

INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT  
WELCOME GUIDE | 2025-26



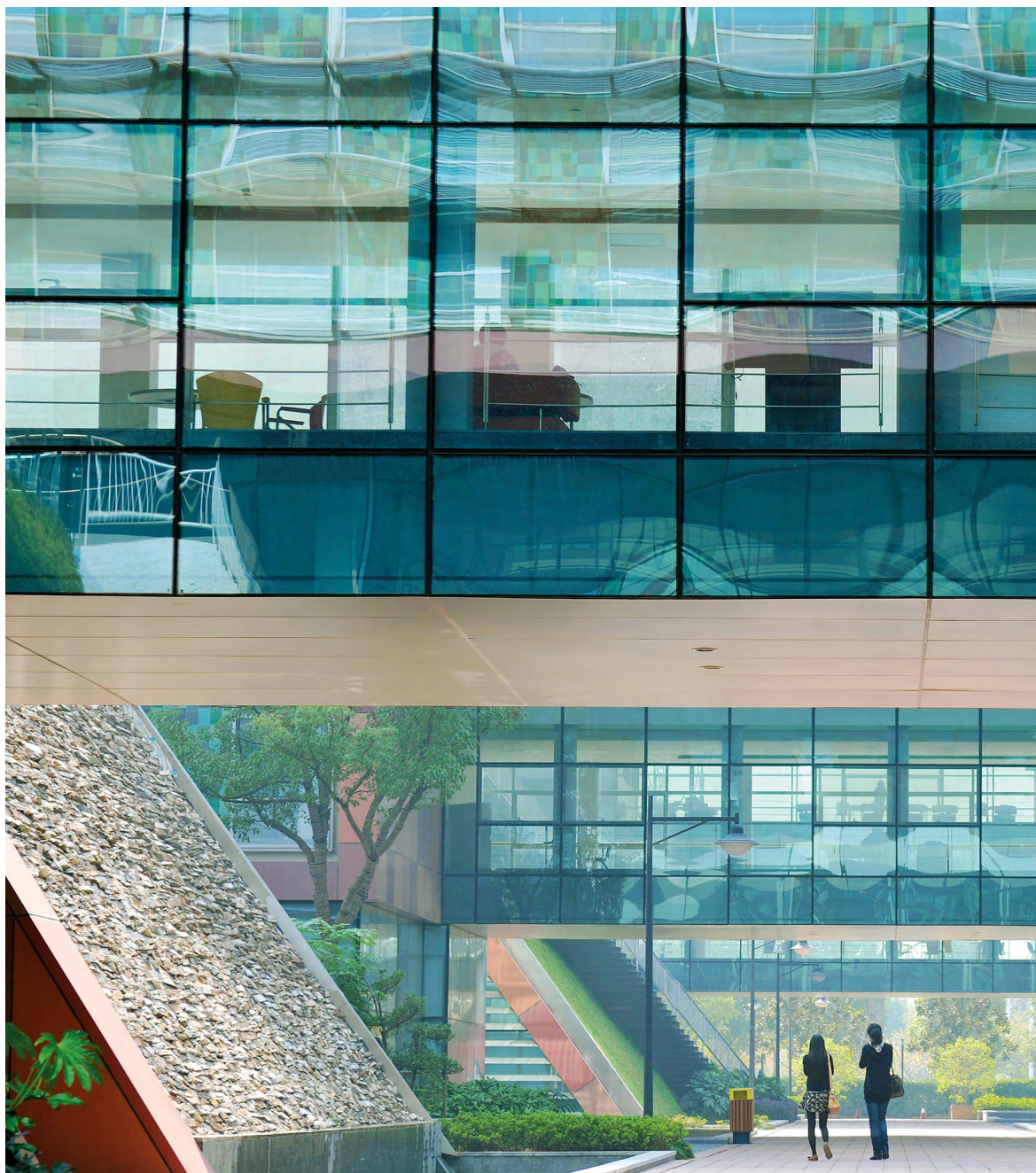
# XJTLU SIP CAMPUS



Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University  
西交利物浦大學



## WELCOME TO XJTLU 欢迎



Thank you for choosing Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University for a unique and rewarding learning experience. We all wish you every success as you embark on this new educational journey.

This booklet is designed to make your transition to XJTLU and the Chinese mainland as smooth as possible. The guide is arranged in order of the steps you normally take as a student joining XJTLU. Find time to read this guide and if you still have questions, we are here to help.

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.

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

Pre-arrival Information Page link:

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

### CONTACT US:

International Student Engagement team:

Tel: +86 512 8897 3093/8897 3094

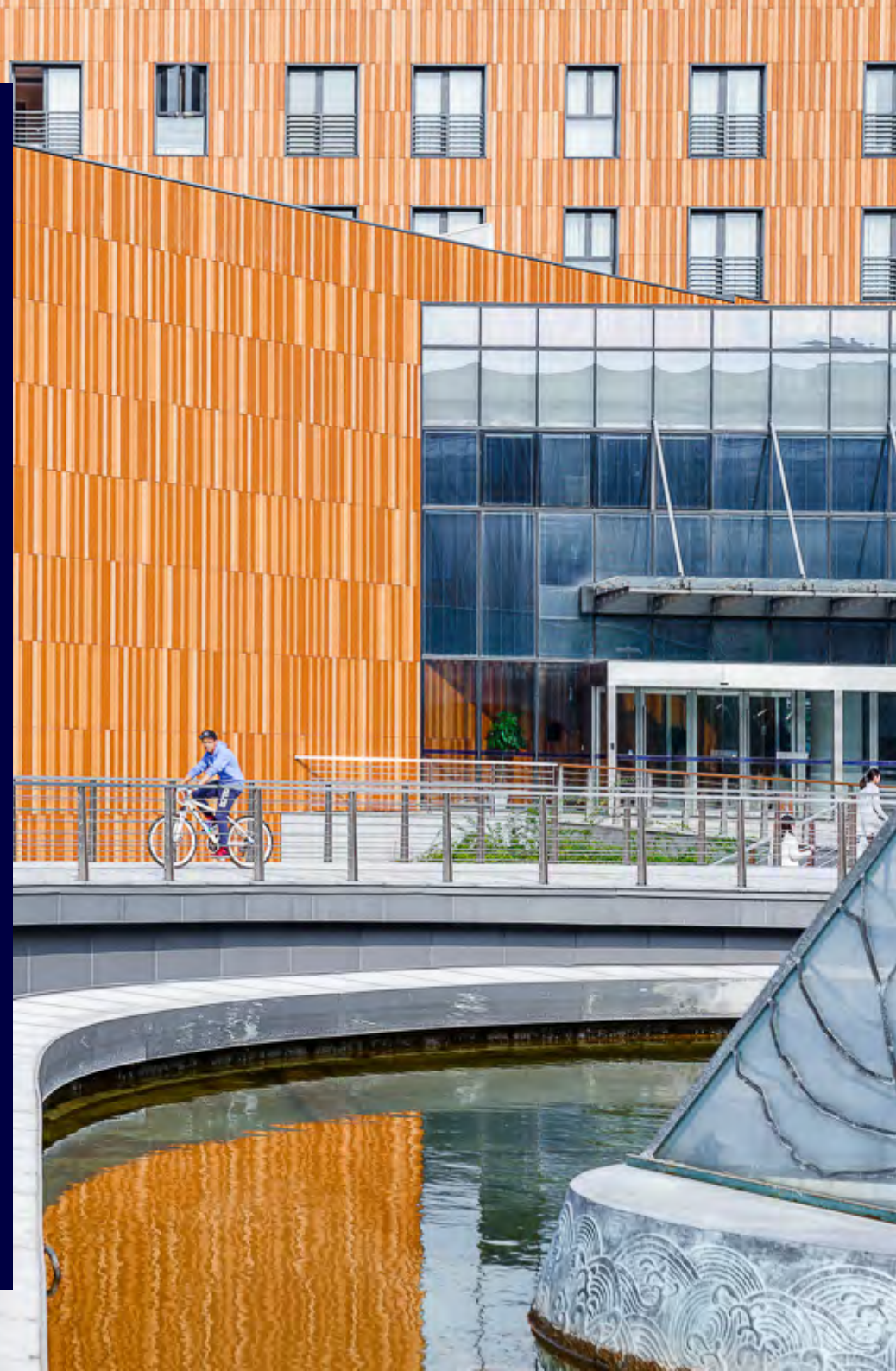
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Email: [global@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:global@xjtlu.edu.cn)



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

Students from Hong Kong, Macao or Taiwan don't need to apply for 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 resident before entering the Chinese mainland. Your first step will be to check the location and guidelines specific to your nationality at <https://www.visaforchina.cn/>

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 arriving on the Chinese mainland. A Residence Permit is a multiple entry visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Application fee (depends on country).</li><li>•Health check package after arrival (510RMB)</li><li>•Residence Permit 400RMB to cover a one-year stay</li><li>•Postage to have your passport sent to the university</li><li>•Postage to have your Health Report sent to the university</li></ul>
X2	Fewer than 180 days	Single	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Only the application fee in your home country</li></ul>

You need the following documents for an X visa application:

- Original Admission Notice (Sent to you by XJTLU)
- JW202/DQ Form downloaded from <https://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 downloaded from <https://www.visaforchina.cn/>
- Visa application section on the website of the mainland Chinese Embassy in your own country
- Any extra requirements listed on <https://www.visaforchina.cn/> or the visa application section on the website of the mainland Chinese Embassy

You need to keep the Admission Notice and JW202/DQ Form safe after you have applied for the visa and bring them to the Chinese mainland with you. You need them for your enrolment 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 near to the application deadline should pay their deposit ASAP if they wish to accept their XJTLU place. 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 in 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 vaccination.

### 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 mainland Chinese currency in cash to pay the accommodation deposit and utility fees when checking into the accommodation (around 3,500RMB plus the first three months' rent, which is currently 5,130RMB). We suggest that you prepare this money before leaving your home country and bring it with you. If you wish to use your home credit card in China, you must tell your bank before leaving home, and even after doing this, there is the possibility that it still may not work and that is why we suggest you bring enough money in cash to get you established here.
- Prepare enough mainland Chinese currency in cash for yourself to buy food or pay for transport during the first few weeks of your time in Suzhou.

### PACKING

Apart from towels, linen, bedding, crockery, cutlery, and cooking utensils, which can be bought at reasonable prices near your accommodation, you are recommended to bring the following things with you:

- Adapters for your electronic devices
- Medications prescribed by your doctor, and bring the prescriptions
- Clothes and shoes for all seasons

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: <http://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 or not. For sensitive devices, it is best to check that the cable has a transformer, especially if you are coming from the USA.

Sockets commonly used here:





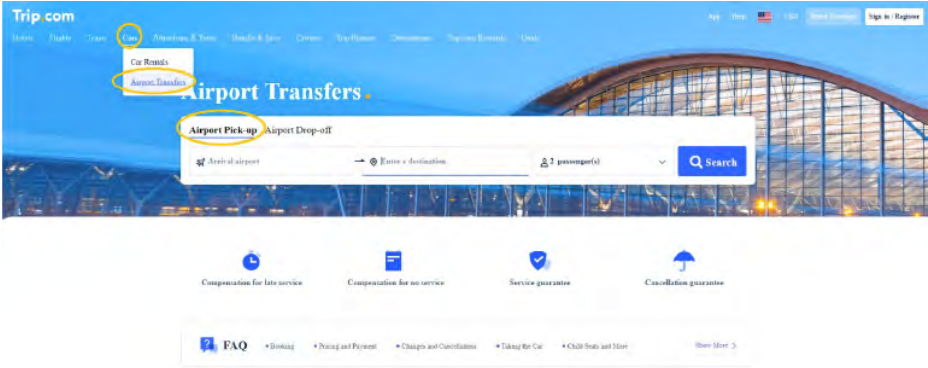
Whilst it is very easy to buy electronics here, they are not necessarily cheaper than anywhere else in the world. There are a number of large electrical shops in Suzhou and also a variety of online electronics stores that will quickly deliver your items to you. Mobile phones bought here can have very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

TRANSPORT AFTER ARRIVAL

XJTLU Global send shuttle buses to Pudong Airport to collect students for free. We strongly recommend you buy flights that arrive on dates when XJTLU Global send staff and volunteers to Pudong Airport to pick you up and also to the accommodation to help you check in.

AIRPORT	LAST BUS/TAXI TO LEAVE	MEETING POINT	REMARKS
PUDONG AIRPORT	12:30 in the afternoon 19:30 in the evening	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

If you plan to come to Suzhou on your own or cannot catch up with our last bus at the airport, you can book a private taxi on [www.trip.com](http://www.trip.com). Please click 'Cars' > 'Airport Transfers' > 'Airport pick-up'. Approximate cost is 350rmb from Pudong airport.





### PART 3: STUDENT ACCOUNT, EMAIL ADDRESS AND STUDENT ID CARDS

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 Online (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 student account and email address. Your academic Department / School / Academy at XJTLU, XJTLU Global, the Registry Office, the IT Office and any other offices will only communicate with you via your XJTLU email.

Students must submit a photo for XJTLU Global to prepare their official student ID cards with their student ID numbers, names and photos. You can use your ID card during the whole period of your degree 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, and so on.





## PART 4: ACCOMMODATION BOOKING AND CHECK-IN

### ACCOMMODATION IN SUZHOU

Accommodation for newly arriving international, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao students is guaranteed upon arrival, you must pay deposit and utilities, and the first three months of rent. After you have moved into the accommodation, you can easily organise an internet connection for your room with one of the local providers, if it is not included in your rent.

The accommodation provider is a separate company and is not the university. We can help you book accommodation, but we do not manage it. They offer two types of contract. The first is for your first semester and the second is for the whole academic year. The cost is currently approximately 1800RMB/month, but it may increase slightly before you arrive. You can also arrange to rent a private apartment near the university, either alone or with friends. The easiest way to do this is to employ a local accommodation agent, and there are many of these:

For more information about accommodation, please visit our website:

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/campus-life/accommodation>





### ACCOMMODATION BOOKING

Student accommodation is provided by Suzhou Dushu Lake Science & Education Development Co., Ltd. (SDLSED), a state-owned company administered by the Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District. You can find more information on the university website here:

<https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/global/accommodation>

### ACCOMMODATION BOOKING

Students who want to stay in the accommodations provided by SDLSED must book through a survey. The survey link can be found on our accommodation webpage above.

### ACCOMMODATION CHECK-IN

For check-in, you need:

- Original passport
- Refundable deposit in cash (2,000 or 3,000RMB depending on the accommodation)
- Utility fees (water/electricity) in cash (approximately 500RMB)
- Three months' rent to be paid with a bankcard or in cash (strongly recommended as your bank card may not work in China)

Therefore, we recommend you bring with you 10,000RMB in cash to get settled in without difficulty.

The checking-in process involves signing a rental contract (in English).

Please note that your deposit may not be refunded to you if you terminate the tenancy contract early. Please refer to the contract for details when you sign at the reception. This is why it is very important to decide on a contract length of one semester or the whole academic year, that is right for you.

Before signing any contract, students are strongly recommended to:

- Read the contract carefully
- Check whether all items listed on the contract inventory have been provided in the accommodation
- Check the condition of the provided items and compare this to their description in the inventory

- Ask the property management officer to make a note on the inventory if something in the accommodation is missing, broken or not as described

Please note that:

- Residents are required to pay rent every three months. Long delays or failure to pay the rent may lead to termination of the tenancy
- The deposit receipt must be returned to reception when checking out for it to be refunded
- Utility fee receipts should be kept as you need them to check with reception if you ever need to question the usage of electricity or water
- Confirm with your bank whether your bank card can be used on the Chinese mainland to pay for your accommodation or any other bills

Please note that the university cannot offer any accommodation-related support to students living in private apartments or houses.



## PART 5: ACCOMMODATION REGISTRATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARRIVING IN SUZHOU

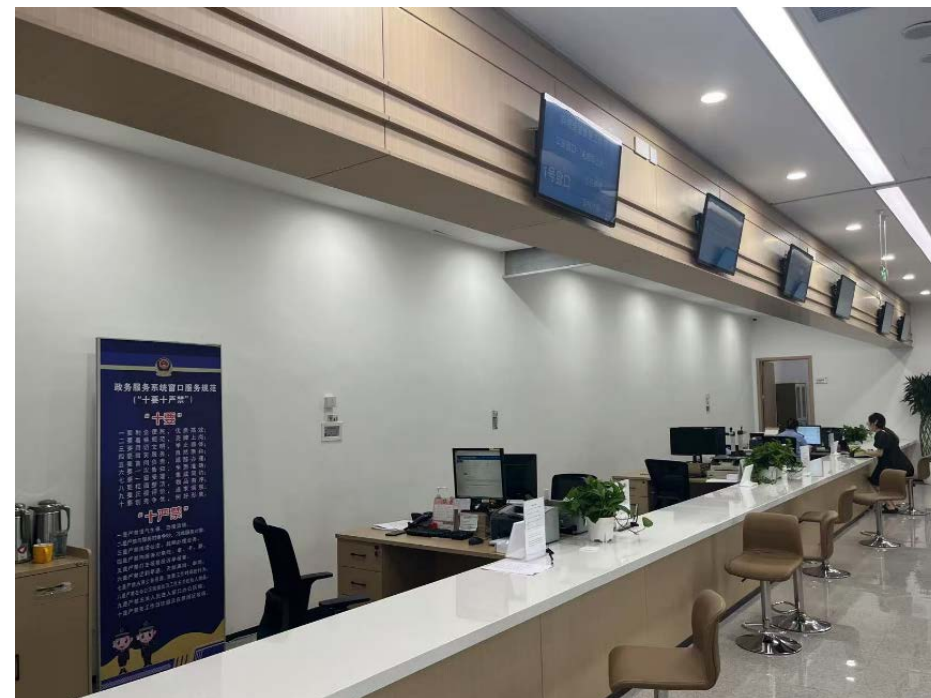
Foreign nationals moving to the Chinese mainland are required to register their residential address. This should be done within 24 hours of you checking into your accommodation.

To find where you should go to register your residential address, please visit our pre-arrival information page: <https://www.xjtlu.edu.cn/en/admissions/pre-arrival-information>

Take your passport and your accommodation rental contract/check-in receipt. After accommodation registration, you will receive an Accommodation Registration Form (临时住宿登记表), a photocopy of which will be used for your Residence Permit application in the Exit and Entry Bureau and for archive purposes with the accommodation provider.

If you have come to Suzhou from inside the mainland, you must register within 24 hours of checking into your new accommodation. If you are living in private accommodation, your landlord or agent will inform you of the place where you need to register.

International students are also required to register again after they receive their Residence Permits.





## PART 6: HEALTH CHECK

After you arrive in Suzhou, you must do a health check to get your Residence Permit. This will be done at a clinic in Suzhou. If you are from Taiwan, Hong Kong, or Macao, your health check will normally occur on campus. We will arrange your health check in advance if you arrive on the dates when we meet you at the airport. Alternatively, come to our office, CB116E, and we will help you make an appointment for your health check.

### WHERE TO DO THE HEALTH CHECK:

Suzhou International Travel Healthcare Centre

Address: No. 738 Changjiang Road, Suzhou New District

苏州国际旅行卫生保健中心

苏州高新区长江路 738 号，近泰山路

Health checks are conducted: Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 11:00am

### WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU:

- Your passport
- 2 passport-sized photos (colour photos with a white backdrop)
- 510RMB to cover the health check cost (WeChat and Alipay are preferred but cash can be used if you cannot use Wechat or Alipay)

Note: there is no printer or photographer in the healthcare centre, so please prepare your own photos and the copies of documentation in advance. If you need to take a photo, you are recommended to go to the Hanlin Neighbourhood Centre, where there is a photo shop behind the McDonalds.

### HEALTH REPORT DELIVERY:

Please have your health report posted to the university address:

西交利物浦大学西浦国际办公室 (XJTLU Global 苏州工业园区仁爱路 111 号，中心楼 108E 室)

邮编: 215123

电话: 8188 9123

### STUDENTS ON SHORTER COURSES

If you are arriving on an X2 visa and your course is fewer than 180 days, you will not

apply for a Residence Permit. However, you still require a health check, but this is a smaller one done on campus. X-Global will announce the arrangement accordingly. Please note if you missed the health check on campus, you must go and do the health check yourself in Suzhou Hospital No. 5 (苏州第五人民医院) on No. 10 Guangqian Road, Xiangcheng District.

### OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Do not eat any food before blood and ultra sound tests in the morning
- Do not drink anything except for water



## 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 on 15th August, you must apply for your Residence Permit before 14th September. 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 your Residence Permit.

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

- Collecting copies of passport bio page, visa and entry stamp pages, JW202 Form and Admission Notice from students
- Completing the Residence Permit Statement Letter and Residence Permit Application Form for students
- Booking appointments for students to apply for a residence permit at the Exit & Entry Bureau
- Providing onsite supports to students when they are submitting documents to the Exit and 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 X1 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 MAINLAND 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. We recommend the following banks:

Students who are studying on SIP campus can go to following banks to open their Chinese bank accounts:

### (1) Bank of China / 中国银行

Address: 1F, Suzhou Linrui Plaza, 88 Xihualin Street, Suzhou Industrial Park / 苏州工业园区西华林街88号

Tel.: 0512-62570363

Working hours: 09:00-16:30

### (2) Industrial and Commercial Bank of China / 工商银行

Address: 99 Ren'ai Road, Suzhou Industrial Park / 苏州工业园区仁爱路99号 (opposite the Foundation Building of XJTLU).

Working hours: 09:00-16:30

### (3) China Construction Bank / 中国建设银行 (苏州独墅湖支行)

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.

Working hours: 09:00-16:30

### (4) Bank of Communications / 交通银行

Address: F1, Hanlin Neighborhood Centre, 598 Linquan 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.

Working hours: 09:00-16:30

### (5) CITIC Bank / 中信银行 (苏州独墅湖支行)

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.

Working hours: 09:00-16:30

### (6) Agricultural Bank of China / 中国农业银行

Address: 28 Dunhuang Road, Suzhou Industrial Park / 苏州工业园区敦煌路28号

Working hours: 09:00-16:30

You will need the following to open a bank account:

- Original passport
- Student ID Card or Admission Notice
- Mainland Chinese SIM card number
- Taxpayer code
- Minimum deposit of around 50RMB

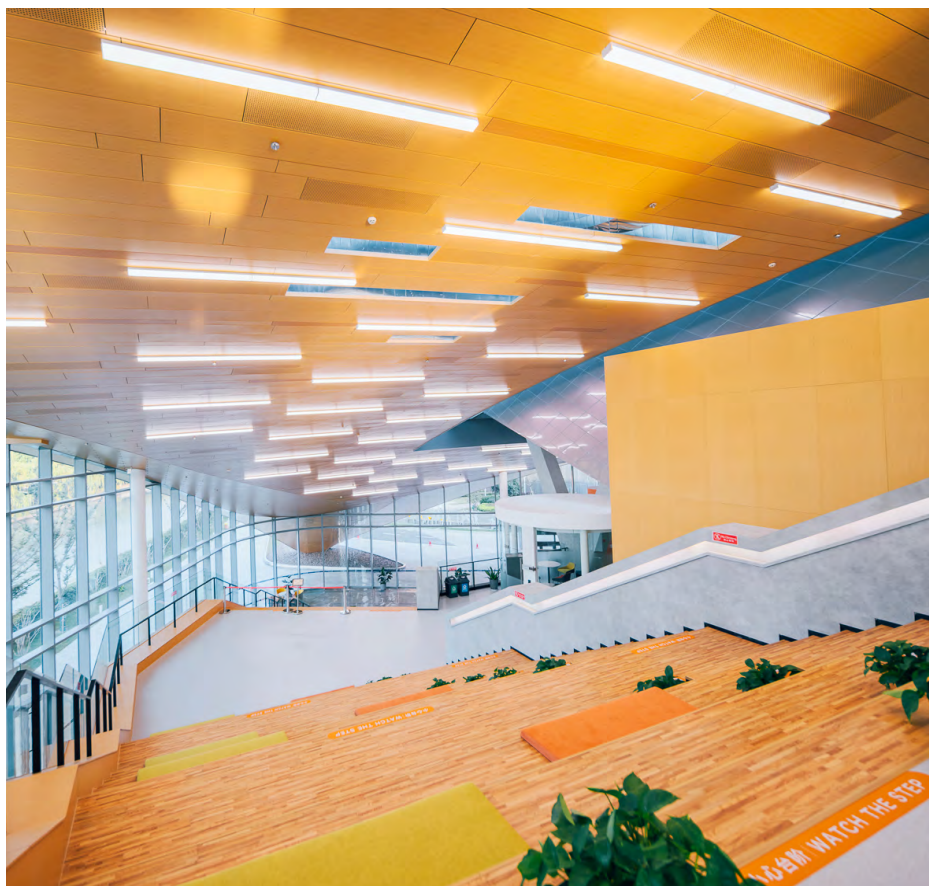
You are advised to submit photocopies of your passport, student ID Card, and Admission Notice. You mustn't give the original documents to the bank when opening a mainland Chinese bank account.



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 publicise 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 with 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](mailto:global@xjtlu.edu.cn) 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.

### NOTE FOR VISITING & EXCHANGE STUDENTS

STUDENTS **MUST** ENTER THEIR CORRECT PERSONAL DETAILS, INCLUDING EMERGENCY CONTACTS, PHONE NUMBER, AND ADDRESS **BEFORE THE END OF WEEK 1 OF SEMESTER** OR UPDATE ANY CHANGES **WITHIN A WEEK**.



**NOTE FOR VISITING & EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

TRANSCRIPTS Semester 1 provisional transcripts will be published on e-Bridge in March of that academic year. The original copy will be posted to the Study Abroad Office at the students' home university. Semester 1 & 2 final marks will be published on e-Bridge in late July. 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 resits will take place between late July or early August. Resit 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 the Friday of Week 1.

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 shortfalls when making the payment

- Once the transaction has been made, please send the proof of your payment to [global@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:global@xjtlu.edu.cn)

- 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

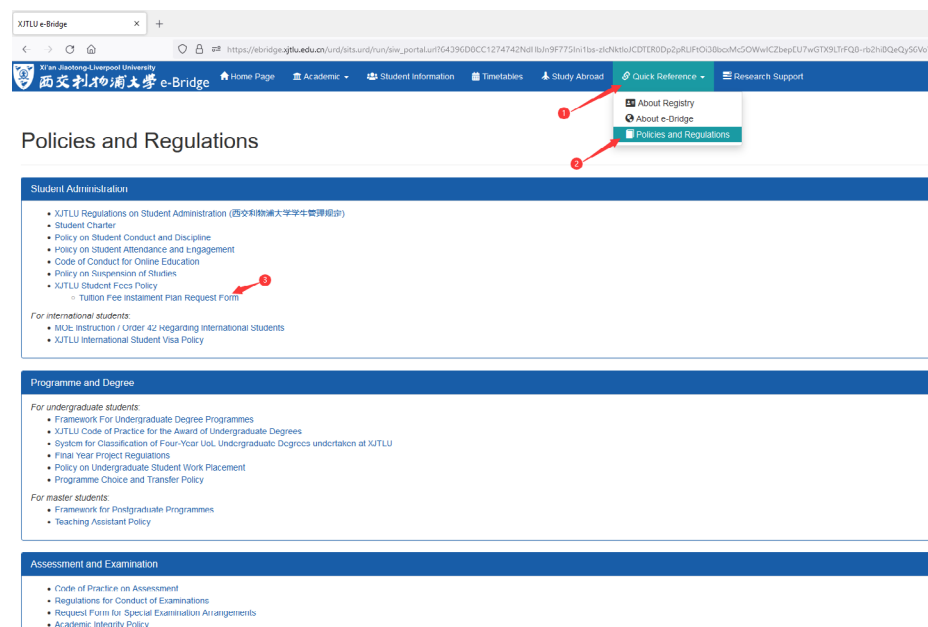
- University USD or GBP bank account

- 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](mailto:global@xjtlu.edu.cn) for consideration.





BANK DETAILS	
BENEFICIARY 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, People's Republic of China 215123 江苏省苏州市中国新加坡工业园区，独墅湖科教创新区仁爱路111，邮 编：215123
TO PAY IN USD OR GBP	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	010-010320-055 (USD) 010-010320-056 (GBP)
SWIFT CODE	HSBCCNSHSUZ
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, People's Republic of China 215021 江苏省苏州市中国新加坡工业园区，苏州大道西1号世纪金融大厦，邮 编：215021
TO PAY IN CHINESE RMB (PAYMENT FROM MAINLAND THE CHINESE MAINLAND ONLY)	
ACCOUNT NUMBE	10550701040006923
BANK NAME	Agricultural Bank Of China, SIP Xietang Sub-Branch 中国农业银行苏州工业园区斜塘支行
BANK ADDRESS	No. 2178 Area A, Lianfeng Plaza, SIP, Suzhou, People's Republic of China 215028 苏州工业园区娄封东区联丰广场A区2178号，邮编：215028





## 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 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.



## PART 12: ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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

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 SUZHOU, LAN-GUAGE 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



FINANCIAL BUDGETING IN SUZHOU SUGGESTION

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:

ITEMS	Student A - Resides in international halls and lives cheaply, i.e., only eating Chinese food from the university canteen, avoiding clubbing or drinking, and occasionally taking the bus or metro into the old town.	Student B – Resides in international halls and lives cheaply during the week, but occasionally treats himself to food from a nicer restaurant. Goes drinking occasionally. Normally takes the bus, but will take three or four taxis a month.	Student C - Lives the expat lifestyle, normally eating in western restaurants and going to bars. He owns a bicycle and takes taxis regularly.
RENT	1,700 (Parfait International Apartments)	1,700 (Parfait International Apartments)	3,000 (for a private apartment)
UTILITIES	300	400	500
INTERNET	100	100	100
MOBILE PHONE	50	50	50
FOOD	1,300	2,000	3,000
TRANSPORT	100	300	300
LUXURIES	0	1,000	2,000
MONTHLY TOTAL	3,550	5,550	8,950

Note: Rent is subject to slight change so please make sure your budget provides you with flexibility.

In addition to these 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: pillows, sheets and a quilt upon arrival. Your local supermarket sells all of these items for around 500RMB in total, though the exact cost depends upon your choice of brand and quality, etc. Parfait International Apartments can also sell you a bedding pack for 500RMB when you check in.





## 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 .

Learning Mall Online: 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](mailto:global@xjtlu.edu.cn) 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.

The insurance works in the following way:

INSURANCE	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Commercial Insurance. This is free and is provided by the university.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can compensate for the rest of the medical bills which aren't covered by the Social Insurance.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indirect billing so students have to pay first at the hospital and later apply for reimbursement from the commercial insurance company.</li><li>• Only medical expenses incurred in hospitals can be reimbursed from the commercial insurance company.</li></ul>

- 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
- The Commercial Insurance does not cover medicine or equipment which is not listed in the catalogue produced by the Suzhou Social Security and Provident Fund Management Centre
- 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 about 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?)



HOSPITALS

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

NAME OF THE HOSPITAL	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	RECOMMENDATION	APPOINTMENT
Dushu Lake Hospital	9 Chongwen Road	The nearest public hospital to XJTLU with full medical departments.	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	You can register on their official WeChat account or onsite.
独墅湖独墅湖医院	苏州工业园区 崇文路9号	Opposite to our South Campus.		
The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University	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.
苏州大学附属第一医院				
Kowloon Hospital	No.118 Wansheng Street, SIP, Suzhou	A private hospital in SIP with full medical departments.	★ ★ ★	For most departments, Kowloon Hospital accepts drop-in visits without requiring an appointment in advance.
九龙医院	(苏州市工业园区万盛街118号)	If you call an ambulance in SIP, they take you to this hospital.		

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

Due to the language barrier and the different registration procedures in hospitals, we recommend you go with 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. Alternatively, a good translation app usually suffices.

Please keep all official receipts / invoices and paperwork associated with your visit to 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 don't hesitate to contact the Engagement Team at [global@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:global@xjtlu.edu.cn) after you arrive.







## 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 entirely western medicine-based treatment.

If your own insurance covers private clinics or you expect better service, Sing Health (Suzhou and Shanghai) and Parkway (Shanghai only) could be the best options. Their information can be found on their websites: <http://www.singhealth.asia/en/index.php> and <http://www.parkwayhealth.cn>.

### JIAHUI HEALTH (SUZHOU)

There is also a new private clinic in Suzhou, JIAHUI Health (Suzhou). This has a comprehensive range of medical departments, but is private and therefore high end and rather expensive. Its services will not all be covered by your insurance, so you would need to check with them first before undergoing treatment.

Here are their details:

嘉会医疗 Jiahui Health

Address in Chinese: 苏州市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

### NEWLIFE CLINIC 儒复诊所

Another private clinic is NewLife. This offers a range of medical treatments including sports medicine, gynecology, dermatology, internal medicine, and laboratory services. Again, check with NewLife first to check that their treatments are covered by your medical insurance.

Here are the details:

Address in Chinese: 苏州工业园区高和路1号

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



## 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.

Location: Room 285, Central Building

Tel: +86 512 8816 1815

Email: [counsellingservice@xjtlu.edu.cn](mailto:counsellingservice@xjtlu.edu.cn)

Safety tips:

- Always lock the door and windows of your bedroom when you leave your room
- Only carry a photocopy 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 travelling
- 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

Suzhou Industrial Park has a lot of shopping malls or plazas where you can buy clothing and cosmetics, watch movies, treat yourselves to a wide variety of foods and drinks, and so on. Here are some recommendations:

### SUZHOU CENTER (苏州中心)

China's largest shopping centre, situated in the west of SIP with horse riding space, ice-skating, clothing shops, restaurants, etc. Take Metro Line 1 and get off at Oriental Gate.

### TIMES SQUARE (时代广场)

A massive commercial area with hundreds of shopping malls, restaurants, entertainment amenities and cafés, for example, the Elite Bookstore, Jiuguang Shopping Mall, Shin Kong Place, branches of Watsons, Mannings, Subway, Starbucks, and many restaurants.

Bus route 115, 快线2号 to '旺墩路' stop and about 10 minutes' walk. Or Metro Line 1 or Metro Line 8 and get off at Time Square Station.

### XINDU PLAZA (馨都广场)

Western restaurants include the Butcher's Hook. Other popular restaurants such as Casa Zoe and Blue Marlin are located a short walk away. Bus route 146, 178 to '馨都广场' stop.

### LI GONG DI (李公堤)

Li Gong Di is located along the south bank of Jinji Lake (金鸡湖). It provides a wide variety of bars and restaurants. It becomes especially lively during the weekends. For those who prefer a more sedate environment, there are restaurants such as the all-you-can-eat and drink Japanese restaurant Zhao Ri Wu (朝日屋). Li Gong Di also plays host to several popular bars such as Jenny's and Pulp Fiction.

Bus route 142 to '李公堤南' stop.

### MOON HARBOR (月光码头)

Western food and bars. Popular restaurants include Ganesh (Indian food) and Pistachio (Turkish food).

Bus route 812, 快线2号 to '国际博览中心' stop and 10 minutes' walk.



### VALUE RETAIL SUZHOU VILLAGE (苏州奕欧来)(A BRANCH OF BICESTER VILLAGE)

Shopping area for discounted luxury brands and many restaurants and coffee spots.

You can take their free shuttle bus to get there. The collection point is Hyatt Hotel. You wait to be picked up at Exit No. 3 of Metro Line 1 on Huachi Street in Times Square.

### MOON BAY

A restaurant area only 4km west of campus next to Dushu Lake. It hosts one of the most popular Peking Duck restaurants in Suzhou, Japanese restaurants, and Emmetts, one of the most popular western restaurants in SIP. It also has a popular camping area next to it, on the lake, which in summer has a lot of street food options.

ON-CAMPUS FACILITIES

CHEAP ¥ AVERAGE OR ABOVE ¥¥

CAFE MERSEY ¥¥

LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CENTRAL BUILDING AND THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE BUSINESS SCHOOL. OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 8AM - 10PM. SERVES WESTERN FOOD AND COFFEE.

GREEN BAZAR ¥¥

LOCATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION BUILDING ON SOUTH CAMPUS, THIS RESTAURANT SERVES WESTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN FOOD. OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 11AM - 10PM.

SUBWAY (赛百味) ¥¥

LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE FOUNDATION BUILDING. OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 8AM - 10PM. SELLS SANDWICHES, COOKIES, AND HOT AND COLD DRINKS.

CONVENIENCE STORES

THERE ARE 5 CONVENIENCE STORES LOCATED AROUND THE NORTH AND SOUTH CAMPUSES OF SIP.

TONGFA CANTEEN (同发餐饮) ¥¥

LOCATED ON THE BASEMENT FLOOR IN THE SCIENCE BUILDING (BLOCK SA). THE OPENING HOURS ARE 10:30-14:00, 16:30-19:30. THE CANTEEN OFFERS SPECIALS INCLUDING SPICY HOT POT, SUZHOU-STYLE NOODLES, DUMPLINGS, STEWED POT, AND SELF-SELECTED DISHES.

LIFE & HOPE CANTEENS (宏愿餐厅) ¥

LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR IN BUILDING P122 AND ON SOUTH CAMPUS OPPOSITE GREEN BAZAR. OPEN EVERY DAY 7:00AM - 9:00AM (BREAKFAST), 10:45 - 13:30 (LUNCH), AND 4:30PM - 7:00PM (DINNER). SERVES CHINESE-STYLE FOOD.

NOTE: OPENING HOURS MAY SOMETIMES CHANGE DURING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS OR UNIVERSITY CLOSED DAYS, PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR NOTICES OR CHECK WITH THEM DIRECTLY.

OFF-CAMPUS FACILITIES

There are also lots of other restaurants (Chinese and international), convenience stores, and supermarkets in the Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District, which are also close to the campus.

ZEMO CAFÉ (这美咖啡) ¥ ¥

2 minutes' walk from the university Foundation Building, next to the ICBC Bank.

HANLIN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTRE (翰林邻里中心)

Fresh 'wet' market, dry cleaners, McDonald's, Fresh Supermarket, bakery, yoga studio, photographers, and Victor's imported goods. The neighbourhood centre has a variety of Chinese, Korean and Japanese restaurants. Basil Café, which sells pasta dishes, rice dishes, sandwiches, pizza and western bakery goods is inside Victors. Wava Pizza sells some of the best pizza in SIP.

Location: at the end of Ren'ai Road.

WENCUI PLAZA (文萃广场)

It is opposite the north gate of Parfait International Apartment, where you can find Starbucks, McDonalds, Family Mart, City Life Shop, hotels, numerous restaurants and an excellent value food court providing all kinds of meals within easy walking distance.

WEN XING PLAZA (文星广场)

The complex has KFC and Pizza Hut. There are also a number of Chinese restaurants around the area, a bakery (85°C), fruit shops, and a pharmacy. MBA Hotel Apartments are also close to the plaza.

MBA AREA FOOD COURT

This brand new food court just a couple of minutes walk away, has a wide range of local eateries as well as Domino's Pizza and Starbucks.

Location: Opposite the University





## 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 shouldn’t 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 35-60RMB each.

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.

### LOCAL CUISINE

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.

### HALAL

All mainland Chinese cities have halal restaurants, mostly established by Hui

## SPECIALIZED DIETS

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:

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, shellfish or other allergies need to be very careful when eating out. If a shortage of some highly seasonal fruit and vegetables does not bother you, access to a wide variety of fruit 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 Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District provide student packages which are normally cheap. If you want to purchase a SIM card or get connected to the internet in your accommodation, please visit their stores in the place nearest to where you live. For example, Wenxing Plaza and Wencui Plaza.

You will benefit from using a smart phone not just because of the 5G data offered by the three telecommunication providers, but also the widely accessible WIFI in many places, including the 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; and some overseas-made phones don't support 5G functions on the Chinese mainland, so you might need to buy a new handset after you arrive.

### WECHAT & ALIPAY

WeChat and Alipay are essential for an easy life in China. You use them to pay for everything, buy travel tickets, order taxis (DiDi), video and voice calls, individual and group messaging, and just about everything else. We recommend you load them onto your mobile phones before you leave home.

### PLECO

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.



### XJTLU GLOBAL WECHAT QR CODE & WECHAT WALLET



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

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, 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/](http://www.smartshanghai.com/)

There are many other useful apps or links, so check with your classmates which ones they are finding most useful.

## TRANSPORT

Suzhou has a very well-developed public transport system with buses, metro and taxis available throughout the city. This system enables people to get around the city easily. You must wear face masks on all forms of public transport.

**BUS:** Buses - cost 1-2RMB (occasionally some routes which extend to the very suburb of the city may cost 4-5RMB/trip).

**METRO:** Is one of the most popular transport options in Suzhou, currently 8 lines are operating all across the city. Please read appendices for details.

## DIDI CARS & TAXIS

DIDI is the China version of Uber and Grab. Didi cars and taxis are both now ordered using WeChat. It automatically identifies where you are and you just enter your destination and order a car. You can pay on the app or in cash.





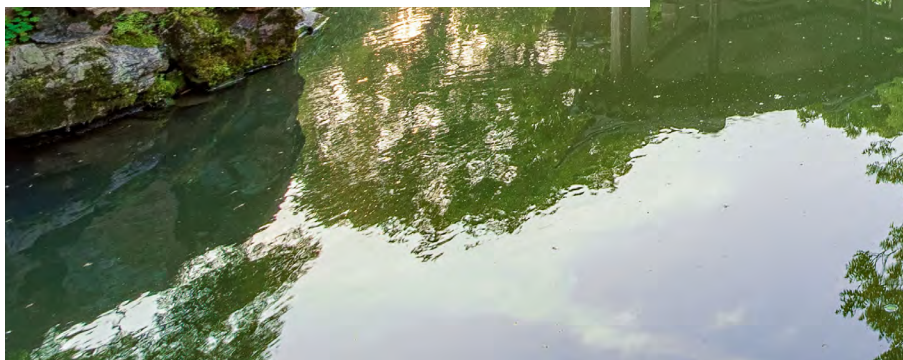
## BICYCLE

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.

## 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 Suzhou to even merit a mention in the local news. 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. 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 Suzhou 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 are 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 Suzhou. 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 train or bus stations or airports. 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 won't 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, both in terms of its land and population, with relative ease. However, before embarking upon any journeys, first check whether any pandemic-related travel restrictions are in place.

### PLANE

We recommend you use the following websites to book your air tickets to get around the mainland:

Ctrip.com - has an English language version, but at time of writing, the website was only accepting 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 18 days in advance.

It's a good idea to buy your tickets as early as possible, as tickets are often sold out. Tickets can be bought on [www.trip.com](http://www.trip.com) and only electronic tickets are issued. Your passport is recognized at the station, and you scan it in 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 to 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.

TAIPINGFANG MOSQUE (太平坊清真寺)

Add: No. 19 Tai Ping Fang, Shilu, Suzhou (苏州石路太平坊19号)

DUSHU LAKE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (独墅湖基督教堂)

Add: Bailu Park, Dushu Lake HET, SIP (苏州工业园区独墅湖翠薇街白鹭公园)

Bus route 156, 166, 176, 218 Website: <https://www.thesif.org/>

OUR LADY OF THE SEVEN SORROWS (CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL) 圣母七苦主教座堂

Add: No.90 Sanxiang Road, Suzhou (苏州市三香路90号)

There are two main Taoist temples in Suzhou, one at 94 Gangqian Street (观前街) known as Shuzhou Xuanmiao Temple (玄妙观) and another at 94 Jingde Road (景德路) known as Suzhou Chenghuang Temple (城隍庙)

HANSHAN TEMPLE 寒山寺

Website: <http://loading.hanshansi.org/index.html> (in Chinese)

Add: No.24 Hanshan Temple Lane, Jinchang District, Suzhou 苏州市金阊区寒山寺弄24号 Bus route 游3, 313, 6, 9, 17, 21, 31, 301 to '何山大桥' stop

## 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 and shops.

### SPRING FESTIVAL

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 some western cultures.

### 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:



**APPENDIX: KEY DATES & IMPORTANT LINKS**

**KEY DATES**

- Deadline for UG, visiting & non-degree Chinese language programme application: 30th June 2025
- Deadline for master's degree programme application: 15th June 2025
- Free airport pick-ups in Pudong Airport: 21st, 22nd, 23rd & 24th August 2025
- Accommodation check-in with assistance: 21st, 22nd, 23rd & 24th August 2025
- Onsite registration: 25th, 26th & 27th August 2025
- Residence permit application document preparation: 25th, 26th & 27th August 2025
- Health check in Suzhou International Travel Healthcare Centre: 26th, 27th, 28nd, & 29th August 2025
- Residence permit applications in the EEBs: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th September
- Opening ceremony: 31st August 2025
- X-Global induction: 2nd September 2025
- Tuition Fee Payment Deadline: 12th September 2025

**NOTE:** XJTLU Global will collect copies of passports, JW202 Forms, Admission Notices, and Police Registration Forms from students when they are registering on campus. XJTLU Global will use these documents to prepare the residence permit application documents. Students must collect them at least one day before they go to the Exit and Entry Bureau to apply for residence permits.





## LOCATION OF OFFICES

XJTLU Global: CB-108E

Student One-Stop office: CB-115E | Student Activity Office: CB-256 | Registry (Academic Affairs): CB 8F | IT Service Desk: CB 9F

Finance Office: CB 10F | Graduate Student Office: CB-858 | Library: Level 1-8, Central Building Career Office: CB-G57E

Student Counseling Office: CB-285

Gym in XJTLU's new sports facility on south campus



Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

西交利物浦大学

● XJTLU GLOBAL

Office 108E / 116E, Central Building Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

111 Ren'ai Road, Suzhou Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District, Suzhou Industrial Park, Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China, 215123

● 西交利物浦大学

西浦国际，中心楼108E / 116E室

中国江苏苏州工业园区独墅湖高教区仁爱路111号，215123

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