Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  o Chinese instructors demanded much more, but that was because the point of the program is to improve language proficiency.

- Could you call them by their first names?
  o You must refer to them as laoshi or (xing) laoshi

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  o It depended on the teacher, for the most part they were very friendly, similar to UCSB

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  o They did not have office hours, however you saw them often enough to ask them anything you needed. Classes were about 20 students at the very most.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  o Nothing was anymore difficult than UCSB except that the amount of time you had to put in was much higher.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  o Exactly the same.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  o The structure was like a normal class - homework, essays, midterm, sometimes a project, and final.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  o I had written exams for reading/writing classes.
  o I had oral and written exams for conversational classes.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  o It depended on the teacher.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  o Language tutors are very cheap. I had a tutor majoring in teaching Chinese to foreigners, and she charged less than 10 USD an hour.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  o Yes, of course.

- Was classroom participation expected?
  o Part of your grade was based on classroom participation, especially the conversational class.

- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
- It had a similar class structure. Classes were 2 hours long, with one 10 minute break. The teacher would teach and we would take notes and raise questions when confused. It was fairly laid back

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  o You were given a class schedule just like at UCSB. Language classes were 2 hours long

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  o It is rude to show up late, just like at UCSB. Points are taken off depending on your teacher. Eating/drinking also depended on the teacher.

**Language**

- In which languages were the courses offered?
  Chinese

- What language did you take your courses in?
  Chinese

- If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.
  o My courses were taught in Chinese. I took Chinese language courses so the grammar and vocabulary were relatively simple. It took about 2-3 weeks to adjust to being taught without English, but it is a very quick and rewarding transition.

**Host University**

- How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?
  o PKU is the oldest campus in China. Located in the north-western part of Beijing, it is set right in the middle of a “city-like” atmosphere. Tall buildings surround the campus and you will usually find traffic on all of the borders. Inside the campus, there are few high-rise buildings, as PKU wanted to keep the history of the campus intact. The campus is very big.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
  o Students have all three options to choose from.

- If not located in the city center,
  o How far or close is it to the city?
    ▪ It is located in the city.

  o What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
    ▪ Subway, 2RMB anywhere,

  o Could students take cabs -cost? Taxi starting fee 10RMB

  o How long would it take to get to the city center?
    ▪ By Subway, 35 minutes
- Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?
  o Yes

- Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?
  o The Chinese program sells its books to students in an area separate from regular students

- Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?
  o You should bring your laptop.

- What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)
  o There were restaurants, barber shops, banks, and bars.

**Housing**
- What types of accommodations are available to UC students?
  o There were on and off-campus dorms.

- How close are they to campus?
  o They were as close as you can get

- How did you find your housing?
  o I found my housing through the UC Study Center.

- Where did you live and with whom?
  o I lived in Zhongguanxinyuan, the new international dorms right across the street from campus. I chose to live with a friend from UC, but I did not have to. I could have randomly lived with a stranger who could have been any student.

- If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?
  o Landlords do not speak English so you could as long as you can speak Chinese well enough to do this on your own otherwise they will want you to pay a lot of $$$$$.

- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
  o Nicer

- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?
  o I had my own room with living room and bathroom shared by one other person - 2700 RMB a month (about 430 USD)

- How/who did you pay for housing?
  o I paid in cash and with a debit card.

**Food**
- What was the food like?
- **It was oily and greasy, but yummy.**

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  - I ate in the cafeteria and restaurants.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  - 5 USD

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  - Noon – lunch, 6-8 Dinner

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  - No

**Travel/Safety**

- **If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?**
  - Public transportation consisted of the bus, subway, and taxi.

- **Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?**
  - I felt very safe. Girls would sometimes go home alone.

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**
  - The traffic is very heavy so we normally took subway. Occasionally, we could take the bus and taxi, depending on time of day and destination.

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
  - Tianjin is only 30 minutes away by train.

**Host City/Country**

- **What was the weather like?**
  - The summer is hotter than SB and the winter is colder than SB. There is snow in Beijing.

- **Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
  - It was similar to Los Angeles.

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
  - There’s a lot of culture and history in Beijing. It also has a fun nightlife.

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?**
Beijing is slowly becoming more international, however no where near Shanghai. Business in Beijing is still dominated by State-owned enterprises that are connected with the government. Shanghai will have many more foreign companies that hire foreigners there.

**Culture**

- **Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.**
  - **Time & punctuality** –
    - Same as the U.S.
  - **Eye contact & staring** –
    - I didn’t notice a difference.
  - **Relationships** –
    - It’s ok for foreigners and locals to date. I saw a lot of PDA.
  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    - On average the dress was a little more conservative.
  - **Alcohol consumption**
    - There was a mix of locals and foreigners at bars.
  - **What culture shock did you go through?**
    - 1) Being in a country where very few people spoke English and 2) being away from family
  - **Other?**

**Banking**

- **Were credit cards widely accepted?**
  - I never used credit cards except for at the hospital and paying the dorm bill.

- **Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?**
  - It was very easy since the forms are in English. I opened an ICBC account

- **If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM? Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?**
  - With a Bank of America account, you can withdraw money with no extra fees from the China Construction Bank. I had a Wells Fargo account and was charged 5 USD every time I withdrew money.

- **Were there ATMs on campus?**
  - Yes