**Introduction**

Shanghai Jiao Tong University is one of the Top 4 Universities in Shanghai. The other 3 are Fudan University, East China Normal University and Tongji University.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University abbreviation is SJTU. SJTU consists of a total of 6 campuses. Note, there are sub-colleges within the campus.

- Xuhui Campus (Business)
- Minhang Campus (Engineering)
- South Chongqing Road Campus
- Qibao Campus
- Shangzhong Road Campus
- Fahuazhen Road Campus (Economics)

Xuhui Campus is situated in the heart of Shanghai, in the bustling town area. (E.G Orchard)

Minhang Campus is situated in the outskirts of Shanghai. Remotely located like (E.G Jurong Island)

NUS students commonly pick up courses in Minhang and Xuhui. Occasionally, lessons are conducted in Fahua Campus.

There are a total of 10 metro lines in Shanghai. Purchase of a Shanghai metro card can be done at any of the stations. The deposit for each card is 20rmb. Train rides in Shanghai are averaged at 4rmb per trip. This is relatively costly as compared to rides in Beijing at 2rmb each.

Minhang Campus can be reached by alighting at DongChuan Road Line 5(Purple). After which requires a 20minute walk or a 5 minute taxi ride to the campus itself.

Xuhui Campus can be reached by alighting at Xujiahui Line 1(Red), 5 minute walk away from the metro station.

From Minhang to Xuhui and vice versa, there is a school bus available between each hour. Ride is 4rmb and takes about 40mins depending on traffic conditions. Seat priority is given to PHD and Professors. Advice is to go queue early for the bus ride. The waiting area for the bus in Minhang is at Timo Café, situated beside canteen 1. Payment can be made in cash or the tapping of SJTU student card.

Shanghai has 2 airports. Pudong International Airport and Hongqiao Domestic Airport. From Pudong (PVG) to Minhang campus by Taxi is about 250rmb in the afternoon and 350rmb in the night. The ride is estimated to be 1hour without traffic. Additional charges for expressway tolls apply (5-10rmb). Receipt for toll will be provided. When taking a Taxi, ensure that the driver knows the directions to your destination before boarding. Some Taxi drivers are not exactly sure and in the end they will waste time and money circling the location.

SJTU address is as follows:

Shanghai County
MinHang District
800 DongChuan Road
Shanghai Jiaotong University Building 8

NUS students will most likely be assigned to the International Students dormitory, either building 8 or 9.
The Taxi should arrive at a main gate which looks like a slipper from far thus its being known as slipper gate (拖鞋门). Take a right and drive pass the Bank of China atm and go straight. The Taxi should stop when you see the track on your left.

Image: Slipper Gate
Image: View of Track from the Hostel

Upon arrival at SJTU, it is important to acquire accommodation quickly. The period of arrival (Feb) is still in the winter period. Night temperatures can fall to about 7-10 degree celcius. Access to room is in a card key form. Entrance to the building is only possible through your SJTU student ID. These ID have to be registered to your building’s door access by the care-takers. Student ID can be on made the day of arrival during office hours. On the day of arrival just knock on the side door (small door) if you arrive in the wee hours. The door is facing the track. Normal entrance during opening hours is through the main door. This door is facing the bicycle stands. (Applicable to Building 8 & 9)

Dormitory water bills should be free if you are residing in building 8. Electricity is payable in the form of a hi-card system. Top-up is to be purchased from the school mini-mart (莲花 or 花莲) which is situated on the left of the track. This mini-mart is located very near to building 8. It’s like a supermarket with consumable items for students residing in the school.

For accommodation stuff refer to the following:

Check with Ms May Yee (NUS IRO) on which category you fall into (faculty or university level). Accomodation can range from free to approximately 1k SGD for the semester. Water is free to use. However, you have to pay for the electricity bills. If possible, refrain from using the air-conditioning as it is expensive. You have to go to the old admin building to top-up your credits. Or you can also purchase top-up cards from mini-marts of the housekeeper and go online to proceed with the top-up. Would be good to try both means to get familiar with it. You can subscribe for an online service where you can receive sms when your value is low, to prevent yourself from being cut off electricity. Expenses is about 50-70rmb a month with very minimal use of the air-con. There is a kitchen available in the dormitory, but not recommended to cook. It’s not economical unless there’s a lot of you cooking to share the costs. And there’s cleaning up to do too 😞 Washing machine and dryers are available at the basement. Washing is 3RMB and Dryer is 5RMB. Takes 40mins and 2hours respectively. You should purchase a
bucket and some washing liquid when you arrive for your stay. Don’t bother bringing them. When summer reach, you can just air dry your laundry outside to save money!

**Internet**

Internet service is available in the dormitory. You can purchase a cable (the blue color ones) for 5rmb in the campus and acquire the ip address from the housekeeper. Facebook is banned from most browsers. You require a vpn to access a lot of sites, NTU’s vpn works fine. If thares a will, theres a way. You can try other browsers too. I downloaded a browser called “webfreer”. It has pop-ups all the time, but it serves my needs; access to youtube and facebook, so yea.

**Electricity Matters**

Go to [http://mypower.sjtu.edu.cn/](http://mypower.sjtu.edu.cn/) for electricity administrative matters. You need to do this about once a month depending on your consumption. You can login via your student ID. Before that, you need to create a “student account” to access the school wifi. This account will also be used to access the energy website. Note that school wifi can be detected in canteens and classrooms. In the dormitories, you will use cable instead. If you want to have tethering in your dormitory, you can purchase a router to disperse the signal or if your computer has the ability to tether so you can surf the net on your phone for whatsapp without tapping on your phone data. Understand that most students/people in china use “We-Chat”. Some use “Line” too. When you create your account, specify which room you are staying in so that you can monitor that room’s electricity status.
Login with your student account and you can see the energy balances and details. Explore the website when you have the time. You can key in your local contact no so that you will receive a warning SMS when your credit is less than 15RMB.

Alternatively, you can approach the old administration building which is along the entrance of the slipper gate. It is situated beside the school security/police station. The room to do the top up is on the third level, ask around for the room to top up and pay cash for the process. This information can be acquired from your building care-taker.

Settling in Administrative Stuff

Bank Account
Setting up of a bank account in Shanghai is recommended. You have 2 options to fund your expenses in Shanghai. You can go over to SJTU and open an account. Afterwhich, inform your family to transfer SGD to this account. You have to then go to the outlet in SJTU to inform them you want to convert this SGD to RMB. Therefore, you are subjected to the exchange rate given by the bank which is normally below market rate. Secondly, you could choose to go change a lumpsum of cash in Singapore prior to your trip. Then bring this lumpsum over to SJTU and dump it into the bank the day you open your account. Basically, this is done the day or next when you arrive in Shanghai. If you are taking a cab, then you don’t need to worry, about anything. Once you reach the school just go straight to dump the money in. I did option 2 and brought about 21 thousand RMB to China. Exchange in SG was 5.07, in SJTU it was 4.85!

All you have to do at the bank is to inform the security guard there that you are an exchange student and am here to open an account. He will give you a form and circle the areas you need to fill up. If you are not sure you can ask or just leave the portions empty and enquire when you are called to the window. The trick to getting things done quickly is to speak in english and they will send a manager to
speak to you. Its relatively easy. Ensure that you get your account fixed with ibanking, works wonders for paying bills, buying stuff online. You will be given a device just like the ibanking in Singapore. Ask the bank personnals to activate your ibanking chip. The whole process should take less than 1 hour from opening of an account to your ibanking chip activation, if there is no crowd.

The location of the bank outlet is beside Canteen 4. This bank is known as the “Bank of China (BOC)”. You could try ICBC, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. It has much more Auto-Teller Machines in China.

**Additional information:**

For banking in china, the highest number of tellers is under ICBC. However, bank of china (BOC) is also alright. There is a branch in the school and you can open your account there. The entire process only requires the filling of a form, bringing your passport and yourself to the counter. A small admin fee is charged for the account and a yearly 10rmb will be charged to keep the account open. Recommended to leave it open for future business opportunities, because it is very convenient to use an account to purchase stuff online. Even air-fare! The ibanking chip is FOC just wait a little longer and ask the service personnals to assist with your activation. They will do everything for you. If possible, bring a smartphone over, one which can use most apps. An iphone 3GS/4G/4GS is useful there. You can download apps to monitor your sim card usage, ibanking, taobao...etc

**Local SIM Card**

There is a shop which sells sim cards just opposite of the Slipper gate. It is located beside a shop selling some sushi and chinese pancakes. Its easy to identify the shop as one of those that operates under the communications umbrella. For contact in the host university, you should purchase a local sim card. 80rmb gets you a sim card of 50rmb value. Check out the packages they offer, just like what you do when you purchase one in Singapore. They are all pre-paid cards. You can do top-ups online. Everything is very easily available online. The shop offers the cutting of Sim cards to Micro-Sim. Let them cut and test it before you pay. Tip to note, always get your goods check, confirm workable then pay. Don’t blur blur give them money first. Once money is received, the deal is considered complete or closed.
Take note of the circled areas on the map: (Slipper gate is the black box on the map)

**Black Circle:** Your dormitory building 8/9. They are connected together. The school hospital is situated right behind your building. Also in the black circle. So you can visit the hospital there if the need arises. However, you need to register separately for a card (7RMB) before you can do consultation there. Therefore it is advisable that you carry (medical, travel, personal insurance) before you depart to China. It is important to ensure that these 3 insurances cover your trip in total (overlap) so that you are “covered” while overseas.

**Brown Circle:** This is where the mini-mart is located at. Your electricity top-up cards can be purchased here. They are available in 50 and 100 RMB. Basic necessities are available such as shampoo, hangers, toilet rolls, stationary, Ice-Cream (thank god for $1 magnum ice-cream!), food and drinks. Basically it is like a NTUC which serves the needs of the students. But there are other mini-marts in the neighborhood which carry items that could be cheaper. Do your comparison if you want to save up. The other main stores that are frequent by students is Auchan (just beside DongChuan metro station), LianHua (Opposite the Slipper gate beside the KTV area). For the first few days, drinking water can be bought from within the school. Buy 农夫 mineral water, trademark red cap. It’s considered to be cleaner than the rest. The nestle brand one is also ok and cheaper too. For a semester, you could consider purchasing/renting a water dispenser (70RMB deposit). Water top up of 17L is available in (10-16RMB) by ordering. Deposit can be acquired when you contact the person for topping up. For this information, you can ask local students, foreign students (especially the Koreans) or the caretaker (auntie) for help.
Also, there is a fruit stall and a printing shop and an electronics repair shop just beside the mini-mart. You will frequent these shops! **Do not boil tap water to drink, it is not clean also! Buy bottled water!**

**Red Circle:** This is where the Bank of China outlet is at in SJTU. It is right beside canteen 4. Just follow my earlier instructions, and you will be well on the way to endless shopping online while in China. Singaporeans, who first visit China, are normally hooked onto [www.taobao.com](http://www.taobao.com) and [www.eleme.com](http://www.eleme.com). The first website is basically everything you can imagine of buying, but needs some caution when browsing. Try the 天猫 section for more trustworthy shops. But you have to pay slightly more. The second website is the online ordering of food. You can order anything (food) and they can deliver at any time to your dormitory. They can even deliver past midnight if you are hungry then. Both need to set up accounts, just follow the instructions. It’s straightforward and convenient!

**Purple Circle:** This is a sports/recreation facility. You can play board games ping pong and billiard on the level 2. Level 1, there is a bowling alley. Games are at 5RMB each free shoe rental. Ping pong is 2RMB/hour. Bats are available for rent at 1RMB/hour. Ball is provided. If I’m not wrong, there is a facility for Karaoke in this building. Very cheap! Good place to hang-out with new found foreign or local friends.

**Blue Circle:** This is the main sports complex. It is a little run down. There is a basketball court, lots of table tennis courts and badminton courts. Badminton can be played here. But all these courts require rental. Badminton is hot in demand so you need to book one week in advance. About 5RMB/court/hour. Table tennis is the same, but there are a lot of tables so it is easier.

**Green Circle:** If I didn’t remember wrongly, this is the place where you should visit within the first 2 days of your visit. You are to make your student ID here. It can be collected in a matter of minutes. All you have to do is pay 20RMB and a picture taken and you get your card. This card is to be used at canteens and entry to your dormitory. You cannot use cash at canteens. There are places to top-up your card, normally beside the canteen itself. Ask around for help on where to top-up. No harm putting about 200RMB into your card each time because you will use it a lot in SJTU. Meals at about 10RMB each at the canteens. Can be cheaper if you don’t consume much. Almost anything can be purchased using this card, fruits, food, drinks, ice-cream, mini-mark purchases...etc If you lose the card, you can get a replacement at the same place, I think they will save your value and return to you. Therefore, there is a daily limit for you usage in-case you lose the card. You have to save a pin or something when you make it. The library is right beside the place you make your ID. You need the ID to enter the library too. It’s damn grand.

**Pink Circle:** This is the location for workshops and offices. Mostly engineering labs and stuff. Upon arrival, students need to go to this area to report to SJTU IRO on their arrival. The module mapping advisors for engineering are also at these offices. Do look around, there’s an office which is specially for international exchange students. The officer can help and assist you. This one you gotta go do your asking.

**Additional Information:**
Upon arrival, you will check into the dormitory under a name-list. Before school begins, it is recommended that you take time to go open a bank account, register with the SJTU IRO about your arrival with your visa. Visit the faculty incharge to assist with your module selection. Prefably be able to speak fluent mandrin to smooth out the enquiry and selection process. Note that they assist with enquiry but admin application is to be carried out by yourself. Unless, you are able to smooth talk them to do everything for you. Which I highly doubt so.
**Rust Brown:** This is the location of the school security/police station and the old administration building. You can do your top-up of your electricity account here. The room is on the third level.

**Yellow Circle:** The lower one is one of the collection points for Taobao item. There is a mail delivery at this location too. Can mail stuff back to Singapore. But quite costly. The higher yellow circle is the Student service centre. Another collection point. Down here is the local post office. There is an ICBC bank outlet there also.

In the top left hand corner of the map is the new sports facility of SJTU. There is a gym, huge array of badminton halls and some table tennis courts I believe. The booking for these facilities have to be done beforehand. Not entirely sure how to go about doing it, you could explore. But the facility quite atas.

**Additional Information which is useful:**

1. Firstly, the air in China is generally bad. The PSI in Beijing is about 200 daily? Shanghai is slightly better, about 160 daily while I was there. Nothing you can do about it. Wearing a face mask does not really help because we are looking at PM 2.5 particles. Only wearing the army full face gas mask can help with the issue.
2. Exercising shouldn’t be a problem in SJTU. During winter, the most you will be playing is badminton, table tennis and bowling. During the summer, you can try jogging. Jogging around the school (inside) is about 5km. Watch out for traffic while running. Alternatively, you can run in the track just beside your accommodation.
3. Bicycles are very common in SJTU. You will see tons and loads of bicycles everywhere. You can purchase a second hand one from any of the bicycle shops that also offer repair services. Or you can ask around if anyone is selling. I had a Korean friend who actually knew which bicycles were left behind by past exchange students, and he ended up getting the locks of those bikes sawn off for us, maintained the bike a little and we had a bike for the semester. Average costs for a second hand bike is about 100-150RMB, getting a left over bike from the seniors only requires a new lock and a chain which is about 50RMB. Some friends we made, got our bicycles for free when we left. So go figure. (I got a bicycle for my birthday) Don’t steal someone’s bike! Also, don’t buy a new bike, very prone to get stolen. Even some second hand ones got stolen along the way.
4. For guys, there isn’t much need for worry while travelling around Shanghai in the night. Shanghai is generally safe. If you’ve been through the army, there’s no cause for worry. You can defend yourself if the need arises. For ladies, it is still advisable you take a taxi if you are travelling alone in the night. In the day, it is generally safe. There was one isolated case where a few Korean girls were threatened/robbed near the school area. Isolated case, so don’t panic. If you are going out for supper, you will normally go in a group. Just invite the foreigners, French and Italian guys normally enough to suffice. The European and American guys look bigger generally though they aren’t violent people.
5. Long holidays are quite common in SJTU. For example Qing Ming falls on a Wednesday; make up lessons will be move to Saturday/Sundays. Then you get like Friday-Wednesday off. Try not to skip classes, you a foreigner, the professor will take note of you one.
6. Most of the students follow through common lectures with a professor. So the professor more or less knows most of the students in the class. If you are new, which you basically are, it is good to visit the professor after the first lecture, introduce yourself and get to know him/her a little.
7. Modules taught in Chinese can be arranged to be exam in English. Your professor can try to convert your paper to English and marks it for you. Even if your module is taught in mandarin...
with Chinese notes, you have Google translate to aid you. Always put in effort to keep up, the professor will understand that it is hard for you. Most probably he/she will be lenient when marking your paper.

8. Printing of notes is easy in the school compounds. Luckily in China, they do not really enforce copyright laws. You can basically photocopy an entire book if it is too expensive to purchase one. You can also print all your work at the printing shops. One of them is located just beside the fruit stall near the track. You can also purchase foolscape for your studies from the mini-mart.

9. Generally, you will not fail your modules. Unless you play truant all the way. If you attend all your lectures, do what’s required and study moderately for your exams, you confirm pass. The passing mark is 60/100 in SJTU. If the professor fails you, they will have to write a report for you. So go figure 😊

10. Singaporeans are very “useful” in the hostel. Foreign students will rely on your help to translate stuff to the caretaker. Your command of bilingualism is an extremely powerful tool during your exchange. You most probably will gain overnight fame. There will be whole lot of students in building 8 and 9 from all over the world. Most can’t speak mandarin at all; some can only speak broken English.

11. Try to make friends with everyone. There is a huge population of South Korean students who are in SJTU for the long haul. They are usually there since secondary school till University graduation. So their command of Chinese is relatively good or even better than yours. They will be interested to communicate in English with you though. Getting to know them is like making friends with someone who can help you loads through your stay there. They can offer you directions in the school or even bring you on short travels.

12. Use this opportunity to make as many international friends as possible. Most probably they can host you when you visit their countries. I did that when I visited Hong Kong. It’s a really fun experience 😊

13. Travelling in China is basically simple. You can purchase maps when you reach a new place. Maps are often sold at the metro stations by a lot of peddlers. Just be sure to get the lowest prices. Approx 2RMB for a map.

14. Train tickets can be easily purchase online. Booking of accommodation can be easily done by phone calls and payment upon arrival. Try to strike trustworthy relationships with these places as you never know if you will visit twice.

15. Booking of train tickets can be done at http://www.12306.cn/mormhweb/ make sure you have ibanking and can make payments online. Seats are available in hard, soft, hard sleeper and soft sleeper seats. If you have any enquiries regarding travelling, do feel free to contact me directly for more information.

16. Remember that you are only travelling to China for a semester of studies. You don’t really have to bring everything, or you will overload your baggage. Consumables can be easily purchase and affordable in the mini-marts there. Most probably, your parents will visit you while you are there. Take this opportunity to send back as much as possible, because you will most probably buy a lot there. July is the beginning of the sale period. All brands will go into major sales. A t-shirt in H&M Singapore can cost 30SGD while it costs only 10SGD or even lesser in China. It’s from the authentic boutique, don’t worry, it’s real.

17. You can calculate your expenses prior to your departure to China. Estimate 10RMB for all meals. High estimates lead to about 50RMB each day. So if you are going for 6 months, 6x30x50 = 9k RMB. Estimate only, so you should go on a higher side, because when you are in town, you can easily spend 100RMB a day on food and travel.

18. Ensure that you understand your insurance policies prior to your departure. Read up on your clauses and know the coverage. There is an issue that will affect all insurers, upon arrival in
China; you will only be medically covered for a total 90 days in the same country. To continue coverage, you need to exit and re-enter the country. So really pray hard that you don’t fall ill after 90 days.

19. If you intend to exit China once after entry, you should note that your visa is entitled to a single entry. However, you could call up SJTU IRO and seek advice on how to apply for a special exit permit. It is possible for one to leave the country and re-enter again. One of the NUS students visited Europe for 2 weeks less than a month into his exchange.

20. There are a couple of really good restaurants around the school neighborhood. Most probably after one month you will chiong out to have meals regularly. Take note of the following restaurants:
   
a. 兰州炒饭 Muslim fried rice stall, different style of cooking (beside the SIM card shop)
b. 大学路 Korean stall (cross the road turn left and walk down. Really cheap. The Koreans will probably bring you there)
c. 九州拉面 Japanese ramen shop (cross the road, turn right walk all the way down pass family mart then turn left after the barber. Quite far out)

The rest of the Chinese restaurants all can try. The food they serve 东北菜 not bad one. Note that there is a Singaporean shop along the way to 九州拉面. Very easy to spot one, the signboard got one Merlion. The boss is Singaporean 😊 Shop is just on the left of the barber shop. There are a lot of BBQ pushcarts that will appear at around 8-late. You can try the food, all not bad one. In china already, dare to try the street food at least once. We totally loved it and frequent every single week. Go explore all the restaurants! There’s a BBQ buffet within 10mins from the school. 6 months for you to wack all the good food, each meal probably cost about 25-30RMB.

21. Just words of advice, if you consume food in your room, make sure you don’t leave food unattended or open. Always remember to empty your waste basket if there’s like food leftovers, fruit peels and stuff. During winter, you will not get “unwanted” visitors. But when summer arrives, if you do not have good cleanliness habits, you might invite rats! One of our guys spotted a rat in his room, in the end he took 1 week off school campus to stay in a hotel, and engaged pest exterminators. He basically leaves food packages all over the place in his room, asking for it one. So yea, nothing to worry if you are a clean person.

22. Don’t buy fake electronics online on www.taobao.com can be very tempting with the prices but don’t. Confirm got problem one. One girl bought a fake S3 then a lot of problem until she cannot tahan. So don’t try. You should do some research before going over to China 😊

23. There’s a lot of shopping that can be done. A lot of sightseeing also in Shanghai. Try to get hold of a lonely planet book for Shanghai and do some reading before you go over. Always check market rates before you actually make purchases. There are a lot of scammers around China in general, don’t be a victim to unnecessary/avoidable heartaches.
Module Mapping Issues

For the list of SEP coordinators go to http://www.nus.edu.sg/iro/sep/out/before/sepcontacts.pdf

- It is important for you to find out who to approach to for the endorsing of your module mapping
- Module mapping should be briefly done prior to your departure to SJTU (no need so exact and detailed but at least get a list of your modules approved and endorsed before departure)
- If you have a list of modules available in SJTU and it matches the one in NUS or might be able to match, you can send an email to the host university professor to enquire more on the module prior to your mapping (doubt they will reply also, unless you type in mandarin and they are free to reply)
- You can attempt to purchase a phoenix card to call to China and enquire, but it is only going to be minimal help
- You can map excess modules just in-case the module you want is not available in the semester that you are on exchange
- There are many strategies to module mapping, you can arrange for your hardest modules to be cleared while you are on exchange or you can map all the easy ones like gems and take an internship while you are there (make your SEP experience a NOC one too!)
- The modules that you map in Singapore generally will be cut down by 30-40%, because the semester the module could be conducted in mandarin or some other reasons (you can challenge yourself to take modules in mandarin too. It’s not that difficult)

For the attempt in retrieving a list of modules during your semester of study refer to following:

2. You can login to access the portal after receiving your student number
3. The user and password are the same e.g. 7100209064 (this is my ID)
4. Recommended to use internet explorer as the links might fail on chrome
On the bottom left page of the portal, look for 查询课程安排 and click on the link.

Select the year of admission and the semester that you are entering in:
- Feb – Jul (Sem 2) go figure the rest
- Feb – Jul you will pass through winter, Autumn and Spring if you still till Aug

Export the excel and look for the classes that you are interested in.
More portal information:

- Upon login, you can appeal for classes
- Your timetable will be reflected
- You can check your allocated classes
- You can check your results even before your transcript is out

- To obtain the modules available for the semester, go to portal
- Click on classes information based on class code
- Note that some classes the codes can vary as SJTU has an alliance with US and the codes are varied, but rest assured, it is the same module
- They have different professors teaching the same class, you can choose according to your delight