



Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

西交利物浦大學



XJTLU

ENTREPRENEUR COLLEGE (TAICANG)
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
WELCOME GUIDE | 2024-2025

WELCOME TO XJTLU 欢迎



IMPORTANT:

If you have been admitted onto year one of a Taicang undergraduate programme, you will study at XJTLU SIP Suzhou campus for the first year then move to XEC campus (also known as Taicang campus) for the remaining three years. Therefore, undergraduate year one Taicang students should also read the SIP Suzhou Campus International Student Welcome Guide.

This XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang) International Student Welcome Guide is primarily for students who have been admitted directly onto year two of a Taicang undergraduate programme or any Taicang postgraduate programme. These students will directly come to study at Taicang campus upon arrival.

INTRODUCTION:

Taicang is in the north-east of Suzhou city on China's east coast. Located in the Taicang High-Tech Development Zone, XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang) is about 70 minutes driving distance from XJTLU SIP campus and an 80-minute drive into central Shanghai. Taicang is a county level city which administratively belongs to greater Suzhou city. We will use the word 'Suzhou' when referring to the larger area.

The planning and operation of XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang) builds upon the educational philosophy of Syntegrative Education, to help prepare future leaders for challenges from disruptive technology, rapid innovation and shifting market demand.

XEC campus focuses on seamless collaboration between academic staff, students, industry, government and the wider community, with the long-term aim of fostering the development of a modern, entrepreneurial and sustainable society.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this booklet, which is published annually. Everything was correct at the time of publication, but things do change. Check the webpage - Prepare Your Start - which is regularly updated.

Prepare Your Start webpage link:

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/pre-arrival-information>

We look forward to seeing you as a member of our student community soon!

CONTENTS

PART 1: COMING TO SUZHOU: APPLY FOR AN X VISA	6
PART 2: PRE-TRAVEL INFORMATION & TRANSPORT AFTER ARRIVAL	8
PART 3: STUDENT ACCOUNT, EMAIL ADDRESS AND STUDENT ID CARD	14
PART 4: ACCOMMODATION BOOKING AND CHECK-IN	16
PART 5: ACCOMMODATION REGISTRATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARRIVAL ON THE CHINESE MAINLAND	22
PART 6: HEALTH CHECK	24
PART 7: RESIDENCE PERMIT APPLICATION	30
PART 8: OPENING A CHINESE BANK ACCOUNT	32
PART 9: ONLINE REGISTRATION AND OPTIONAL MODULE SELECTION	37
PART 10: PAYMENT OF TUITION FEES AND SERVICE CHARGES	40
PART 11: INDUCTION PROGRAMME	44
PART 12: ACADEMIC CALENDAR	45
PART 13: USEFUL INFORMATION FOR LIVING IN TAICANG, LANGUAGE AND CULTURES	49
SURVIVAL CHINESE PHRASES	49
BUDGETING YOUR TIME IN TAICANG	50
LAWS AND POLICIES	52
HEALTH & SAFETY	54
SHOPPING AND EATING	60
SPECIALIZED DIETS	67
COMMUNICATIONS	70
TRANSPORT	74
TRAVELLING AROUND THE CHINESE MAINLAND	78
RELIGION	80
HOLIDAYS	81
LOCATION OF XEC CAMPUS OFFICES	82
XJTLU GLOBAL (XEC CAMPUS)	82
PART 14: XJTLU SHUTTLE BUS FROM/TO TAICANG CAMPUS	84
PART 15: TAICANG TO CENTRAL SUZHOU & TAICANG TO SHANGHAI	85



PART 1: COMING TO SUZHOU: APPLY FOR AN X VISA

Students from Hong Kong, Macao or Taiwan do not need a visa to come to the Chinese mainland.

In order to come to the Chinese mainland and study at XJTLU, international students are required to apply for a student visa. The student visa is called an X type visa, which translates as 学生 Xue Sheng (student) in Chinese. You need to make the application in your own country or where you are living before entering the Chinese mainland. Your first step will be to check the location and guidelines specific to your nationality at <http://www.visaforchina.org>.

There are two types of X visa which relate to the duration of your study programme:

One for long term study (more than 6 months) and one for short term study. For long-term students, you enter the Chinese mainland using an X1 visa and then need to go through an immigration process to obtain a Residence Permit (RP).

The differences between the two types of X visa are as follows:

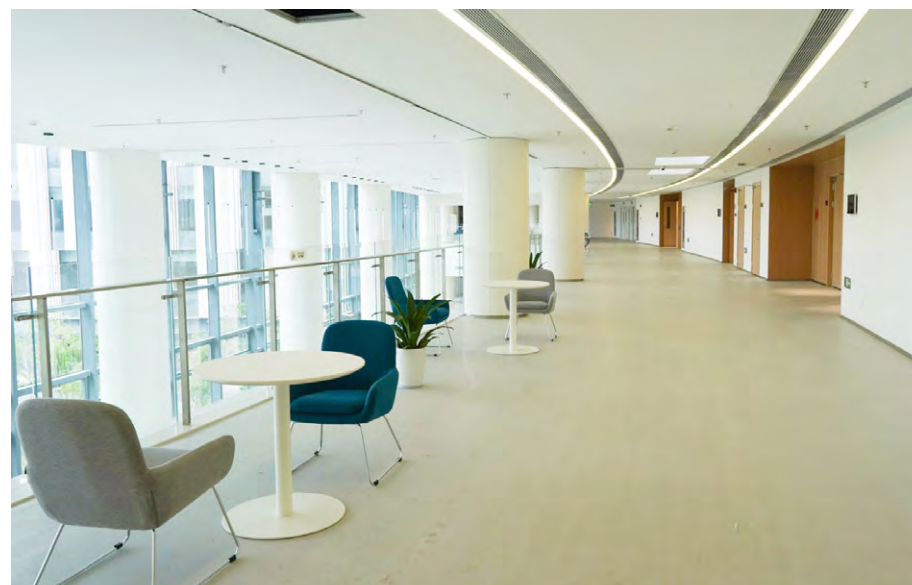
TYPE	PROGRAMME DURATION	ENTRIES TO THE CHINESE MAINLAND	DO I NEED A RESIDENCE PERMIT?	COST
X1	Over 180 days	Single	Yes. Within 30 days of arrival on the Chinese mainland. A Residence Permit is a multiple entry visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application fee (depending on country). • Health check package after arrival (510RMB) • Residence Permit 800RMB to cover a stay of up to two years • Postage to have your passport sent to the university (25RMB) • Postage to have your Health Report sent to the university (25RMB)
X2	Fewer than 180 days	Single	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the application fee in your home country

You need the following documents for an X visa application:

- Original Admission Notice (Sent to you by XJTLU)
- JW202/DQ Form downloaded from www.studyinchina.edu.cn (a link will be sent to your application email address when your JW202/DQ Form is ready)
- X Visa Application Form downloadable from <http://www.visaforchina.org>
- Visa application section on the website of the mainland Chinese embassy in your own country
- Any extra requirements listed on <http://www.visaforchina.org> or the visa application section on the website of the mainland Chinese embassy

You need to keep the Admission Notice and JW202 Form safe after you have applied for the visa and bring them to the Chinese mainland with you. You need them for your enrollment and immigration processes. If, for any reason, the mainland Chinese Embassy / Consulate do not return them to you, please ask them to do this.

Note: Students who apply to XJTLU near to the 30th June 2024 deadline should pay their deposit ASAP if they wish to secure their place at XJTLU. This is because of the risk of a visa delay and subsequently delayed arrival.



PART 2: PRE-TRAVEL INFORMATION & TRANSPORT AFTER ARRIVAL

VACCINATION

Suzhou is not in a rural or tropical region of the Chinese mainland, so you are unlikely to come into contact with cholera, rabies, tick-borne encephalitis or Japanese encephalitis. However, before you leave for Suzhou, you are advised to:

- Make sure you are up to date with vaccinations, for example, TB, typhoid, polio and tetanus
- Make sure you have vaccinated yourself against Hepatitis A
- Have a Japanese encephalitis vaccine if you are planning to travel to more rural places on the Chinese mainland (especially to tropical areas) and / or South-East Asia
- Consider a rabies vaccine, especially if traveling to Tibet

Please talk to a travel nurse or other medical professional in good time for professional advice on vaccinations.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

For the sake of protecting yourself and your valuables, we recommend you buy international travel insurance to cover your trip to the Chinese mainland. Please consult your international travel insurance provider for more information.

MONEY

- Confirm with your bank whether your credit cards can be used on the Chinese mainland or not
- Prepare enough Chinese Yuan (CNY) in cash to pay the accommodation deposit and utility fees when checking into the accommodation. We very strongly suggest that you exchange Chinese Yuan cash at a local bank BEFORE leaving your home country and bring it with you (around 10000CNY cash if you come to study at Taicang campus OR around 12000CNY if you come to SIP Suzhou campus).

*Again, if you are an undergraduate Taicang programme student, you will spend your undergraduate first year at SIP Suzhou campus (check the info on page 2 & 3 of this welcome guide), then we will help you move to Taicang campus for the rest of your studies. Please bring around 12000CNY cash with you BEFORE you leave your home country. If you have been directly admitted onto the second year of a Taicang campus undergraduate programme or any Taicang postgraduate programme, you will directly come to Taicang campus for your studies upon arrival in China.

- Prepare enough Chinese Yuan in cash for yourself to buy food or pay for transport during the first few weeks of your time in Suzhou.

PACKING UP

You need to bring towels, linen, bedding (bed sheet, quilt, pillow, mattress), etc., or you can buy them for a reasonable price when you arrive in Taicang. Furthermore, you are recommended to bring the following things with you:

- Plug adapters for your electronic devices (see the 'Electricity' section on the next page)
- Bring a LAN Cable and a router for using internet service in your Taicang campus student room
- Medications prescribed by your doctor (if any)
- About 20 passport-sized photos (without hat/cap, white backdrop)
- Clothes and shoes for all seasons
- Some photocopies of your passport photo page

Cooking is not allowed in Taicang Entrepreneur Apartment. However, there are many restaurants and shops in the Taicang residential area and there are two canteens on campus: one serves Chinese food, and one international cuisine. There is also a convenience store at Taicang campus.

When packing, you should consider the following factors.



WEATHER

Suzhou is located in the south-east of the Chinese mainland, in the subtropical humid monsoon climatic region, with four distinct seasons, mild temperatures and high rainfall. The daytime temperatures average 34°C (93°F) in July / August, the hottest months, and drop to as low as -4.0 °C (24°F) in January / February, the coldest months.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.weather-forecast.com/locations/Suzhou/forecasts/latest>

ELECTRICITY

The electricity on the Chinese mainland is generally 220V, 50HZ AC (Hong Kong is 200V; Taiwan is 110V), so please check whether the voltage on your devices is compatible. For sensitive devices, it is best to check that the power supply has a transformer, especially if you are coming from the USA.

Sockets commonly used here:



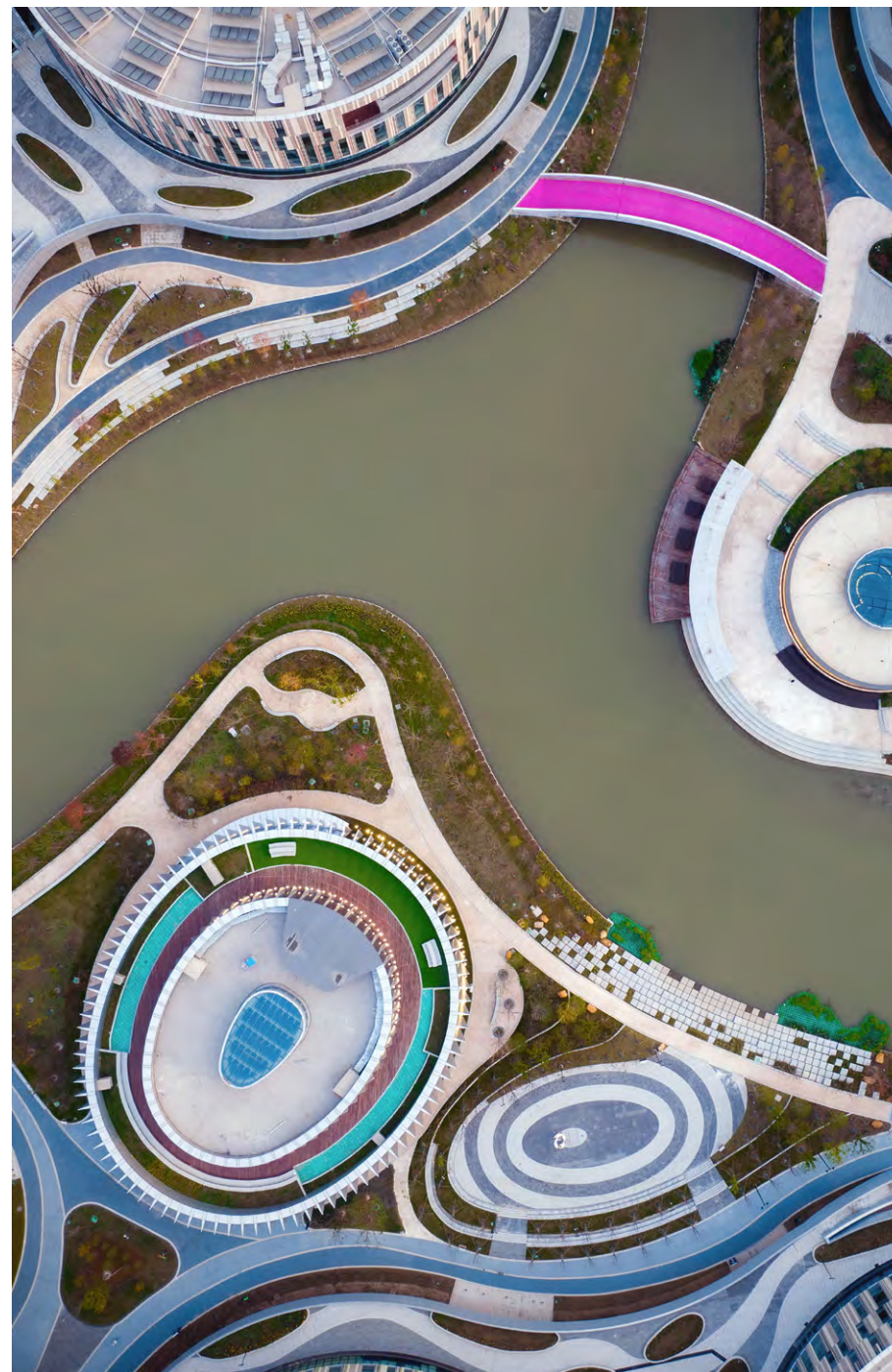
Whilst it is very easy to buy electronics here, they are not necessarily cheaper than anywhere else in the world. There is a number of large electrical shops in Suzhou and also a variety of online electronics stores that will quickly deliver your items to you.

TRANSPORT AFTER ARRIVAL

Destination: SIP campus

XJTLU Global send buses to Pudong and Hongqiao Airports in Shanghai to collect students for free on the following days:

- 20th & 21st August 2024 for new students who wish to arrive early for the autumn semester
- 27th & 28th August 2024 for the rest of the new students who wish to arrive just on time for the autumn semester



AIRPORT	LAST BUS/TAXI TO LEAVE	MEETING POINT	REMARKS
PUDONG AIRPORT	12:30 in the afternoon	Starbucks Coffee in Terminal 2 Arrivals Hall	Students who arrive at Terminal 1 need to go to Starbucks Coffee in Terminal 2. Student volunteers will meet you at T1 and take you to T2
	19:30 in the evening		
HONGQIAO AIRPORT	12:30 in the afternoon	Starbucks Coffee at the exit in Terminal 1 P6 Meeting Point in Terminal 2	
	19:30 in the evening		

If you plan to arrive on a different date from these four days, you can ask us to arrange a private car to collect you from the airport and take you to your accommodation. However, you must pay the fee to the driver directly upon arrival at the accommodation.

Destination: XEC campus

XJTLU Global send buses to Pudong and Hongqiao Airports in Shanghai to collect students for free on the following days:

- 20th & 21st August 2024 for new students who wish to arrive early for the autumn semester
- 27th & 28th August 2024 for the rest of the new students who wish to arrive just on time for the autumn semester

AIRPORT	LAST BUS/TAXI TO LEAVE	MEETING POINT	REMARKS
PUDONG AIRPORT	12:30 in the afternoon	Starbucks Coffee in Terminal 2 Arrivals Hall	Students who arrive at Terminal 1 need to go to Starbucks Coffee in Terminal 2. Student volunteers will meet you at T1 and take you to T2
	19:30 in the evening		
HONGQIAO AIRPORT	12:30 in the afternoon	Starbucks Coffee at the exit in Terminal 1 P6 Meeting Point in Terminal 2	
	19:30 in the evening		

We strongly recommend you buy flights that arrive on the above days to be met at the airport and also be met by us at your accommodation for help with check in, and for police registration of your address the next day.

After you have received your visa, please email to global.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn for Taicang student accommodation booking and payment.

After you have paid for the Taicang accommodation fee, we will book a room for you with the accommodation provider. Then we will email you to collect your flight related information in order to arrange free airport pick-up service for your arrival on the above dates. If your arrival date is outside the dates mentioned above, university could help you book a private cab but you need to pay with cash to the driver when you get off. You could also arrange the transport by yourself to Taicang student accommodation.



PART 3: STUDENT ACCOUNT, EMAIL ADDRESS AND STUDENT ID CARD

The Admissions Team or Study Abroad Team will send your data to the Registry Office and then the IT Office to create your XJTLU student account and email address. With XJTLU student accounts, you are able to use systems for your studies, for example:

- Learning Mall Core to download learning materials and submit your coursework
- e-Bridge to register, check your timetable, apply for student enrollment status letter and transcripts, etc
- Attendance Management System to apply for sick leave

Your student account will be sent to your application email and you must activate it after receiving it. After activation, you will be able to use your university student account and email address. Your academic Department/School/Academy, XJTLU Global, the Registry Office, the IT Office and other university departments/offices will only communicate with you via your XJTLU student email.

Students must submit a photo for XJTLU Global to prepare their formal student ID cards with their student ID numbers, names and photos. You can use your ID card during the whole period of your studies for purposes such as borrowing books from the library, using the university Sports Centre, topping it up to use the public transport in Suzhou.



PART 4: ACCOMMODATION BOOKING AND CHECK-IN

ACCOMMODATION AT TAICANG CAMPUS

Taicang XJTLU Entrepreneur Apartments 太仓西浦创业家公寓

Location: No.115 Taicang Avenue, Taicang Suzhou, Jiangsu Province

Telephone: +86 (0)512 5399 5190

The accommodation provider is not XJTLU but a separate company.

Accommodation at XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang) is offered in one area next to the campus and is a 5 to 10-minute walk from the classrooms. There are two types of rooms: twin room (with two beds) and single room. The rooms have bed(s), wardrobes, a bathroom, a small balcony, and a study desk.

The accommodation in Taicang is in a small square with a basement mall of several shops, including mobile phone outlets, coffee shops, supermarkets, a McDonald's, and restaurants. It is a few minutes by taxi from the metro into central Shanghai and there is a free shuttle bus service provided by the University between Taicang and SIP campuses, several times per day.

Students need to pay for their accommodation fee in one payment before their arrival via bank transfer for example. Upon check-in, you need to pay a deposit of 300CNY as well as the first utilities bill of 300CNY to the accommodation reception in cash.

Cooking is not allowed in Taicang campus student accommodation. It is prohibited to bring in and use electrical appliances such as electric stoves, heaters, electric boards, immersion heater, electric blankets, electric frying pans, electric rice cookers, kettles, induction cookers. There are water dispenser machines provided by the accommodation provider. Every room is equipped with air conditioner.

Students can also arrange to rent a private apartment in Taicang city, either alone or with friends. The easiest way to do this is to employ a real estate agent. You would normally be asked to sign a contract with an agent and before you sign it, please fully understand what services they provide, any fee you need to pay to the agent, in addition to the rent. There are a few big real estate agency companies in China, which have businesses in a lot of cities. Please make sure the agent you talk to is a legitimate business before you sign or pay anything to them.

Pricing:

Twin room:

- 6000 RMB/bed/academic year
- 650 RMB/bed/month, for the first and the last month of stay, fee is respectively calculated as follows:

the duration of stay ≥ 15 days, the accommodation provider charges a full month fee

the duration of stay < 15 days, the accommodation provider charges a half month fee

- 25 RMB/bed/day



Single room:

- 14000 RMB/room/academic year
- 1500 RMB/room/month, for the first and the last month of stay, fee is respectively calculated as follows:

the duration of stay ≥ 15 days, the accommodation provider charges a full month fee

the duration of stay < 15 days, the accommodation provider charges a half month fee

- 60 RMB/room/day



ACCOMMODATION BOOKING FOR XJTLU ENTREPRENEUR APARTMENTS

After you have received your visa, please email to global.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn for accommodation booking and payment. After you have paid for the Taicang accommodation fee, we will book a room for you with the accommodation provider. Students need to pay for their accommodation fee in one payment to XJTLU before their arrival, via bank transfer for example. All accommodation booking depends upon availability, and it is first come first served.

ACCOMMODATION CHECK-IN

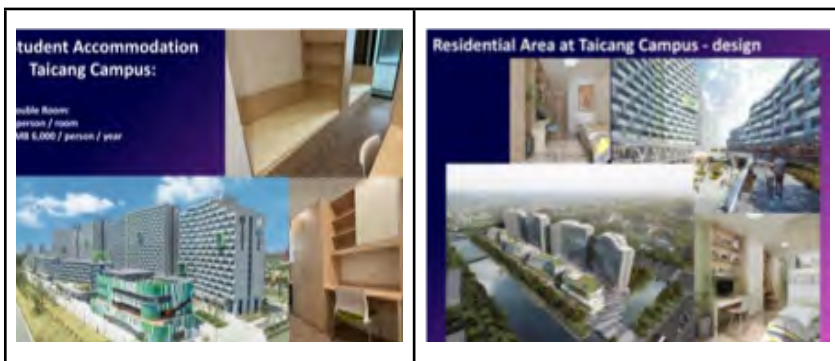
For check-in, students need:

- Original passport
- Refundable deposit in cash: 300CNY
- First utilities bill (water/electricity) in cash: 300CNY

The checking-in process involves signing a bilingual agreement (in English and Chinese).

Please note that:

- Remember to carefully read the Regulations on Accommodation Management of XJTLU Entrepreneur Apartment, which you can find on the wall in the lobby when you enter the ac accommodation building
- The rest of your accommodation fee and the 300CNY deposit will not be refunded to you if you decide to move out of the apartment early or are forced to check out due to violating the Regulations
- You need to read the accommodation agreement carefully upon check-in
- Remember to check the room status and condition when you enter the room, report to the reception if you spot any broken items within 3 days of check-in, and request the accommodation staff to make a note for the following repair
- Future utility fee top-up can be done digitally using the accommodation provider's WeChat platform or you can visit the reception and pay with cash
- Confirm with your bank before departure whether your bank card can be used in China, and **bring enough Chinese Yuan cash** with you no matter which campus you will be studying on
- Utility usage details can be found in the accommodation provider's WeChat platform, including top-ups and consumption of electricity and water
- The university cannot offer accommodation-related support to students who decide not to live at XJTLU Entrepreneur Apartment and who decide to live in a private apartment



PART 5: ACCOMMODATION REGISTRATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARRIVAL ON THE CHINESE MAINLAND

Foreign nationals moving to the Chinese mainland are required to register their residential address with the authorities. This should be done within 24 hours of arrival in Taicang. Students living at XJTLU Entrepreneur Apartment need to register at the Ludu Community Service Center (in Chinese: 陆渡街道为民服务中心). Students who come to Taicang from another place in China, including if you have stayed in Suzhou SIP district, must also complete the accommodation registration within 24 hours of their arrival in Taicang.

Ludu Community Service Center

Its address in English: No.69 West Zhongshi Road, Ludu Community, Taicang City

Its address in Chinese: 太仓市陆渡街道中市西路69号

Please take your original passport and your accommodation agreement (西浦创业家公寓管理服务协议书) with you when you go there. After accommodation registration, students will receive an Accommodation Registration Form (临时住宿登记表). Please keep this form safe!

If you do not complete accommodation registration, you may end up with a fine of 200RMB per day and difficulty in applying for/renewing your Residence Permit.

ENTRY & EXIT BUREAU ONE-STOP SERVICE CENTRE 苏州工业园区国际融合服务中心

Suzhou has a dedicated help service for international residents, called the Entry & Exit Bureau (EEB) One-Stop Service Centre.

Students, upon arrival in China, need to complete their health check (refer to PART 5 below), then come to this EEB one-stop service centre in Suzhou SIP district to apply for their Residence Permit if their duration of stay is over 6 months.

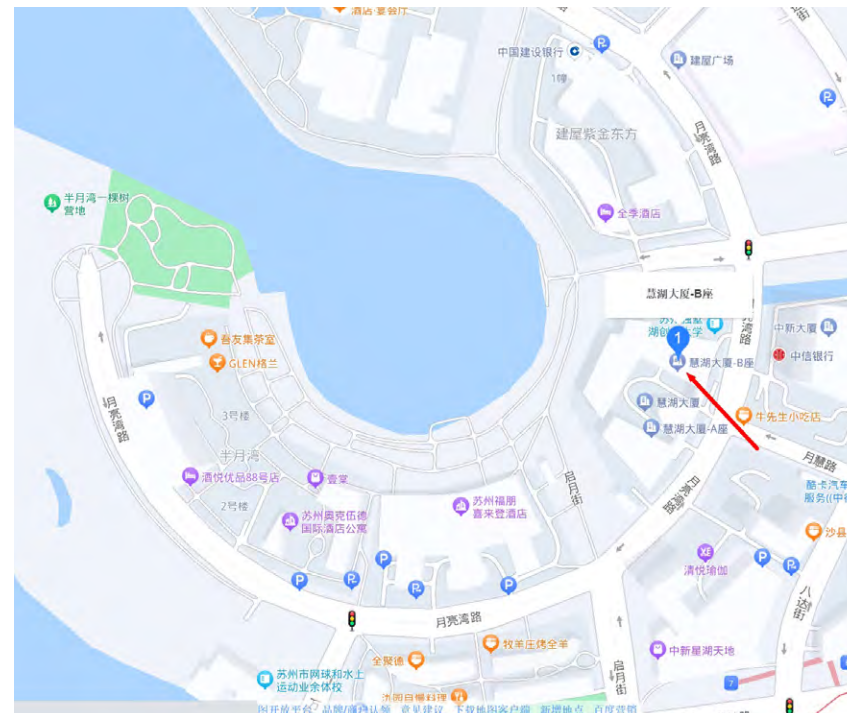
Address: 1st Floor, Block B, Huihu Building (in Chinese: 慧湖大厦B栋1楼), Dushu Lake science and Education Innovation District.

Public Transport: Metro Line 2, Exit 4 or 7, Yueliangwan Station. Bus Line 166 or 176.

Telephone: 0512 66601600

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm, 1.30pm to 5pm.

Email: sipfao@sipac.gov.cn



International students are required to do accommodation registration again in Taicang after they have received their Residence Permit from the EEB, including renewal of their Residence Permit.

PART 6: HEALTH CHECK

HEALTH CHECK FEE:

318 CNY preferably by e-payment (e.g., Alipay, Wechat pay) OR bring **exactly** 318 CNY in cash

*Please note that no change service is provided at Taicang healthcare center. You need to bring the exact amount of 318 CNY. If you bring 320 or 350 or 400 CNY, they will not accept it and you will have to make another appointment and go there on another day. To avoid this, if you do not have 318 in cash, just go to Familymart convenience shop in the Taicang residential area, buy something in cash and get some change there.

CHECKS INCLUDE:

Electrocardiograph check, ultrasound, X-ray, blood test, urinalysis, etc.

ATTENTION:

Please do not eat or drink anything after 11pm on the day before, and avoid consuming alcohol. If you have cough or fever symptoms, please do not make an appointment until you are recovered.

You may want to bring up some snacks and water for yourself after you have completed the health check.

OPENING TIME:

The health check center is open 9am to 10:30am, on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.

ADDRESS:

In Chinese: 太仓市北环路8号联检服务大楼3楼

In English: 3rd floor of Joint-inspection service building, No.8 North Ring Road, Taicang

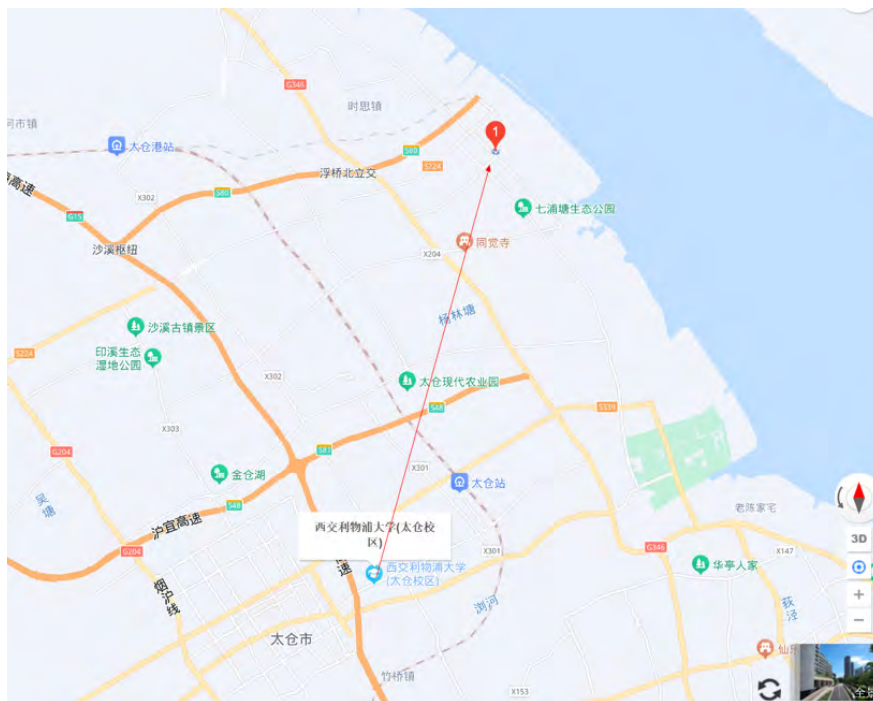
CONTACT:

0512 5337 0932



HOW TO GET THERE:

You need to take a taxi to go there from XJTLU Taicang campus. Distance: about 25KM, duration: about 45 minutes, taxi fare: 60-80 CNY single way

**HEALTH CHECK APPOINTMENT BOOKING:**

The Wechat mini programme of the Taicang health check center is out of service. If you need to book health check appointment, please dial their office line: 0512 5337 0932. If you need help, please let us know by sending an email to global.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn and specify your full name, the name of your degree programme, your XJTLU student ID number or application number (XJ*****) in the email. We will help you book an appointment.

THINGS TO TAKE ON THE HEALTH CHECK DAY:

- 318 CNY in cash
- Original passport
- 2 photocopies of the passport photo page
- 1 photocopy of the page that shows your most recent entry to China stamp
- 2 two-inch passport-sized photos (white background, no hat/cap)

*No printing and photocopy services are provided at the health check center. You need to get the above documents in hand before you make the appointment.

DURATION:

It depends on the total number of people shown up on the day of your health check. You may not want to arrive at 10:30am because you need to include the queueing up time too. It takes about 60-90 minutes to complete the health check.

HEALTH CHECK REPORT:

It takes about two working days for the Center to issue the report.

Before you leave the health check center, make sure all the health check items on the checklist are completed. Otherwise you need to go back there again for any uncompleted item(s) another day, which is time-consuming and will delay the subsequent residence permit application.

HEALTH CHECK REPORT DELIVERY:

When all the health check items are completed and before you leave the Center, ask the staff at the reception for a postage envelope (in Chinese: 快递单). And tell the staff that you want your health check report to be posted to the University. On the waybill, write this below:

Address: 苏州工业园区仁爱路111号西交利物浦大学中心楼116E

Postcode: 215123

Phone: 0512 8188 9123

*Upon delivery, university staff have to pay the postage fee to the postman to get your report. To collect the report, you need to pay it back to university staff.



PART 7: RESIDENCE PERMIT APPLICATION

International students who will stay on the Chinese mainland for more than 6 months have to apply for a Residence Permit within 30 days of their arrival on the Chinese mainland. Days are counted from the entry date that is shown on the mainland Chinese entry stamp in your passport.

This is often confused with the arrival visa. Once you arrive on the Chinese mainland, your visa is finished. From the arrival date, you have 30 days to apply for your Residence Permit. For example, if you fly into Shanghai Pudong Airport on 15th August 2024, you must apply for your Residence Permit before 13th September 2024. If you apply for your Residence Permit late, you will have to pay a fine for each day you are late, up to 10,000RMB.

XJTLU will help you apply for the Residence Permit.

In order to help new international students settle in, XJTLU organizes the following to facilitate the Residence Permit application process:

- Residence Permit application information sessions in induction week
- Guidance on completing the Residence Permit Statement Letter and Residence Permit Application Form
- Checking application documents
- Booking appointments for applying for a Residence Permit at the Exit & Entry Bureau



BEFORE ACTUAL APPLICATION AT THE EEB NEED, YOU WILL NEED:

- Residence Permit Application Form
- XJTLU Residence Permit Statement Letter
- Have your JW202 Form stamped in Room CB116E, Central Building
- Admission Letter (returned by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate after the Xi visa application)
- Copy of university license
- Passport, copies of information page, visa page and entry stamp page
- Accommodation Registration Form (received after police registration from the police station)
- Passport photo
- Health report issued by the healthcare center after the health check or report verification
- Express mail service slip collected from Room CB116E, Central Building

PART 8: OPENING A CHINESE BANK ACCOUNT

It is very useful to have a local bank account on the Chinese mainland. This will save you time and money and allow you to use the mainland Chinese advanced e-payment technologies, which make life here much easier. Depending on which campus you will be studying on, we recommend the following banks:

SIP CAMPUS:

China Construction Bank / 中国建设银行 (苏州独墅湖支行) – highly recommended.

- 1) No restrictions on visa types and students need to present their original passport, Student Enrolment Letter/student ID card, Admission Notice, Accommodation Registration Form, Chinese mobile phone number, and taxpayer code (see below).
- 2) They usually only accept 2 foreign students at most per day to open bank accounts due to the comparatively complicated process. Appointments can be made in advance.
- 3) No cap on the initial deposit, 10 or 20RMB is fine.
- 4) Address: 288 Qiyue Street, Moon Bay, Dushu Lake Science & Education Innovation District / 独墅湖科教创新区启月街288号. Moon Bay is about 3kms to the west of the university SIP campuses, next to Dushu Lake.
- 5) Working hours: 09:00-16:30.

CITIC Bank / 中信银行 (苏州独墅湖支行) – not recommended for X2 visa holders as you need a Residence Permit to open an account here.

- 1) CITIC Bank branch in Moon Bay doesn't have working experience in helping X2 Visa holders open a bank account.
- 2) X1 Visa holders have to wait until they have their Residence Permits.
- 3) Residence Permit holders need to present their original passport, Student Enrolment Letter/student ID card, Admission Notice, Accommodation Registration Form, Chinese mobile phone number, and taxpayer code (see below).
- 4) Address: 15 Yueliang Wan Road, Moon Bay, Suzhou Industrial Park / 苏州工业园区月亮湾路15号. Moon Bay is about 3kms to the west of the university SIP campuses, next to Dushu Lake.

- 5) Working hours: 09:00-16:30.

Bank of Communications / 交通银行 – not recommended for X2 visa holders, because they are shorter than 6 months.

- 1) Regardless of the visa type, students must have a visa which is at least 6 months long or a Residence Permit.
- 2) Students need to present their original passport, Admission Notice, Chinese mobile phone number, and taxpayer code (see below).
- 3) They usually only accept 2 foreign students at most per day to open bank accounts due to the comparatively complicated process. Appointments can be made in advance.
- 4) Address: F1, Hanlin Neighborhood Centre, 598 Linqun Street, Suzhou Industrial Park / 苏州工业园区林泉街598号翰林邻里中心F1. Hanlin Plaza is about 1km to the east of the university SIP campuses.
- 5) Working hours: 09:00-16:30.

XEC CAMPUS:

All the banks listed below are stated-owned banks. They are very close to each other on Shanghai Road (within 200 meters to each other). It is your free choice at which bank to open your account.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) 工商银行太仓支行

- 1) Address: No.10 East Shanghai Road – 上海东路10号
- 2) Documents required to open an account:

Original passport, residence permit

Admission Notice

A Chinese phone number

Accommodation agreement

- 3) Working hours: 09:00-16:30

Bank of Communications 交通银行太仓支行

- 1) Address: No.8 East Shanghai Road - 上海东路8号
- 2) Documents required to open an account:

Original passport, residence permit

Admission Notice

A Chinese phone number

CRS个人税收居民身份声明文件 (tax payer code in your home country)

Accommodation agreement

Accommodation registration form

3) Working hours: 09:00-16:30

Bank of China 中国银行太仓上海路支行

1) Address: No.5 East Shanghai Road – 上海东路5号

2) Documents required to open an account:

Original passport, residence permit

A Chinese phone number

Accommodation registration form

3) Working hours: 09:00-16:00

China Construction Bank 建设银行太仓东区支行

1) Address: No.3 East Shanghai Road – 上海东路3号

2) Documents required to open an account:

Original passport, residence permit

Admission Notice or student ID card

A Chinese phone number

Accommodation registration form

3) Working hours: 09:00-16:00

Agricultural Bank of China 农业银行太仓分行

1) Address: No.2 West Shanghai Road – 上海西路2号

2) Documents required to open an account:

Original passport (with residence permit)

Admission Notice

A Chinese phone number

Accommodation registration form

3) Working hours: 09:00-16:00

In summary, depending on the bank branch you will visit, documents to provide in order to open a Chinese bank account vary. We suggest you take the following items before you go:

- Original passport
- Residence Permit
- Student ID Card & Admission Notice
- A valid Chinese phone number
- Taxpayer code
- Accommodation agreement
- Accommodation registration form
- Minimum deposit of around 50RMB

Please take all necessary documents with you before you go to the banks. Try to have a chat with your neighbour/classmate/friend to find out what their suggestion is or the easiest bank to open an account with. Some of the aforementioned banks may have branches in your home country. If you/your parents are their client already, and you bring the card with you to China, please check with the branch in your home country about whether there is a fast way for them to issue a local card for you after your arrival in China, how to transfer money from overseas to your Chinese account, other benefits, bonus, etc.



If you are from Iran, you must use a different bank. You must go to Kunlun Bank in Shanghai. Their website with address and contact details are here: <http://www.klb.com.cn/eklbank/index.html>. We recommend you make an appointment in advance.

As for the taxpayer code, it could be TFN in Australia, or Tax Identification Numbers in Canada, France and Germany, Individual Numbers in Japan, INN in Russia, NRIC or FIN in Singapore, Residence Registration Number in South Korea, UTR or NINO (national insurance number) in the UK, SSN in the USA, etc. This number might have been assigned to you by your government at birth. If you are not sure what the number is, please check with your tax bureau. Your own bank in your country may know.

You will receive a list of banks and addresses as well as Chinese language instructions to show the bank when you get there to open an account.

PART 9: ONLINE REGISTRATION AND OPTIONAL MODULE SELECTION

All students have to use their XJTLU student accounts to register on the Annual Registration page on e-Bridge (<https://ebridge.xjtlu.edu.cn>). Our IT office will send an email to invite you to activate your student account and to set up your XJTLU email, so please check your personal email account, which you used for your application to XJTLU.

The university will publicize the registration guides for both Year 1 and Year 2 entry students on the university website. The university will send the links to your XJTLU student account when they are ready, so please check your emails.

Student information is used for many important purposes, such as registration in the Chinese Ministry of Education system for student status and degree recognition, emergency contact information, social and commercial insurance purchase and reimbursement, scholarship application and awards and visa application. Students must provide genuine and complete information when registering in the university system. All students, no matter their duration of stay, MUST register. If details, such as your mobile phone number, change during your time at XJTLU, you must **UPDATE** your e-Bridge page immediately.

NOTES FOR UG STUDENTS:

Y1 UG students should also use their accounts to select optional modules on e-Bridge before the deadline. The system will automatically allocate optional modules to students who fail to select their optional modules before the deadline.

Please do not hesitate to email global@xjtlu.edu.cn (SIP campus); global.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn (XEC campus) should you have any problem using your account to log in to e-Bridge and / or the Learning Mall Online (LMO) system.



NOTES FOR EXCHANGE AND VISITING STUDENTS:

Exchange and Visiting students need to select modules. Follow the advice given and any requirements set by your home university.

TRANSCRIPTS

Semester 1 provisional transcripts will be published on e-Bridge in March 2025. The original copy will be posted to the Study Abroad Office at the students' home university in late March 2025.

Semester 1 & 2 final marks will be published on e-Bridge in late July 2025. The original copy will be posted to the Study Abroad Office at the students' home university in late July.

EXAMS AND RE-SITS

Exchange students must follow XJTLU's academic calendar and exam schedules. Unlike some other universities' practice, XJTLU doesn't offer any special arrangements for exchange students.

The S1 & S2 re-sits will take place between 28th July and 2nd August 2025. Re-sit results will be published on e-Bridge in late August.



PART 10: PAYMENT OF TUITION FEES AND SERVICE CHARGES

Exchange and visiting students who come from XJTLU's partner universities have to follow the payment details / policies of their home universities. However, if they study on campus at XJTLU, they need to pay a non-refundable service charge to XJTLU, which is 300RMB per semester.

The deadline for other students, namely undergraduate students, Master's students, and visiting students who are not from XJTLU's partner universities, for paying their tuition fees and service charge is 13th September 2024.

The service charge covers text-book fees and printing fees, etc. The amount is currently 2,000RMB per academic year and must be paid in full along with tuition fees. If visiting students only spend one semester at XJTLU, they just pay 1,000RMB for the semester. If the actual cost of books and printer use is lower than the amount paid, students will be refunded the difference at the end of the academic year into their Chinese bank accounts. However, if the actual cost is higher than the amount paid, students need to pay the outstanding fees.

- The amount of outstanding fees is what remains after the deduction of the deposit which international students paid to secure their place at XJTLU, and any scholarships which they might have been granted
- Please make sure to include your full name and application number as supplementary information when making the transaction
- As a swift code might be required when wire transferring the money from your own country to the Chinese mainland, we recommend you transfer the money to the university bank account instead of your personal Chinese bank account
- The bank may charge a service fee, which will be deducted from the amount of money you transfer. When payments are made in USD/GBP, your bank's exchange rate used to convert to RMB may be different from the rate the university follows. This may result in an outstanding fee balance for you to pay before you can complete registration. To avoid this, please make sure you cover all possible shortages when making the payment
- Once the transaction has been made, please send the proof of your

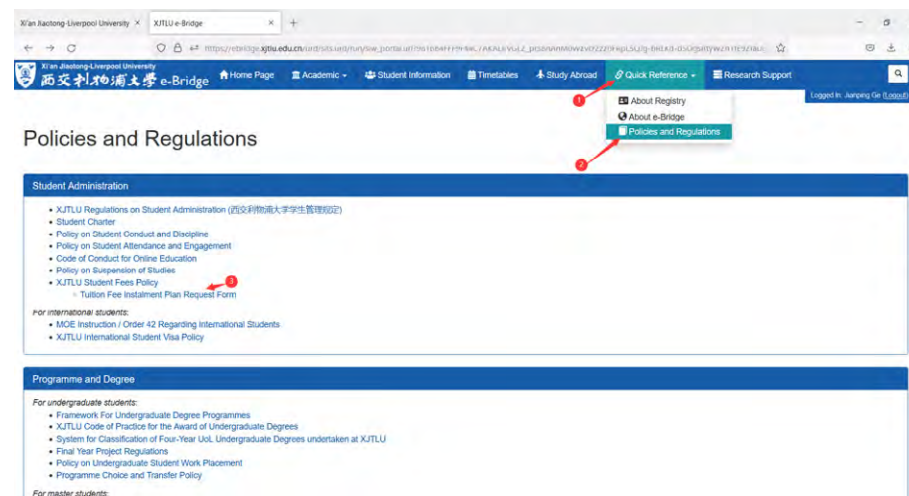
payment to global@xjtlu.edu.cn (SIP campus); global.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn (XEC campus)

- Keep all the receipts which you get from the bank after paying the fees

XJTLU GLOBAL CAN BE APPROACHED FOR THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT:

- Official invoice for wire transfer
- University USD, GBP, EUR, CNY bank account
- Amount of outstanding fees
- Assistance with applying to pay fees by installments (request this service by the end of Week 2, Semester 1)
- Confirmation of tuition and service charge fee payment

If you have difficulties in paying your fees in full, you can consider filling out the Tuition Fee Instalment Plan Request Form to apply to pay your fees in two instalments. Please use your student account to log in to e-Bridge to download the form and send it to global@xjtlu.edu.cn for consideration.



BANK DETAILS	
ACCOUNT NAME	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University 西交利物浦大学
BENEFICIARY ADDRESS	111 Ren'ai Road, Dushu Lake Higher Education Town, Suzhou Industrial Park, Suzhou, Jiangsu, China. Postal code: 215123 江苏省苏州市工业园区，独墅湖科教创新区仁爱路111，邮编：215123
TO PAY IN CHINESE RMB	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	10550701040006923 帐户号码
BANK NAME	Agricultural Bank of China, SIP Xietang Sub-Branch 开户行名称
BANK ADDRESS	No. 2178 Area A, Lianfeng Plaza, SIP, Suzhou, China 215028 开户行地址
CNAPS CODE	103305055075
SWIFT CODE	ABOCCNBJ103
TO PAY IN FOREIGN CURRENCY (PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ACCOUNT IS NOT WORKABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO PAY FOREIGN CURRENCY IN RUSSIA.)	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	010-010320-055 (GBP excluded) 010-010320-056 (GBP only)
BANK NAME	HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited, Suzhou Branch 汇丰银行苏州分行
BANK ADDRESS	Century Financial Tower, No.1 Suzhou Avenue West, Suzhou Industrial Park, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China 215021 江苏省苏州市工业园区，苏州大道西1号世纪金融大厦，邮编：215021
SWIFT CODE	HSBCCNSHSUZ
TO PAY IN FOREIGN CURRENCY (ONLY APPLICABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO PAY FOREIGN CURRENCY IN RUSSIA)	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	10551314040002014
BANK NAME	Agricultural Bank of China, SIP Jinji Lake Branch 中国农业园区苏州工业园区金鸡湖支行
BANK ADDRESS	No.118 Wangdun Road, Suzhou Industrial Park, Suzhou, China. Postal code: 215021 江苏省苏州市工业园区旺墩路118号，邮编：215021
SWIFT CODE	ABOCCNBJ103



PART 11: INDUCTION PROGRAMME

The induction programme at XJTLU is mandatory for all students. The programme contains all the key information you need to start your study successfully. It is also a great opportunity to meet your fellow students and meet new friends from the Chinese mainland and all over the world.

The one-week induction programme from September 2nd to 7th 2024 covers the following activities:

- The University Opening Ceremony
- XJTLU Global Welcome Reception and Induction (attendance is a legal requirement)
- Residence Permit Application Information Session
- Academic Information Session
- Library and IT Information Session
- Campus tours
- Fresher's Fair
- Language placements tests

Students will receive a full induction programme plan when it is finalised in August 2024.



PART 12: ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Academic Calendars can be found on the home page of e-bridge (<https://ebridge.xjtlu.edu.cn>). Academic Calendars for 2024/25 can be found on the e-bridge home page.

The calendar shows you all teaching and assessment weeks, as well as holidays and periods of university closure. It is an essential planning tool for your academic year ahead.







PART 13: USEFUL INFORMATION FOR LIVING IN TAICANG, LANGUAGE AND CULTURES

SURVIVAL CHINESE PHRASES:

DAILY CONVERSATION

Hello - nǐ hǎo 你好

How are you? - nǐ hǎo ma? 你好吗?

Bye - zài jiàn 再见

Thank you - xiè xie 谢谢

Excuse me (sorry) - duì bù qǐ 对不起

Excuse me (I have a question) - qǐng wèn 请问

Where's the toilet? - Cè suǒ (WC) zài nǎ lǐ? 厕所在哪里?

How much? (money) - duō shǎo qián? 多少钱?

This - zhè ge 这个

That - nà ge 那个

Shall we go? Let's go - zǒu ba? 走吧?

I don't understand (what you said) - wǒ tīng bù dǒng 我听不懂

Can you speak English? - nǐ huì jiǎng yīng wén ma? 你会讲英文吗?

Please give me a pair of chopsticks. -- qǐng gěi wǒ yī shuāng kuài zi 请给我一双筷子

DIRECTIONS

Front - qián 前 Back - hòu 后 Left - zuǒ 左 Right - yòu 右

USING A TAXI

I can tell you the way - Wǒ kě yǐ gào sù nǐ zěn me zǒu 我可以告诉你怎么走

Keep going straight - yì zhí zǒu 一直走

Turn right - yòu guǎi 右拐 Turn left - zuǒ guǎi 左拐 Slow down - màn diǎn 慢点

BUDGETING YOUR TIME IN TAICANG

As lifestyles differ, the cost of living on the Chinese mainland also varies enormously. Below is a representative sample which you can refer to when budgeting for your living costs (per month in RMB):

ITEMS	Student A – Co-rent a twin room with another student, and live cheaply, i.e., eat at school canteen or in the residential area, go to social events once a month, and occasionally take bus to other places in Taicang	Student B – Co-rent a twin room with another student, and occasionally go to nicer restaurants. Go to social events 2/3 times a month, take taxi 3/4 times a month	Student C – Rent a single room, eat food in good restaurants and often go to social events. Own a bicycle and take taxi regularly
RENT	500	500	1166.67
UTILITIES	200	300	400
INTERNET	50	50	500
PHONE BILL	50	50	100
FOOD	1,500	2,000	2,500
TRANSPORT	100	300	500
LUXURIES	0	500	1,000
MONTHLY TOTAL	2,400	3,700	6,166.67

- In addition to the monthly costs, you should also allocate funds for the following annual costs:
- 2,000RMB/year or 1,000RMB/semester to cover the service charge (e.g. textbooks, ID card, printing)
 - Travel costs (e.g. bus, taxi, train, flight)
 - Medical costs (the insurance policy requires indirect billing, so you are strongly recommended to prepare some money for emergencies)

- Visa/Residence Permit costs (400RMB-1,000RMB, details can be found on the XJTLU International Student Visa Policy webpage)
- You will need to purchase bedding: pillow, sheets and a quilt upon arrival. A supermarket in the Taicang student accommodation basement area sells all of these items for around 500RMB in total, though the exact cost depends upon your choice of brand, quality, etc.



LAWS AND POLICIES

Mainland Chinese law must be respected and obeyed by all international students who study at XJTLU. A lack of knowledge of the law is not a legal defense should you run into difficulties. In general, mainland Chinese law is in line with the law in most countries globally, but certain aspects may be very different from your home country. Some examples may be:

- Classification of certain illegal drugs. Cannabis and other so called 'recreational drugs' are regarded with a high level of severity and users may face custodial sentences.
- Visa conditions. Breaking visa conditions is taken seriously and may result in the cancellation of your visa, which may impact not only your studies but your future career.

International students should also conform to university policies, and we highlight the following as especially relevant to your day-to-day lives:

- International Student Visa Policy
- Student Discipline Policy
- Student Attendance Policy

All of these policies and more are available on X-Global's Learning Mall Online (LMO) page or e-Bridge. You will be automatically enrolled onto our page at the start of your studies. If you do not see X-Global's page on your dashboard, then email: global@xjtlu.edu.cn (SIP campus); global.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn (XEC campus) and we will add you.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Insurance - the university provides its international students with free commercial insurance; however, the prerequisite is that you have to complete your registration on e-bridge. You must provide us with your passport number, full name, student ID number, and programme, and guarantee the accuracy, so that we can buy your insurance.

Students need to follow X-Global's instructions for buying the social insurance, which is 220RMB.

The insurance works in the following way:

INSURANCE	PAYMENT	ADVANTAGES
Social Insurance. This is optional and you pay for it yourself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the medical bills will be automatically paid by Taicang social security authority to the hospital when a social insurance card is used by students at hospital At 220RMB for a year, it is excellent value for money. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can only use the Social Insurance card in the hospital. The cap for outpatient treatment is only 600RMB/year. New students have to go to the designated banks to open a Social Insurance account after January 2025. Before they can get a social insurance card, students are expected to spend their own money in the hospital first and later reimburse the medical costs with the insurance company, with the assistance of the university.
Commercial Insurance. This is free and is provided by the university.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can compensate for the rest of the medical bills which are not covered by the Social Insurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect billing so students have to pay first at the hospital and later apply for reimbursement from the commercial insurance company. Only medical expenses incurred in hospitals can be reimbursed from the commercial insurance company.

- More details of the university insurance policies will be given to new international students in the insurance information sessions run by the XJTLU Global Engagement

Team after the semester starts

- Neither the social nor commercial insurance covers medicine or equipment which is not listed in the catalogue produced by the Suzhou (Taicang) Social Security authority
- The designated banks are 苏州银行Bank of Suzhou, 中国农业银行Agricultural Bank of China, 中国工商银行Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, 建设银行China Construction Bank, and 中国银行Bank of China

If you have bought insurance in your home country and it is an international package, please consult with the insurance provider on the following:

- What is included in the insurance package?
- Whether they need original medical receipts (Chinese insurance companies will take your original documents away in most cases)
- Whether private clinics are covered (if yes, please ask them to give you a list of covered clinics)
- Whether it uses direct billing and what you need to do to see a doctor without paying upfront
- Whether they have an office on the Chinese mainland (if yes, who is your contact when you need insurance services?)

XEC CAMPUS PRE-HOSPITAL CARE ROOM

Opening Hours & Room Number:

Monday morning & Thursday morning: 9am-12pm (room G1019)

Other weekday timing (room C1009)

Tel Number:

0512-88970524

Contact:

Ms. Liu

Service scope:

- General trauma cleaning, disinfection, dressing.
- On-spot first aid and preliminary treatment of accidental injury.
- General medical advice

Target customer:

Enrolled students / Staff of XJTLU.

Cost:

free of charge

HOSPITALS

We recommend our international students who only have university insurance to go to the following hospitals:

NAME OF THE HOSPITAL	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	APPOINTMENT
Taicang No.1 Hospital 太仓市第一人民医院	No.58 South Changsheng Road 太仓常胜南路58号	Probably the best hospital in Taicang, about 4KM to XJTLU Taicang campus with full medical departments.	You can register on their official WeChat account or onsite.
Dushu Lake Hospital 独墅湖独墅湖医院	9 Chongwen Road 苏州工业园区崇文路9号	The nearest public hospital to XJTLU SIP with full medical departments. Opposite to our South Campus.	You can register on their official WeChat account or onsite.
The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University 苏州大学附属第一医院	No. 899 Pinghai Road (苏州市平海路899号)	Probably the best public hospital in Suzhou with full medical departments.	You are required to register and then make appointments on the official WeChat account of Suzhou Health 12320. Buddies will be assigned to you to help you set up your account on Suzhou Health 12320.
Kowloon Hospital 九龙医院	No.118 Wansheng Street, SIP, Suzhou (苏州市工业园区万盛街118号)	A private hospital in SIP with full medical departments. If you call an ambulance in SIP, they take you to this hospital.	Apart from the Department of Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology, and Department of Stomatology, Kowloon Hospital accepts drop-in visits without requiring an appointment in advance.

The medical insurance provided by the university covers treatment in all Tier 1 public hospitals (top hospitals in terms of quality) and one private hospital - Kowloon Hospital. The public hospitals in Taicang (Suzhou) are generally clean and reliable.

Due to the language barrier and the different registration procedures in hospitals, we

advise you to be accompanied by a Chinese speaker. If required, the XJTLU Global Engagement Team can arrange a member of staff or a student volunteer to assist you or talk to the doctor on the phone when you see them.

Please keep all receipts / invoices and paperwork you get from the hospital in order to claim back your expenses either against your own insurance or the university supplied insurance.

Should you need information on any other hospitals, please do not hesitate to contact global@xjtlu.edu.cn (SIP campus) or global.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn (XEC campus) after you arrive on the Chinese mainland.



PRIVATE CLINICS

The benefits of using a private clinic can be: a more foreigner-friendly environment, services generally offered by foreign doctors or those who have a high standard of English, and western medicine-based treatment.

If your own insurance covers private clinics or you expect better private service, Sing Health (Suzhou and Shanghai) and Parkway (Shanghai only) are good options. The information can be found on their websites:

<http://www.singhealth.asia/en/index.php> and <http://www.parkwayhealth.cn>

In addition, we list below some other private institutions in Suzhou and north Shanghai, for your consideration:

Jiahui Health (Suzhou) 嘉会医疗 (苏州)

Offers a comprehensive range of medical departments.

Address in Chinese: 苏州工业园区旺墩路268号久光百货4楼

Address in English: Floor 4, Jiu Guang Shopping Mall, 268 Wangdun Road, Suzhou Industrial Park

NEW LIFE CLINIC 儒复诊所

Offers a range of medical treatments including sports medicine, gynecology, dermatology, internal medicine and laboratory services. Again, check with NewLife first to see if their treatments are covered by your medical insurance.

Address in Chinese: 苏州工业园区高和路1号

Address in English: No. 1 Gaohe Road, Suzhou Industrial Park

Artemed SE 阿特蒙医院

Artemed SE, from Germany, provides medical services in clinical care, outpatient care, emergency care and geriatric services.

Address in Chinese: 中国 (上海) 自由贸易试验区台北东路170号

Address in English: No. 170 Taipei East Road, China (Shanghai) Free Trade Pilot Area, Shanghai, China

United Family Healthcare (Changning) 和睦家医疗 (长宁院区)

An international-standard organization provides comprehensive healthcare services. It has several medical centers. Changning Center is 4KM away from Hongqiao Airport and Hongqiao Railway station.

Address in Chinese: 上海和睦家医疗 (长宁院区)

Address in English: 699 Pingtang Road, Changning District, Shanghai 200335

Jiahui Health 嘉会医疗 (上海)

Another international healthcare institution collaborates with Massachusetts General Hospital. It has an international hospital and many clinics in Shanghai, Suzhou and other cities. The hospital is 8KM away from Hongqiao Airport and Hongqiao Railway station.

Address in Chinese: 上海市桂平路689号

Address in English: 689 Guiping Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai

STUDENT COUNSELLING

A message from our International Student Counsellor:

Working in conjunction with the Mental Health and Development Centre (MHDC) at XJTLU alongside external health care facilities, we aim to support and respond to students' emotional needs and general wellbeing. Living in a different country can be exciting and yet stressful from time to time. Factors such as the language barrier, cultural differences, and food and climate can affect you emotionally. Although we know that many students will have minimal problems adapting to the new environment, we are here to support you should you be finding it difficult, so that you can get the most from your time at university. If you wish to talk to someone about any concerns you might have, don't hesitate to contact us. All enquiries of this nature will be kept confidential.

If you need mental health support or counselling, please visit:

<https://counselling.xjtlu.edu.cn/EventArticle/Article/ArticleDetail?Id=1028>

Email: counselling.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn

Location: C-1021 (XEC campus)

SAFETY TIPS:

- Always lock the door and windows of your bedroom when you leave your room
- Only carry a copy of your passport (or photo on your phone) instead of the original passport when you are not traveling outside Suzhou
- Call the police on 110 immediately if you lose valuables, are attacked or robbed, etc. (A police case report is very important in these cases)
- Only carry a small amount of cash with you
- Don't put cash in your luggage when you are traveling
- Don't leave your belongings unattended in classrooms or areas like library study zones
- Don't leave your electronic devices charging unattended in your apartment as they may cause fires
- Be aware of your surroundings and potential risks, especially in nightclubs and bars. Pay attention to your drinks in case of spiking

SHOPPING AND EATING

Taicang has a lot of shopping malls or plazas where you can buy daily commodities, watch movies, treat yourselves to a wide variety of foods and drinks, and so on. Here are some recommendations:

e路发 supermarket

Address: 江苏省苏州市太仓市发达路113号

Distance to campus: about 3KM

It is a big supermarket supplying most of the things you would need in your student daily life. It is probably the biggest supermarket within 3KM of the campus.

陆渡集贸市场 (Ludu Trade Market)

Address: Zhongshi Road (中市路)

Distance to campus: about 3KM

This is a trade market with many private restaurants, telecom shops, convenience shops, bank branches (ICBC, Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank), etc. A near-campus market provides different food choices, daily commodities to people living nearby, at affordable prices. Zhongshi Road is 2KM long, including surrounding areas, and it would take you about half a day to explore.

宝龙城市广场

Address: 太仓市上海东路288号

Distance to campus: about 3KM

A place with a few restaurants and different sorts of shops for you and your friends to explore.

东盛商业广场 (Town Shine Commercial Plaza)

Address: 上海东路199号

Distance to campus: about 3.5KM

A pedestrian street near Wanda Plaza with a few restaurants and shops.



海运堤 (Haiyun Causeway)

Address: No.80 Haiyun Causeway Road

Distance to campus: about 6KM

There is a medley of German style buildings where you will find restaurants serving a myriad of food choices (local and international food).

万达广场 (Wanda Plaza)

Address: 太仓市上海东路188号

Distance to campus: about 4KM

A big shopping mall near the city centre. Wanda is a well-known commercial real estate company in China operating a lot of Wanda Plaza malls in many cities in the country. There are different kinds of restaurants, clothing shops, cosmetics shops, phone shops and recreational activities inside, including a modern Wanda IMAX cinema.

大润发超市 (RT Mart)

Address: 太仓市太平南路18号

Distance to campus: about 6KM

A famous supermarket brand. If you can't find things in the 1st supermarket above, then try here. It is a two-storey building supplying lots of food and daily commodities for your bathroom, living room, balcony and for yourself. They also operate on the Taobao app if you want your things to be delivered to you. If you buy things in big quantities, delivery is not recommended, and it is better to go to the supermarket.

五洋广场 (Wuyang Plaza)

Address: 上海东路77号

Distance to campus: about 6KM

It's close to RT Mart. Another big shopping mall in Taicang for you and your friends to explore.

南洋广场 & 华旭曼度广场 (Nanyang Plaza and Huaxu Mandu Square)

Address: 太仓市人民南路96号南洋广场

Distance to campus: about 8KM

The two big malls are on two sides of a street, close to each other. A myriad of food choices + loads of shops, recreational activities and so on, for you and your friends to explore. You can also find a large Walmart supermarket if you want to buy things in big quantities.



ON-CAMPUS FACILITIES

CHEAP ¥ AVERAGE OR ABOVE ¥¥

LIFE & HOPE UNIVERSITY CANTEEN ¥

It is on the ground floor of Building A serving Chinese food.

ZEMO CAFÉ ¥¥

It is in Building F serving mainly western food, coffee, etc.

旺角便利店 MONG KOK STORE ¥

It is a convenience shop selling snacks, beverages, etc. in Building E.

FACILITIES IN TAICANG ACCOMMODATION AREA

There are many restaurants, shops, convenience stores and supermarkets in the accommodation area, such as China Telecom, China Mobile, China Unicom, LIFE & HOPE canteen (ground floor of Building 8 in the residential area), Giant and Merida (bicycle shops), FamilyMart (convenience store), 百分茶 (milk tea), Macdonald's, 熊大爷 (dumplings), Whose Coffee, Huawei (electronics), 玄松 (restaurant), Coco (milk tea), MINISO (commodities).



EATING CULTURE

Food lies at the heart of Chinese culture. So much so that one of the most common greetings is “吃饭了吗 (Chi fan le ma)” which means, “have you eaten” and roughly equates to “how are you”. It should not be taken as an invitation to eat.

Restaurants on the Chinese mainland can be divided into two main types, traditional and snacking (小吃). In a traditional restaurant, you order dishes which are placed in the middle for everyone to share. Portion sizes vary dramatically, but a good rule is to order one dish for each person dining + 2 extra dishes + 1 optional soup. These dishes are divided into cold dishes, meat/fish dishes, vegetable dishes and soups.

Recommended simple meal for two people: peanuts花生米, egg and tomato番茄炒蛋, fish flavoured meat鱼香肉丝, and stir-fried greens青菜. This may cost 35-60 RMB each.

LOCAL CUISINE

Hot pot is to the Chinese family what Sunday dinner is to the British. You start by ordering a soup which you then use to cook meat and vegetables.

What to put in the pot?

Meat - lamb羊肉, beef牛肉, pork五花肉

Vegetables - potatoes土豆, sweet potatoes红薯, carrots胡萝卜, spinach菠菜, mushrooms蘑菇 (香菇, 平菇, 金针菇)

If you just want to go out to eat on your own, or want to eat something a little simpler, there are a variety of smaller restaurants to choose from. These can be roughly divided into rice 米饭, noodles 面 and wonton 馄饨.

SPECIALIZED DIETS

HALAL

All mainland Chinese cities have halal restaurants, mostly established by Hui Muslims. Traditionally the northwest was predominately a Muslim region of Chinese Muslim converts and people of Turkic descent who had settled on the Silk Road trading routes. Hui and Uyghur cuisine are now popular all around the Chinese mainland and most customers are not Muslims. Halal is relatively well understood and respected due to the long historical presence of Muslims on the Chinese mainland. Halal products and restaurants normally display a Halal (清真) certification. In the Taicang student residential area, there is a Halal restaurant called: 兰州牛肉面, which looks like this:

I do not eat pork - wǒ bù chī zhū ròu - 我不吃猪肉。

Typical dishes sold in Halal eateries are:

Lanzhou beef noodles 兰州拉面

Xinjiang roast lamb 新疆烤羊肉串儿

Xinjiang saute spicy chicken 新疆大盘鸡



VEGETARIAN / FOOD ALLERGIES/ GLUTEN FREE

The concept of being vegetarian is not well understood outside of big cities and popular tourist destinations, whilst allergies are almost unheard of. Therefore, vegetarians and those with peanut and shellfish allergies need to be very careful when eating out. If a shortage of some highly seasonal fruits and vegetables does not bother you, access to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in supermarkets, wet markets in communities or even roadside stalls will certainly meet your self-catering needs.

When going out to eat, you need to be vigilant and make sure that the food you have ordered is ok for you. Many restaurants have picture menus to show you exactly what is in the dish you are ordering. Be aware that shellfish and peanuts are used as flavouring in various dishes and that the server may not even realise their presence. Those with severe peanut allergies need to be really careful as a popular cooking oil is made from peanuts.

Safe bets: stir fried greens/炒青菜 (Chao Qing Cai), egg and tomato/番茄炒蛋 (Fanqie Chao Dan).

I don't want any meat, just give me vegetables/我不要肉，只要蔬菜。(Wo bu yao rou, zhi yao shucai).

Watch out for steamed bun (包子, Bao Zi), seemingly vegetarian ones often have meat in them.

Yuxiang Qiezi - fish flavoured aubergine (eggplant) is very tasty but often has meat in it.

I'm allergic to shellfish, I can't even eat a tiny bit of shellfish/我对海鲜过敏，一点点海鲜都不能吃。(Wo dui haixian guomin, yi dian dian haixian dou bu neng chi).

Watch out for very tiny prawns (虾米, Xia Mi) that are often used for flavouring.

I'm allergic to peanuts, I can't eat peanuts or peanut oil, or anything made of peanuts 我对花生过敏，花生米、花生油等都吃不了。(Wo dui huasheng guomin, huashengmi, huashengyou deng dou chi bu liao).



COMMUNICATIONS

SIM CARD FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS

China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom are the three major telecommunication providers. Their stores in the Taicang student residential area provide students with cheap packages. If you want to purchase a SIM card or enjoy a faster internet speed service in your room, please visit their stores.

You will benefit from using a smart phone not just because of the 4G and 5G data provided by the three operators, but also the widely accessible WIFI in many places, including the whole XJTLU campus.

Please be aware that some phone companies lock your handset to their service. In order to use your phone abroad you will need to get them to unlock it. Some mobile devices do not support 4G/5G functions on the Chinese mainland, so you might need to buy a new device after you arrive.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Your stay can be made much easier through the use of apps. Two apps that you will find useful are Pleco and WeChat.

PLECO is an online English to Chinese / Chinese to English dictionary, which is available in all app stores. You may need to activate the Chinese handwriting keyboard on your phone before you can draw Chinese characters or type pinyin into the app to search for the meanings of the words. You can also ask a Chinese person to type a whole question into the app and then read the translation.

WECHAT (微信) is the most commonly used social media app on the Chinese mainland. This app allows users to make video and voice calls, send individual and group messages, make online payments, pay for goods and services in shops, top up phones, call for taxis and so on.



XJTLU GLOBAL WECHAT QR CODE



To use the Wechat Wallet to pay bills electronically, you need to associate one of your Chinese bank accounts with your Wechat account by Clicking “Me”→“Wallet”→“Cards” (like you do for PayPal).

When Wechat Wallet is set up, you can pay electronically using the following steps:

- Click “+”→“Scan QR Code”→“Scan vendor’s QR Code”→“Enter Amount”→“Enter Password”
- Or switch to the page “Me”→“Wallet”→“Quick Pay”→“Show the Cashier”

DIDI CHUXING is a mainland Chinese version of Uber. Users can use this app or its WeChat page in English to get a taxi or a private car registered with the company. As to payment, this APP allows users to pay through WeChat Wallet or Alipay.

AIR MATTERS to check the air quality and weather, and receive advice on how to protect yourself.

BON APP to find information about restaurants, including comments on the food served and special offers.

OTHER USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/suzhouexpats/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShanghaiExpat/>

www.smartshanghai.com/

There are many (other) useful apps and websites, please check with your classmates which ones they find most useful. Here we suggest some for your consideration:



滴滴出行 (taxi)



百度地图
(Baidu map)



VooV (online meeting)



Trip.com (train ticket, flight ticket, hotel booking)



饿了么 (takeaway food ordering)



猫眼 (cinema ticket booking)



美团 (restaurants in the city, takeaway food ordering)



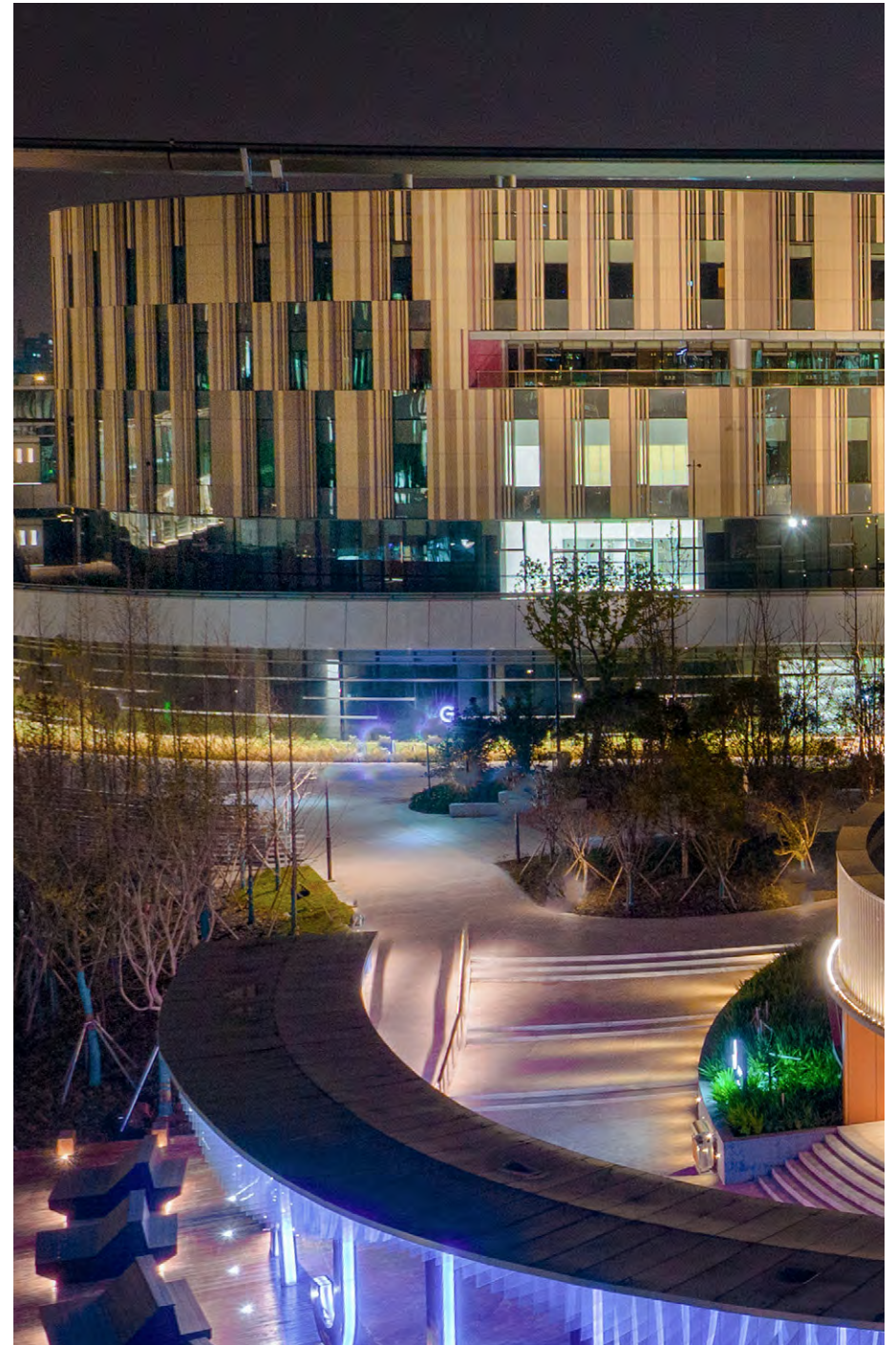
中国电信 (China Telecom)



中国移动 (China Mobile)



中国联通 (China Unicom)



TRANSPORT

Taicang has a well-developed public transport system, including more than 70 daily operating bus lines and 2 railway stations. The systems enable people to get around the city easily.

BUS

1-2RMB/trip (occasionally some routes which extend to the suburbs of the city may cost 4-5RMB/trip).

TRAIN

Taicang Railway Station & Taicang South Railway Station.

TAXI

Taxis cost more than buses for sure. However, Taicang is not a very big city, hence a trip by taxi inside urban Taicang costs between 10RMB and 30RMB. For instance, taking a cab from XJTLU Taicang campus to Haiyun Causeway (海云堤)/Nanyang Plaza (南洋广场) costs around 20RMB.



All legal cabs with “Taxi” signs on top use meters. You can ask drivers to turn on the meter (打表, Dabiao) after getting in the cab. Free cabs show a green “空车” sign on its top, and if the cab has a red “有客” sign, it means it is occupied.

When taking a taxi, unless you are confident to tell the name of the place clearly and accurately, it is suggested you have the address of the place written down in Chinese characters. It is a good idea to have your dorm address in Chinese saved on your phone when you go out so that you can make your way home should you get lost.

DIDI

DIDI is the Chinese version of Uber and Grab. It has a mobile app that can be installed on your phone. Cabs can also be ordered using WeChat. With GPS switched on, the app automatically identifies where you are and just enter the



destination and order a car. You can pay electronically on the app or by cash.

BICYCLE

If you enjoy autonomy when getting around, a bicycle can be a good option. Quality bicycles can be found in supermarkets, shopping malls or some professional biking stores. Given the road and traffic conditions, you are advised to wear protection such as a helmet, gloves and so on. In the Taicang accommodation area, there are two bicycle shops: Giant and Merida.

E-BIKES

Considering the quality of most e-bikes (battery powered scooters) and the risk they pose to your lives, we strongly discourage our international students from buying or using e-bikes. Fatal e-bike crashes are too common in Taicang to even merit a mention in the local news. Within 10KM radius of Taicang campus, a bike is more than enough to take you to 95% of the places you want to visit. For other places, take a bus or a cab. However, if you do decide to ride an e-bike, you are required by law to register your e-bike at the local police station in order to obtain a license and get your e-bike license-plated. You need to check with the Taicang dorm reception about the recharging facilities and relevant safety policies. Meanwhile, we strongly advise you to be careful, wear a good quality helmet and ensure that you are aware of the stopping distances of your bike (e-bikes often have very good acceleration and extremely poor braking systems). Most of all, remember that the 'rules' of the road in Taicang are probably very different from those at home. Cars, e-bikes, bicycles and pedestrians routinely ignore traffic lights, zebra crossings, which side of the road they should be on, and even whether they are on a road or on a pavement. Every year, one or more international students end up in hospital due to an e-bike incident, sometimes with extremely serious consequences. We have already explained that the metro, buses, taxis and even bicycles are cheap and readily available in Taicang. For all of these reasons, we repeat that we do not recommend any use of e-bikes.



Legal e-Bikes must have pedals and a top speed of 25km/h. Any other design is illegal and invalidates your health insurance in the case of an accident, and risks police or legal action against you.

NOTES:

Use of illegal buses and cabs: ignore any illegal buses and cabs which you may come across at the train or bus station. As these vehicles are not legally registered with the traffic management bureau, you might be putting your life in danger, be deprived of the right to reimburse any medical expenses with the insurance providers if you are injured in an accident, or lose a lot of money since the drivers tend to use fake bank notes. Please remember that you can always find licensed cabs or buses by following the signage at train or bus stations.

Illegal motorcycles: motorcycles are prohibited for those who live inside Suzhou, so you will not be able to obtain a driving license or get a motorcycle license-plated. Therefore, for the sake of your own and others' security, we strongly advise you not to buy or use any motorcycle. Moreover, an accident that occurs whilst using an illegal motorcycle, no matter how severe or who is to blame, will invalidate any medical insurance you have and open you up to the possibility of lawsuits against you.

Driving license: foreign driving licenses are not recognised on the Chinese mainland, so it is illegal to drive a car without a Chinese license.

TRAVELLING AROUND THE CHINESE MAINLAND

The Chinese mainland has an exceptionally well-developed transport network, meaning that should you wish to, you can travel throughout the enormous Chinese mainland with relative ease.

PLANE

We recommend you use the following website to book your air tickets: www.trip.com. At the time of writing the website only accepts Chinese credit cards or WeChat pay.

Qunar.com - this website is entirely in Chinese but has the best deals for flights. The best way to book flights is to ask a Chinese friend to book them online for you. They will need to write your name using the following format SURNAME/ FirstnameSecondname.

TRAIN

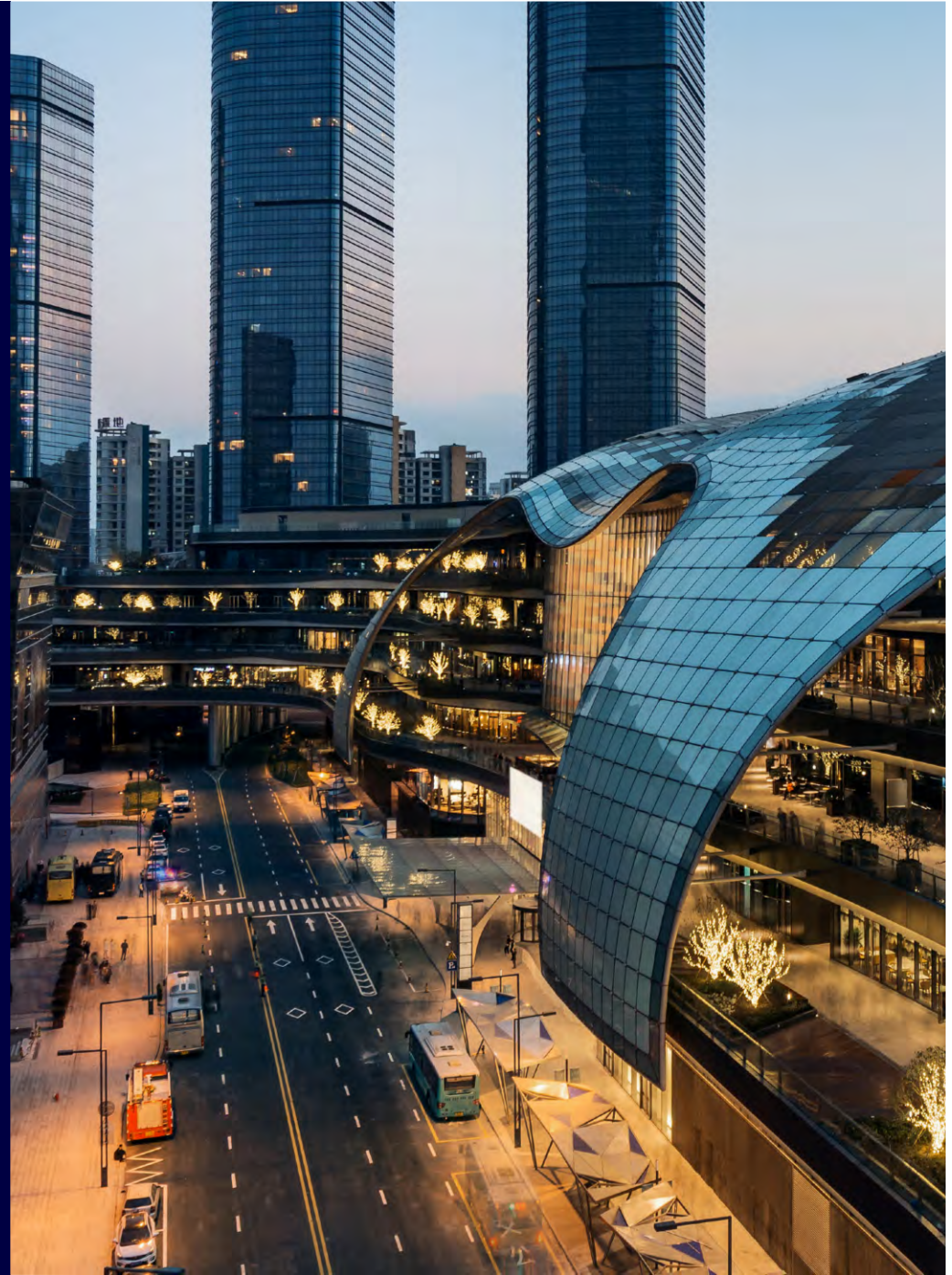
The Chinese mainland has an extensive network of trains with high speed rail links running throughout the east coast with continual development into western regions. High speed rail trains: the train number starts with either G or D offering two classes of seating, first and second.

Z, K, L or numbered: older and slower trains, normally selling three classes of tickets, hard seat, hard bed and soft bed. Please note that train tickets can only be booked a maximum of 15 days in advance.

It is a good idea to buy your tickets as early as possible because tickets are often sold out quickly. Tickets can be bought on www.trip.com and only electronic tickets are issued. Your passport is recognized at the station, and you scan it at the gate to gain access to the platform.

COACH

Coaches are a little more expensive than trains, but are useful for getting to smaller cities or out of city tourist locations. As coach tickets only go on sale approximately 18 hours before departure, they can also be used as emergency transport when trains are fully booked. There is no easy way to book tickets online and finding a timetable is similarly tricky. Your best bet is to go to the coach station 汽车站/客远站 and ask at the ticket office there.



RELIGION 宗教

According to Chinese law, religious rites and activities can only take place in officially recognized places of worship, i.e. churches, mosques, temples, etc. **It is especially important to note that it is forbidden to carry out any religious activity on the university campus.** However, all of the major world faiths have followers on the Chinese mainland.

CHENGXIANG CHRISTIAN CHURCH (基督教城厢堂)

Add: No.183 West Zhenghe Road, Taicang (太仓市郑和西路183号)

ZHONG HUA ZHU SHENG CATHOLIC CHURCH (中华诸圣天主堂)

Add: No.12 Lanzhou Road, Taicang (太仓市兰州路12号)

TAICANG MOSQUE (太仓清真寺)

Add: No.2 Changjing Road, Taicang (太仓市长泾路2号)

HAITIAN ZEN TEMPLE (海天禅寺)

Add: No.99 Chansi Road, Taicang (太仓市禅寺路99号)

SHUANGFENG TEMPLE (双凤古寺)

Add: No.2 Fengbei Road, Taicang (太仓市凤北路2号)



HOLIDAYS

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

The Mid-Autumn Festival means family reunion to Chinese people, thus it is one of the most important traditional festivals. There are many beautiful legends about the origin of this festival. Admiring the full moon and eating moon cakes are the traditional activities held on this day.

NATIONAL DAY

It is a festival of great importance to the people nationwide and celebrates the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

CHRISTMAS

This is a Christian festival which is increasingly celebrated on the Chinese mainland, especially in shopping malls.

SPRING FESTIVAL

It is the grandest and most important festival for Chinese people. It is also the time for families to get together to eat, drink and be merry, similar to Christmas Day in western culture.

QINGMING FESTIVAL

It is a day when people eat rice cakes and sweep the tombs of their ancestors.

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

People traditionally eat zongzi (粽子), a rice dumpling wrapped in bamboo or red leaves and watch dragon boat races.

For more information about the national holidays and leave periods, please refer to the university calendar, which can be found on the main page of university e-Bridge system.

LOCATION OF XEC CAMPUS OFFICES

XJTLU Global: H1004

Student One-Stop Service office (IT, Registry, SAO...): reception window tables on Ground Floor in Building H | Student Club Service Centre Office: H1004 | Finance Office: desks between H1013 and H1014 | Library: Building D | SACDO: H1004

Student Counseling Office: H1004 and private counselling rooms in Building C

Gym: Building S

XJTLU GLOBAL (XEC CAMPUS)

H1004, Building H, XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang)

111 Taicang Avenue, Taicang 215400, Jiangsu Province, China

西交利物浦大学创业家学院（太仓）

西浦国际，H楼1004

中国江苏省苏州市太仓市太仓大道111号，邮编：215400

Tel: 0086 512 8916 7657

Monday - Friday 9am - 12pm, 1pm-5pm

Email: global.tc@xjtlu.edu.cn

XJTLU Global official WeChat (scan the QR code to follow us):



PART 14: XJTLU SHUTTLE BUS FROM/TO TAICANG CAMPUS

The university provides students and staff with a free shuttle bus service to facilitate travel between the SIP and Taicang campuses. The service runs throughout the year, except for campus closed days and at weekends. For detailed information on seat booking, schedule, regulations, etc., please visit: <https://shuttlebus.xjtlu.edu.cn/>

The pick-up point on Taicang campus: between Building C2 and D1

The pick-up point on SIP campus: south entrance on Chongwen Road, SIP south campus



PART 15: TAICANG TO CENTRAL SUZHOU & TAICANG TO SHANGHAI

TAICANG TO CENTRAL SUZHOU

A. The easiest and cost-free way is to use the shuttle bus service provided by XJTLU.

B. You can also take a train to central Suzhou. There are two railway stations in Taicang: Taicang Railway station and Taicang South Railway Station. For the time being, there is no direct railway route linking Taicang and central Suzhou. Passengers need to exchange at Hongqiao Railway Station in Shanghai. The overall duration takes about 75 minutes. Depending on which station you start the trip from Taicang, the terminal station in Suzhou could be one of three: Suzhou Railway Station (苏州站), Suzhou SIP Railway Station (苏州园区站) and Suzhou North Railway Station (苏州北站).

TAICANG TO SHANGHAI

The easiest way is to take a train. You take a train at Taicang Railway station or Taicang South Railway Station. There are three terminal stations, depending on where your destination is: Shanghai West Railway Station (上海西站), Hongqiao Railway Station (上海虹桥站) and Shanghai Railway Station (上海站).

● XJTLU GLOBAL (TAICANG CAMPUS)

H1004, Building H, XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang)
111 Taicang Avenue, Taicang 215400, Jiangsu Province, China

● 西交利物浦大学创业家学院（太仓）

西浦国际，H楼1004

中国江苏省苏州市太仓市太仓大道111号，邮编：215400

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