

EXCHANGE REPORT



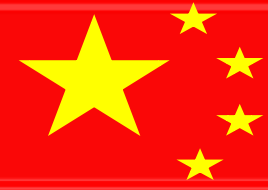
Brenton Olsen

bachelor of business-  
international business




CHINA- KUNMING, YUNNAN

Feb-July 2009

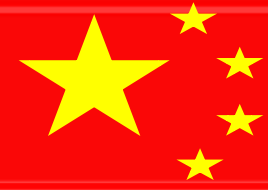
# Pre departure



You will need to obtain:

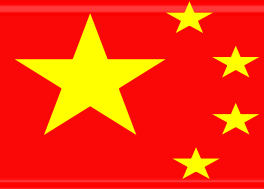
- A current passport, Visa debit/credit card. 
- Single entry visa (with a J202 form from the host university) 180 days, if for a six month exchange.  
- You will need to purchase a laptop if you don't already have one. It is almost the only way to keep in touch with friends and family. (set up communication tools such as Msn, Facebook, and Skype).
- Much of the pre departure is organised by Charles Sturt such as travel/medical insurance, flights, accommodation, and various other forms you will need to complete.

# travel



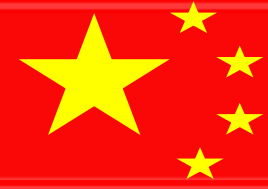
- Flights are organised by voyager travel along with Charles Sturt, as it is paid for with your scholarship funding.
- I had three choices of different connecting flights (my choice Melbourne - Hong Kong -Kunming).
- Must be there early saves panic if any problems. Eg. Luggage, ticket etc
- Remember luggage restrictions, e.g. all fluids over 100ml must not be taken in your hand luggage. They will be taken at customs otherwise.

# Insurance



- Medical and travel insurance is organised by Charles Sturt. You just fill out the required forms on your health and personal details.
- Basic medical and travel insurance.
- Doesn't cover adventure activities such as rock climbing etc.

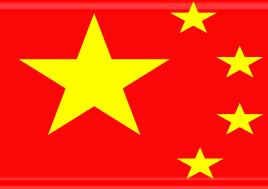
# Campus



- Very large campus in comparison to Thurgoona or Albury campus.
- Four different dinning halls
- Two libraries
- Countless class rooms and lecture halls
- Indoor gym (ping pong, badminton, basketball), small exercise gym AUD\$75 for 3 months.



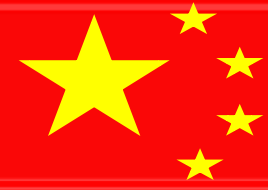
# Campus



- Two different rooms.
- Single or double.
- Both have bathrooms
- Double rooms have their own hot water service.
- Very safe, locked every night.



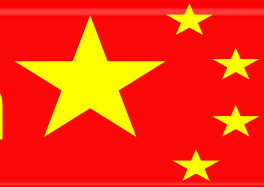
# Food



- Campus canteen is very cheap, around AUD\$2.50 for lunch or dinner. Large choice of food however they don't change throughout the stay. (purchase with a school canteen card that you use like debit card)
- western food: A western restaurant on campus, lazybones pizza and Daddy's dinner are all walking distance from your dorm. Also there is McDonalds, Pizza Hut and KFC in the city centre.
- However I think you will enjoy the local food far more, (far better than any Chinese food you will get in Australia)
- Local Kunming food is very spicy and may take some getting use to. (they put spice on/in almost everything)



# Course Information



- I was attending four different mandarin classes whilst I was there:

Chinese Speaking.

Chinese Listening. (2 classes)

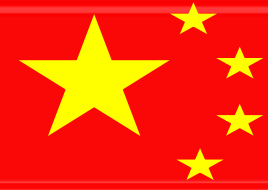
Chinese characters, reading and writing.

Comprehensive Chinese. (2 classes)

- Each class goes for around an hour and half - two hours.

日本	東京	大阪	北海道				
<small>Japan</small>	<small>Tokyo</small>	<small>Osaka</small>	<small>Hokkaido</small>				
山	川	日	雨	水	火	田	
<small>mountain</small>	<small>river</small>	<small>sun</small>	<small>rain</small>	<small>water</small>	<small>fire</small>	<small>rice field</small>	
米	魚	寿司	肉	酒	茶		
<small>rice</small>	<small>fish</small>	<small>sushi</small>	<small>meat</small>	<small>alcohol</small>	<small>tea</small>		
車	電気	自轉車	飛行機				
<small>car</small>	<small>electricity</small>	<small>bicycle</small>	<small>airplane</small>				
一	二	三	四	五	六	七	
<small>one</small>	<small>two</small>	<small>three</small>	<small>four</small>	<small>five</small>	<small>six</small>	<small>seven</small>	
男	女	松井秀喜	黒沢明				
<small>man</small>	<small>woman</small>	<small>Matsui Hideki</small>	<small>Kurozawa Akira</small>				
食	べる	行	く	小	大	多	少
<small>to eat</small>		<small>to go</small>		<small>small</small>	<small>big</small>	<small>many</small>	<small>few</small>

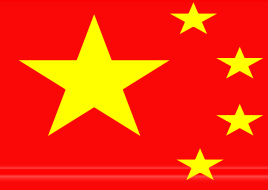
# Transport



- Lots of traffic but local transport is good
- Bus AUD\$0.25 (per person regardless of how far you catch the bus, one stop or ten stops)
- Taxi's are very easy to get they are everywhere, however you will find you can only catch them when your with your Chinese friends. (they don't speak English)



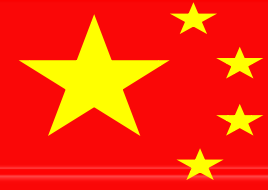
# My Expenses



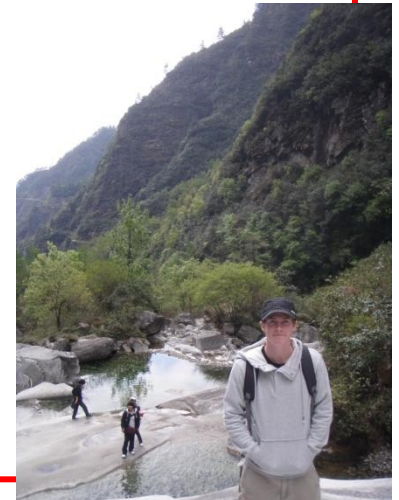
- Pre departure expenses:  
passport \$100, visa \$50, laptop \$1400, toiletries \$50,  
travel bag \$200.  
Est. total- AUD\$1800.00
- Set up expenses:  
University fees \$125, accommodation \$1300, various  
purchases in first week \$100-\$200 e.g. Chinese sim card.  
Est. total- AUD\$1625.00
- Living expenses settle down after first month or so and  
you could budget for around \$90 a week on food and  
various purchases after this. This will vary  
on the individual on how much they take  
and where you eat and drink etc.



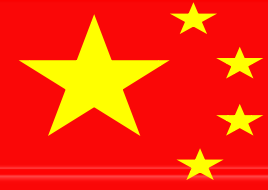
# Holiday travel



- I have explored Kunming and a few close cities. E.g. Dali shown in the photo's
- I have chosen to leave my larger travel to the end of my stay where I will have 16 days to travel around china and my chosen destinations were Xi'an, Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin, Yangshuo, Macau, Kowloon and Hong Kong.



# Social activity



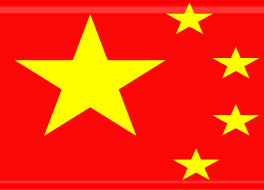
- English corner, meet and greet.
- Sports, basketball is very popular in china.
- Gym, easy way to meet new people.
- Outings in the city etc:  
restaurants and coffee houses  
pubs and clubs  
KTV and video arcades  
shopping and walking the city  
there are also many parks around the area  
being the city of eternal spring it is quite scenic
- One thing to be aware of is your dorm closes at 11:30pm so if you are out later than this it is very hard to get back in (good to know your things are safe) but if you are going to be out late your going to be out all night.



# Cultural information

- Chinese are extraordinarily nice people.
- Language barriers can be very hard, but you will often find a way around it.
- I encourage that you would learn some Chinese before you go, makes basic life much easier.
- Best to keep busy, more things you are doing the less you will get home sick.  
You will get asked here there and everywhere, you are different and you will be very popular.

# Weather



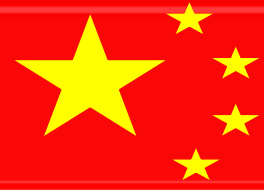
- The weather in Kunming is among the best in China. It is called the city of eternal spring and the name speaks for itself.
- Temperatures were around 15-20degrees, mostly fine and sunny for the months I was there. It will get cold on some days though. Nothing a jumper and pants wont fix.



# What to/not bring

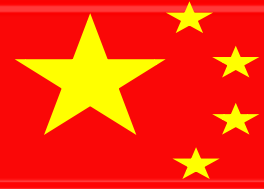
- What to bring:  
I found I did not bring enough clothing.  
Bring lots of underwear as you will find it hard to buy some that will fit.  
Lots of toiletries e.g., deodorants. they may take up lots of room but you wont bring them back, and sometimes hard to find what you want there. And is just a pain in the bum to go buy.
- What not to bring:  
bedding, this is supplied in the rooms.  
Don't overfill your bag you will find you buy things hear that you want to take home.

# Relationships



- You will obviously miss friends and family very much. But the experience will be far worth it.
- I stayed in touch with friends and family very well using Skype which is a free call/webcam utility. Also programs like Facebook.
- You will meet many new people in your first week, you will be introduced to English speaking students. (most likely first year international business – English students) they will be very helpful and most likely become your best friends during your stay. These students will most likely take you out for dinner etc a couple of time in the first week to get you settled in a get a feel for the culture and the university.
- The teachers are very nice and very accommodating any troubles you have with anything they will sort out as soon as they can.

# Photo's



- ADD MANY PHOTO'S UPON RETURN