

COUNTRY FACT SHEET

China

2016

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I. CHECKLIST

1. To do before the return

- prepare the following documents.
Valid passport
 - Degree certificate and diploma gained abroad (certified originals)
 - Certificate of Study abroad issued by the local Embassy
 - Resident certification
- Get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey
- No vaccinations are required to (re-)enter China. But the vaccinations record obtained abroad should be brought back for the reference of the local doctor.

2. To do immediately after the return

- go to the local police station to get a new ID card, if the old one is expired or lost
- resume or participate in the national social insurance scheme, including health care insurance
- contact services assisting with the search for jobs and housing
- apply for child care, schools or other educational institutions
- contact the IOM Office in Beijing for AVRRE assistance available

II. HEALTH CARE

1. Health care system

a. General information on the health care system

China's basic medical insurance scheme is composed of the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban Employees, the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban Residents, the New Rural Cooperative Medical care and the Medical Relief in Urban and Rural Areas.

- Basic Medical Insurance for Urban Employees
 - Covers all employees, including employees of enterprises, institutes, NGOs etc.
 - Cost share: generally, the employer pays 8% of the monthly salary and the employee pays 2%. The retired are not required to pay.
 - Funds collected under this insurance consist of a mutual assistance account and the personal accounts. The personal account is used to cover outpatient expenses and part of the hospitalization costs. The mutual assistance account is mainly used to pay hospitalization costs and part of the outpatient expenses for major diseases. The ceiling for reimbursement is six times the local average yearly salary.
- Basic Medical Insurance for Urban Residents
 - Covers all non-urban employees who have residence in urban areas, including students, children and the unemployed.
 - Local governments make their own policies on the reasonable premium to contribute based on the local economy situation.
 - There is no personal accounts under this insurance. The funds are mainly used to cover the hospitalization costs and part of the outpatient expenses for major diseases. The reimbursement rate is up to 75 % since 2013.
- New Rural Cooperative Medical Care
 - Covers all residents in rural areas.
 - Subsidized by the central and local government. Individuals only pay a very small amount, such as CNY 20, in some areas.
 - The reimbursement rate is up to 75 % since 2013.
- Medical Relief in Urban and Rural Areas
 - Funded by the government.
 - Covers the poverty-stricken population who has no means to participate in the basic medical insurance and people who are insured but cannot afford the expenses which should be shouldered by the individual.
 - The person seeking assistance shall: submit a written application for urban medical

assistance to his community or villagers' committee and fill out the application form and provide supporting documentation such as ID cards, medical certificates etc. China's basic medical insurance scheme could be supplemented by the private medical insurance, which is easily accessed if people call the insurance companies.

b. Access

- Depending on the status of residence and employment etc., people who return to China without a medical insurance, could resume or participate in the insurance plan applicable.
- Unemployed returnees need to go to the social insurance management center to register with ID and residence booklet. If the returnee has a job, his/her work unit will apply the insurance together. The cost will be shared between employer and employee. Generally, people will get the medical card and can claim the expense in 1~3 months.
- The returnees may also consider the private medical insurance as a supplementary.
- Children with urban registered permanent residence can be covered by the Basic Medical Insurance for Urban Residents. Schools and kindergartens organize their students' participation to the medical insurance. Children who are not enrolled in school/kindergarten can apply at the urban residential committees. Children with rural registered permanent residence can be covered by the New Rural Cooperative Medical Care. Parents can apply through the village committee for their children. The premium to pay varies from city/town to city/town, but is on a relatively low level. For example, for Beijing, the cost is CNY160 per year per child in 2015. For Fuzhou, the cost is CNY40 per year per child.

c. Benefits and costs

- According to statistics issued by the Ministry of Health of the Peoples' Republic of China, in the first half year of 2014, the average medical expense of outpatients was CNY 219.85 per capita.
- A real-time outpatient reimbursement system has been established in most of the cities in China. At designated health centers, the medical insurance participants swipe their medical insurance card through special readers when they see a doctor, thus speeding up treatment and payment processes.

2. Medical treatment and availability and costs of medication

a. Medical facilities and doctors

Hospitals are widely established from small towns to big cities which can provide treatment to most common diseases.

b. Procedures of admission

Returnees should go to the appointed hospital which is under the medical insurance system. He/she should take the Medicare Card if he/she is concluded in the medical insurance system in order to get partly reimbursement of medical cost. To obtain the list of local appointed hospitals, returnees can call or go to local Social Security Office or check on website.

c. Availability and costs of medication

The medication market is relatively well developed in China. Normally, needed medicines are available in the country. While the cost for locally produced medicines is relatively low, the imported medicines with specific active ingredients are very expensive.

III. LABOR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT

1. Labor market situation

a. Labor force: In 2015 additional 13.12 million people are being employed.

b. Average income

Average income in big cities per month in 2015 are as followings:

- Beijing: CNY 6688; Shanghai: CNY 6774; Shenzhen: CNY 6682.
- Average income in other cities per month: range from CNY 4000 to 6000.
- Minimum wage standard in big cities per month: range from CNY 1700 to CNY 2000.
- Minimum wage standard in other cities: range from CNY 1200 to 1700.
- Average income of agriculture population per year: CNY 10772 per capita in 2015
- Consumer price index (CPI) in December 2015: 101.6 %

c. Unemployment rate

The urban unemployment rate is approximately 4.05%.

2. Ways / assistance to find employment

a. Labor market

Recruitment is regularly organized in the local labor market. The employment agencies can also provide assistance with some necessary charge.

b. Public employment agency

Employment agencies are divided into two types: non-profit and for-profit employment agencies. The agency provides information on and policy consultation of the labor market to employers and employees; administers and maintains the record of employment, unemployment registration, etc. entrusted by the administrative department of the labor and social security bureau; provides vocational trainings and guidance to the unemployed and the disabled.

c. Recruitment websites

Employment information in different cities can be easily obtained from the websites below. Handing in the resume online will increase efficiency of job hunting:

- <http://www.zhaopin.com/>
- <http://www.dajie.com/>
- <http://www.58.com/>
- <http://www.ganji.com/>

d. Self-employment

The preconditions of self-employment include market research, location selection, financing and processing. The procedure involves industrial and commercial registration, tax registration, labor and employment, setting up bank accounts, obtaining appropriate licenses in the relevant industry and so on. The business license can be obtained at the local Administration of Industry and Commerce. The cost for such a registration is low or free of charge in some cities. Tax registration has to be done at the local Administration of Tax. It is free of charge for self-employment.

3. Unemployment assistance

Unemployment assistance targets/includes working age people who experience difficulty in finding jobs as well as those families who have no-one in the family with a job. This form of assistance is targeted at people who experience difficulty in finding jobs due to problematic health conditions, lack of skills, challenging family circumstances and who might have lost their property or land. It also includes people who have been unemployed for lengthy periods. Eligible families may apply voluntarily for registration at the local labor security institutions near their registered permanent domicile. Specific conditions and procedures for registration are stipulated by the local labor security department.

4. Further education possibilities and vocational trainings

Graduates from junior or high school seeking employment and training can undertake preparatory training ranging between 3 and 12 months long courses, enabling them to acquire appropriate professional qualifications or some vocational skills.

Training subsidy: People who find it difficult to find employment and rural laborers entering the city to work, if approved, are then assessed to identify basic vocational skills and subsequently obtain professional qualification certificates. They will be provided with one-off subsidies for such assessment and identification of vocational skills

Also local communities sometimes can provide opportunities of vocational training or some low-skill jobs. They also provide relevant employment information for the residents.

IV. HOUSING

1. Housing situation

a. Average rent, running costs/utilities (e.g. electricity, water, etc.)

China's urban per capita housing space is approximately 30m². Rents levied differ depending on location whether the housing is in certain provinces, cities or regions in China. In Beijing for example, the average rent per month is CNY 4,000 for a small, basically fitted out apartment in the central area. The rent will be comparatively lower in the remote area. In general people have to pay around CNY 80~ 100 per person in most cities for utilities cost.

b. Demand and supply

It is relatively easy to rent a house here in China. The rent in big cities is much higher than that of small city/town.

2. Ways / assistance to find accommodation

- a. **Professional real estate agent**
These agents are located everywhere and are very efficient in finding a temporary accommodation. People will need to pay the commission for the service, which is normally one month rent.
 - b. The house information on the websites below is very comprehensive and is very helpful for finding accommodations. People can deal with the landlord directly over such platforms.
 - <http://www.58.com/>
 - <http://www.ganji.com/>
- 3. Social grants for housing**
- a. **Low-rent housing program**
 - Under the low-rent housing scheme, the government may provide a house as a form of social security to families who find themselves in housing difficulties. Entitlements, the targeted beneficiaries, areas for consideration and rent standards of low-rent housing are determined by the municipal People's Government to reflect local conditions. These conditions are publicized once a year. The subsidy standard of low-rent housing construction is CNY 400/m² for the whole region. The subsidy is funded by the central government.
 - Application: The householder can submit a written application to the local residential community office or the people's government at the town level of government administration.
 - Documents:
 - proof of family income status
 - explanation of family housing status
 - Identification cards and the residence books/documents of family members
 - other references requested by municipal and county people's government administrators
 - b. **Economically Affordable Housing System**
 - Economically affordable housing refers to the houses included in national plans, wherein the government arranges the real estate enterprise or units to organise collecting funds for house-building. Then it sells the houses to urban low-income families at a low-profit price. The interior measurement of a medium sized economically affordable house is approximately 80 m² and the space of a small economically affordable house is about 60 m².
 - Documents needed for application: a) local urban registered permanent residence or approved by municipal or county people's government, b) domestic income is in accordance with the income standards, c) a household registration, d) income certificate, e) house and property titles.

V. SOCIAL WELFARE

1. Social welfare system

a. General information on the welfare system

The Social welfare system in China mainly covers the following groups:

- Senior citizens: Welfare objectives are aimed at senior citizens over 60 years of age who are unable to work, have no source of income, no alimony or allowance or whose dependents have no capacity to support them.
- Children: Orphans whose parents are dead and who have no other relatives capable of raising them, abandoned babies and children whose biological parents cannot be found by the public security agencies may come under the care of child welfare agencies, benefit from certain state benefits as well as the upbringing and care provided by the official welfare institution.

b. Access, especially for returnees

- Registration procedure for social security/insurance: The returnee needs to consult with the local social security office on the exact registration procedure that varies from city to city. After the registration, the returnee has to pay into his/her account every month.
- Required documents:
 - ID copy
 - one inch color photo (X2)
 - Residence booklet copy

2. Pension system

China's basic medical insurance scheme is composed of a Basic Pension Plan for Urban Employees and a Rural Pension Plan

a. Basic Pension Plan

- Covers all employees
- Cost share: employers shall pay 20%; whereas the employees shall contribute 80% of the premium
- Self-employed and freelancers can directly approach the local social insurance agencies to approve their participation in the pension insurance scheme. They are required to pay the cost of pension insurance from their own personal financial resources.
- Preconditions to benefit from the pension: To reach the national retirement conditions, including normal retirement, early retirement due to illness, retirement in advance due to special types of job, a continuing payment of 15 years is necessary. If the payment period is under 15 years when reaching the statutory retirement age, the personal account will be paid out to the beneficiary one-time and this will terminate entitlements to the pension insurance.
- Individuals seeking to apply for or withdrawals of the pension scheme must present a national identity card and their personal account pension insurance book at their local social security institutions.

b. Rural Pension Plan

Only some areas with financial capability have launched a Rural Pension Plan, which is shared by the local government, collective economy and individuals.

3. Vulnerable Groups

The provinces and cities in China have developed their own preferential treatment policies for minorities according to the conditions in local areas, including education, production and so on.

VI. EDUCATION

1. Educational system

General information on the system

Educational level	Age
Pre-school education	
Kindergarten	3-5
Primary level	
Elementary school	6-11
Secondary level	
Middle school (incl. junior and senior high school) Vocational high school Medium-level professional schools	12-17
Higher education	
Junior college, undergraduate and graduate education at universities, academies and colleges	from 17
Continuing education	
Adult technical training Adult non-degree higher education Anti-illiteracy education	No age limit

2. Access and registration procedure, especially for returnees

Documents needed:

- Residence booklet and copy
- Property ownership certificate and copy

3. Costs, loans and stipends

a. General information on tuition fees

Tuition fees for urban and rural areas during the 9-year compulsory education period are

completely exempt, nationwide. There are, however, general fees, book fees and other fees under the “one fee system” which are lumped together and charged by the Provincial People’s Government administration. State-owned colleges and universities charge an average of CNY 6,000-7,000 fee per annum.

b. Access and requirements to stipends and/or loans for covering tuition

- Loans: National student loans are mainly for students to meet the cost of tuition fees and accommodation. College students, students undertaking a second-degree and graduate students from economically disadvantaged families, who intend to study full-time at state-owned colleges and universities, are eligible to apply for national student loans. How to apply:
 - submit a loan application in person
 - complete the student loan application forms (in triplicate)
 - the parents’ employer or the district/countryside people’s government have to sign
- Students enrolled at higher educational schools who are linked to central ministries and who obtained student loans for the duration of their higher education, enjoy special privileges. If they are assigned on their first posting to difficult work zones where they voluntarily engage in certain front line positions and serve in the position for at least 3 years, then the student loan he/she borrowed with all accrued interest will be repaid by the state. How to apply:
 - Students need to prove they have family financial problems,
 - prove they are nationals of the People’s Republic of China,
 - prove that they are at least 16 years old and hold an identity card of the People’s Republic of China,
 - have the capacity to perform normal civil activities (minors applying for student loans should have the written consent of their legal guardian)
 - prove to be honest and trustworthy, law-abiding, with no record of violations of the law,
 - demonstrate their capacity to study diligently and be capable of completing their course.
- Stipends: National student grants are awarded to support full-time college students (including secondary vocational college students and students undertaking second degrees) if they have family financial problems. The payments fall within the range of CNY 2,000-4,000 per student each year, and they can be divided into two or three eligibility levels. The student grants are distributed to students by the colleges monthly.

4. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Is available to:

- degrees or diplomas of higher education obtained by studying formal curricula in higher educational institutions in foreign countries, Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan
- Overseas degree certificates are awarded by the Sino-foreign Cooperation institute
- Overseas higher educational diplomas awarded by the Sino-foreign Cooperation via a school project at higher junior college education level or non-degree higher education level
- To certify the overseas certificates: <http://renzheng.cscse.edu.cn>

VII. CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES

1. Reintegration assistance programs

Some IOM projects provide reintegration assistance upon return. The IOM Beijing Office could be reached for possible assistance.

2. Financial and administrative support

Local governments and residents’ committees sometimes may provide assistance to those who are in financial or other difficulties. The support varies from place to place. The returnees may approach the following agencies to find out how they could be assisted upon return.

- Local Department / Bureau of Civil Affairs
- Local resident community

3. Support to start income generating activities

Financial support or programs for returnees are not available in China. However, micro credits are available for individuals. People may consult with the banks or Urban Credit Cooperation

on such possibilities.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

1. International, Non-governmental, Humanitarian Organizations

International Organization for Migration Address: 9-1-82, Tayuan Diplomatic Compound, No. 1 Xindonglu, Chaoyang District, 100600 Beijing Tel: (86)10-8532 5268 Fax: (86)10-8532 3687 Email: liaisonofficechina@iom.int	
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2. Relevant local authorities, such as employment offices, health insurances, pension insurances, etc.

Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of P. R. China Address: No.3, Hepingli Dongjie, Dongcheng District, 100716 Beijing Tel: 12333 Website: http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/	Ministry of Civil Affairs of P. R. China Address: 147, Beiheya Dajie, Dongcheng District, 100721 Beijing Tel: (010)58123114 Website: http://www.mca.gov.cn/
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