Bank of China, so if you are qualified for those, RUC will require you to have an account under Bank of China. Otherwise, I think it is up to your choice which bank you want to have an account opened. Credit cards are handy, because they can be linked to your cellphone and apps like Wechat can transact payments (taxi fares, restaurant bills, etc.). If you understand

Mandarin and knows how to use those apps, I would suggest you opening a Chinese credit card. The cost of living is relatively cheaper compared to Vancouver. Dorms are

During Exchange

At orientation and registration, you will get your identity and document checked, pay 300 (around \$60) for insurance, and in the afternoon you will get your student card photo taken. The student card can be activated at the IT centre, and can then be used to pay for meals on campus, entering the library (sadly, exchange students are not allowed to borrow books from the library, you

members of my severely bitten legs. I had to accept another used one from some other student's room, which was not sanitized nor cleaned before the term. I was really frustrated and disappointed at first, but after realizing that those rigid policies cannot be changed no matter what, therefore there is no need to protest but to adjust, I gradually accepted what's been offered to me and tried to make the best out of them. I learned to endure in those environments, and made friends with students from all over the world. My roommate is Japanese, and I had a lot of fun talking to her about Japanese culture and trends. I wish I knew somebody on campus so I wouldn't be too clueless on my first few days (the school did assign a buddy to me, but sadly he never showed up, plus, all those buddies are freshman students, so they knew no better than us about the campus). I would advice future exchange students to attend the networking event at SFU, so you can make friends with students going to the same school. Also, don't focus too much on schoolwork, since grading is relatively high and GPA is not transferred. You could try finding an internship, or