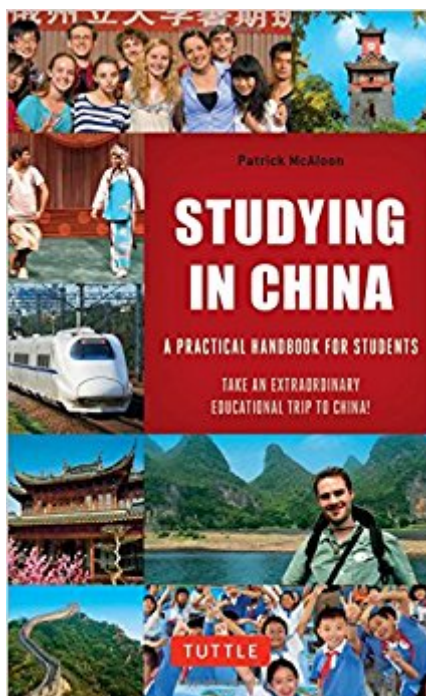


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# Studying In China: A Practical Handbook For Students



## Synopsis

"China is changing faster than any other nation on earth today. Written by a Chinese language teacher and a travel professional who works with students in China all the time, *Studying in China* is an invaluable resource for Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) Newsletter. A visit to China can change your life. Would you like to study in China, but are not sure what you will find there? A trip to China to live, work or study promises an amazing, life-changing experience in the most historically and culturally fascinating nation on earth. Find all the information you need for your educational experience abroad in *Studying in China*. China is changing faster than any other nation on earth today. Written by a travel professional who works with students in China all the time, *Studying in China* is an invaluable resource that tells you: What to pack that you won't find over there How to arrive at your destination and settle in safely How to make your Chinese instructors happy How your day-to-day experiences will unfold once you are there How to get the most from a limited stay Author Patrick McAloon is a co-founder of SinoConnect, a firm that connects students of all ages with educational opportunities in China and the United States. He has been helping students prepare to study in China for 15 years. Having conducted hundreds of study abroad seminars, McAloon is uniquely qualified to supply students going to China with the latest up-to-date information on how to study abroad. Ready yourself for this experience can be daunting, and *Studying in China* makes it easy from start to finish. Prepare to make new friends in your classes and while traveling around China, but first learn how to avoid common pitfalls and mistakes. Being an international student in China can be a life-changing experience. Don't take our word for it. Read this book and go study in China!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Studying in China is the most complete advice you can get before investing time and fortune on study abroad. Here you can find what you need to know before embarking on a China study program, while engaging with the program, and then understanding better what happened after you return from the program. It may include information you do not want to know—but you really need to know it." —Galal Walker, Ph.D., Professor of Chinese in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, and the Director of the National East Asian Languages Resource Center, the Midwest US-China Flagship Program, and the Critical Language Scholarship Program, The Ohio State University

"I can't think of a more astute or engaging guide to China than Patrick McAloon. He gives you the good, the bad, and the ugly of being a foreign student in China, without the tendency to romanticize or demonize that many guidebooks are prone to. This is accurate, sensible information by an extremely accomplished and prescient author. Make sure this book is in your duffle bag or back pocket when you board your flight!" —Chris Livaccari, Upper Elementary Principal and Chinese Language Program Director, International School of the Peninsula Senior Advisor, Asia Society

"This book is a must-read for anyone who plans to study abroad in China. It is detailed, extensive, and packed with extremely useful and up-to-date information provided by someone who has first-hand knowledge and who has done substantial research in the subject. McAloon knows China well. Most importantly, he knows what China-bound individuals need to know in order to make the most out of their study in China experience. I will definitely recommend this book to my students." —Yanfang Tang, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chinese Studies, and the Director of the Chinese Studies Program at the College of William & Mary

"For both the amateur and the expert traveler to Asia, McAloon's book is an indispensable, accessible, and in-depth guide to modern-day China." —William I. Brustein, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs, Professor of Sociology, Political Science and History, The Ohio State University

"[A]n essential primer for anyone considering going to China for study—serves as a good introduction to Chinese culture for non-Chinese thinking of spending some time there—either working, studying or living. [T]he book is a manual to read before you leave and to have on hand for reference once you arrive." —About.com China Travel

"China is changing faster than any other nation on earth today. Written by a Chinese language teacher and a travel professional who works with students in China all the time, Studying in China is an invaluable resource!" —Chinese Language Teachers Association

Patrick McAloon is a Senior Lecturer of Chinese at the Ohio State University and co-founder of SinoConnect, a firm that connects Chinese people of all ages with educational opportunities in the US. McAloon has been traveling to China since 1997, when he studied at Beijing Normal University through the College of William & Mary. Following an internship in Yantai arranged by the Ohio State University and two years as a department manager in an e-commerce company in Beijing and Shenzhen, McAloon returned to the US to complete graduate degrees in Chinese language pedagogy at Ohio State. He has led many American students to China and continually receives Chinese visitors to the US, fueling his interest in cross-border exchange.

Patrick McAloon succeeded in authoring an excellent book on China as an aid to student study. This publication is one of the most comprehensive I have reviewed over the course of researching a book that I am writing on the same subject with a slightly different focus. Patrick's work provides a wealth of information on the country to include an excellent background on the country, its unique culture and many other fascinating details pertaining to the country. I have traveled extensively in the East to include China and on reflection, I wish I had discovered Patrick's book earlier. It is a must have for students headed in this direction. I highly recommend this book to students traveling to China with the intent of ensuring they get the most out of their journey. As a special gift Patrick encloses his own mapping of the country as a handbook supplement that is very well done. Posted by: Patrick D. Huff, <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/patrick-d-huff/10/300/704>

Strongly recommended!! If you're planning to go to China, this handbook will tell you what you have to know about Chinese people, culture and society. Moreover, this book is not merely a "handbook", but a big picture of China. After reading it, I realize that knowing more about a real contemporary China may help one better fit into the trip, reduce cultural discomfort and enjoy more about the amazing experience. Also, most of other books are too "academic" to directly link to a "real" and "touchable" China. But this book tells you how to handle many issues in China. If you want to have a successful and memorable experience in China, this book is an excellent choice.

As someone who has lived in China and has counseled families moving to China, I found this book an excellent resource for an American (or anyone from a western country) thinking about going to China to study, or moving to China for any reason. Not only is it very thorough, covering everything

you need to prepare for the move, the move itself, and settling in, but it gives a fabulous insight into how to get to become comfortable with Chinese culture and Chinese individuals. I especially like the way the author writes. He has a personal and relaxed style which makes the reader feel comfortable, while pre-warned about the culture challenges he is about to experience. If I knew someone considering a move to China, I would definitely recommend they read this book. If they are still uncomfortable, it probably isn't a good decision for them.

This book certainly takes the ignorance out of traveling to China, even for non-student travelers. Is any conceivable subject not addressed? And in a practical, readable, humorous way? The author gives examples from his own experiences and those of student groups he has led. The book is anything but boring, and is even quite quotable. One is taken through every process step-by-step, with Chinese characters inserted where they might be useful to show someone when you need help. Also included are pitfalls for foreigners, preconceptions of Americans on the part of Chinese (none of them good), the importance of relationships with Chinese, banquet etiquette, and on and on. Take a look at the Table of Contents on the entry, and you'll see what I mean. Enjoy!

Wow. Meticulously organized so you can easily find what you need, and well written in a light, conversational style that informs you without putting you to sleep. It's almost like having the author with you.

Good information!

Newbies to China and future study abroad students will quickly learn the acronym TIC in this book, which stands for This Is China. Studying in China has TIC down to a T. As a previous Chinese language student, I always thought travel guide culture and history sections were crammed with too much info and hard to digest. Studying in China simplifies it, puts it in smaller chunks and adds true experience and expertise to getting the most out of your study adventure in the Middle Kingdom. Living and studying in a foreign country is very rewarding but can require a lot of mental energy and adaptation. Dr. Pat McAloon provides very specific details of China life and sprinkles humor throughout that helps make light of the cultural understanding process. Some that stuck out to me were propane tanks in taxicab trunks (might be a problem for your big bag), the blind person path on a Chinese sidewalk and what a hassle to get all that information on a Beijing to Shanghai train ticket. I also really liked the explanation of the Chinese relationship words *guanxi* and

renqing. Many articles and media try to pin down what it is for the sake of better understanding Chinese relationship behavior. Dr. McAloon's take gives very basic and fundamental action steps to develop, build and maintain Chinese relationships in the short-term and long-term. For both students and business people alike, one can gain much insight into what China is today.

This is one of the most comprehensive books available for students who will be studying abroad in China. As a study abroad advisor, I am comforted by the fact that my students who will read this book will be completely prepared for their time abroad. The most impressive thing is that Patrick McAloon is able to make 304 pages (which these days is hard to get students to read) is laid out in a very easily comprehensible way and is a very quick read despite its density. Students studying abroad don't often think of the intricacies that come with things such as buying a plane ticket from home to a smaller city in the host country. However, Mr. McAloon breaks that down and talks about the pros and cons of purchasing one type of ticket versus another, things the students would have never thought of on their own. This book also tells you how to travel, what to bring with you, how to handle customs, and is accompanied by pictures to help the reader understand and be comforted in the process. Any concern a student studying in China or even someone simply traveling to China has is covered in this book. I strongly recommend it to everyone planning on spending time in China.

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