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GUIDE

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LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

One of the most important matters when preparing for a semester abroad is finding suitable accommodation. Sometimes it can be frustrating, but all students have managed to find accommodation to suit their needs. Although the students are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements, AE provides information about different options.

1. ACCOMMODATION BY SHU

In the application form you indicated whether you'd like to stay in a single or double room or search for off-campus accommodation on your own. Asia Exchange cannot guarantee accommodation on behalf of the university. In case there are no rooms available in the dormitory, students will be responsible for arranging their own accommodation. Shanghai University confirms the dormitory room situation at the latest two weeks before the semester starts.

Since there's a limited number of rooms, the room type you chose in the application form may not be changed afterwards. In case you want to change your room type, inform us at least one month before the start of the semester. We cannot promise, however, that the late room requests will be accepted.



The international students' dormitory buildings at Yanchang Campus can accommodate nearly 400 students. 24-hour check-in and security services can be provided.

You can choose between single rooms and double rooms. The rent for the single room is 140RMB/day and for the double room 70RMB/day. You must pay a room deposit (1800RMB, 2/2017) when you arrive at the dorm. Usually, the rent for the whole stay needs to be paid upon arrival. You can ask whether it's possible to pay e.g. only one month at a time if you're planning to search for off-campus accommodation for the rest of the semester. You can pay in cash (recommended) or with a card (VISA, UnionPay, Mastercard). There will be a 3-5% commission fee when paying by card.

Dormitory rooms, both single or double, have been equipped with one or two single beds, a desk, closet and air-conditioner. Single rooms also have private toilets and showers. In the double room dormitory, there are 3 shared toilets and 2 shared showers on each floor. Electricity is included in the rent, given that students don't use electricity excessively.

One example of excessive use is keeping the air conditioning on all the time, even if there's nobody in the room. Hot water is available in the bathrooms on each floor. The dormitory provides bed sheets, but students need to bring their own towels. Students are advised to bring or purchase their own cleaning and cooking equipment (e.g. cutlery, dishes, pots and pans) as the dormitory does not provide these – although some items might have been left there by previous students.

Students can move into the dorms 3 three days before the start of the semester and need to move out 3 days after the program ends (unless informed otherwise).

Hint: When you arrive at the dorm and the receptionist can't find your name on the list, it sometimes helps to tell that you are a foreign student and which country you are coming from.

Internet

You will gain access to the campus wi-fi after receiving your Student ID during the orientation days at the beginning of the semester. Ask the staff at reception to assist you to register online. For the cable network, please bring your laptop to reception for registration.

Shenyuan building (single rooms)

- In Shenyuan building, there are two refrigerators as well as one washing machine and a dryer on each floor. Go to the service desk to buy a laundry card: each card can be used 5 times, each time it costs 5 RMB. The deposit is 10 RMB. Bedsheets are replaced every tenth day between 13:30 and 15:00.
- There is a public kitchen from the second to sixth floor, and you can cook there. Kitchens are open from 8:00 to 22:00.
- Address in Chinese: 中国上海市闸北区延长路149号上海大学国际交流学院莘远楼, 邮编200072

* Mailing address: [your name] [your room number - you'll know this after checkin]
Shenyuan building 149 Yanchang Road College of International Exchange Shanghai University 200072 Zhabei, Shanghai China

Building D (double rooms)

- In D Building, there is a laundry room including two washing machines in D1 and three washing machines in D2. You can buy a laundry card at the reception desk. Each card can be used 5 times, each time costing 3 RMB. The deposit is 10 RMB. Bedsheets are replaced every tenth day between 12:30 and 15:00.
- For cooking purposes, there are microwave ovens and students in each suite are allowed to borrow a cooker.

*Mailing address: [your name] [your room number - you'll know this after check-in]
Building D 140 Guangyan Road College of International Exchange Shanghai University 200072 Zhabei, Shanghai China

2. OFF-CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

Usually, most students choose to live on campus, but many also choose to find an apartment off-campus. It's best to organize this after you have arrived at the destination. Some of the popular districts among the international students close to Yanchang campus include Zhabei, Jing'an and Huangpu. Some former students recommend staying near People's Square. The biggest challenge is usually getting a lease that is shorter than 12 months. Shorter leases do exist, though, especially in apartment complexes near the campus. It is advisable to look for accommodation in the private market through a real estate agency that has English speaking realtors. Look for advertisement for English real estate services on notice boards around the campus. [Smart Shanghai](#) is a good source of information and can be used both in looking for roommates and English-speaking realtors. We have listed some other useful sources below.

Please note that if you live in an off-campus accommodation, you must register your residence at the police station (派出所) within 24 hours of the time you arrive at that residence. (If you stay in a hotel, the hotel will register you.) At the police station, you need to present your original passport and copies of the ID page, visa or residence permit, and entry stamp on your passport. Bring also your lease contract, receipt of rental deposit, copy of landlord's ID, copy of property ownership, previous temporary residence form (if you are moving from a different apartment), registration slip from the hotel (if you stayed in a hotel before moving to an apartment), and a copy of all these documents. In most cases a temporary housing registration form must be filled in. If you do not register in time, you are given either a warning or a fine. (This being said, we have heard that all expatriates do not register their stay at all. We encourage you to act according to government regulations.) If you need practical help with the registration, please contact your landlord, and if needed, Shanghai University international staff.

Some of our former students have stayed in an apartment located at No.547 Tian mu xi rd/天目 西路547号. The landlord Wayne (phone/WeChat: 13818254845, email 179704953@qq.com) has single rooms available. The rent is between 2500 ¥ and 3700 ¥, (3700 ¥ with own bathroom) plus 200 ¥ for utilities. Rent includes the room, water, gas, wi-fi, and cleaning (twice per week), but electricity is not included. The place is close to Subway lines 1, 3 and 4 (Shanghai Railway Station) and Line 13 (Jiangning rd.). It'll take you around 20-25mins to get from here to Shanghai University (Yanchang campus). You can take line 1 from Shanghai Railway Station to Yanchang Rd, it is just 2 stops away.

3. SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION

Recommendation by Shanghai University: there is a hotel called PuYu (in Chinese 璞寓) near campus with lots of restaurants or food stalls nearby. 5-10 minutes from campus. Check out <http://www.eyeyoou.com/index.aspx?id=92136378&startDate=&depDate>

General Information and Tips for Living in Shanghai, China

Other tips from a local:

- If you can avoid subletting, it is better to sign the contract directly with the landlord, you can minimize your risks.
- Avoid renting on the 1st floor, if possible. Shanghai is humid in the summer and there is no central heating in the winter.
- Avoid renting a room facing north, as it might get rather windy / the windows are not properly sealed in most older apartments.

- Ask what the lease is until, as the housing price rockets often, and the landlord might ask for a raise when the contract expires.
- You can ask all these questions from the person who posted the ad on Smart Shanghai.
- Check/ask where the nearest subway station is, the subway in Shanghai works very well, especially if you don't need to change line.
- Try to live in a bikeable distance to the city/to your campus, to use the Mobike/OFO; public bikes cost very little in Shanghai.

In Asian cultures, it is common to do business face-to-face. For example, taking care of accommodation arrangements in advance by email may be difficult if you decide to stay off campus. However, this is not something worth worrying about. You can easily confirm the housing, the details of the lease and the final price after arriving in Shanghai.

Remember to make a written agreement about the amount of rent and what it includes. It's also a good idea to check the apartment before moving in and write a list of possible faults. This list can then be added to your lease as an appendix.

Remember to check the safety of the area and the comfort of the neighborhood in general.

Don't forget that it's easiest to sign the lease during office hours, although some exceptions have been made. You can contact private property owners or real estate agents beforehand by email, but it may take a while to receive an answer, and the prices will most likely be higher than when doing business face-to-face. If it's possible to sign the lease monthly, it is worth looking into. Please consider that if you sign a lease for the full length of your stay but wish to change accommodation earlier for some reason, it will be difficult to get your security deposit back.

While you're checking out your future accommodation, or at the latest when signing your lease, remember to find out what the policy is for incomplete months (for example, if you want to move out before the end of the month).

There may be daily or weekly rates, or you may be able to make special arrangements with your landlord. However, sometimes paying for a full month can be cheaper than paying for two weeks daily.

The apartments and rooms may be differently equipped even at the same location. Not all the locations offer basic household amenities, e.g. cutlery and cookware. You can ask for them at reception, but in most cases, you must buy them at your own expense. However, the prices for such products are very affordable in Shanghai.

Electricity, water and the Internet might need to be paid for separately monthly. Extensive use of air conditioners increases your electricity bill so pay attention to its use from the very beginning. Using AC moderately can substantially reduce your electricity bill. For ecological and economic reasons, AC should be turned off when the apartment is empty and possibly also during the nights.

To avoid catching a cold, don't turn the air conditioning on too high, 25 – 28 degrees Celsius is a suitable temperature at night. Little hassling is a normal part of finding your accommodation. This is mainly due to cultural differences and different ways of doing business. A good sense of humor, a little patience and some effort to understand a different culture will help sort things out.

Breaking a lease is difficult all around the world, also in Shanghai. Students should consider the apartment they sign up for very carefully as well as the breaking of one's lease (in extreme situations), which can be a frustrating and expensive process



YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student

