

Webinar

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China Onboarding

Studying in Mainland China & Hong Kong

Thank you for joining us. The Event will start soon.

May 7, 2024

| 12:00 – 13:30

China Onboarding : Studying in Mainland China & Hong Kong
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Opening Remarks

Cissy Sun

Head of Academia & Arts, Swissnex in China



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Presentation

Céline Badertscher

Deputy Head of STE, Embassy of
Switzerland in China





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Beijing

Studying in Mainland China & Hongkong



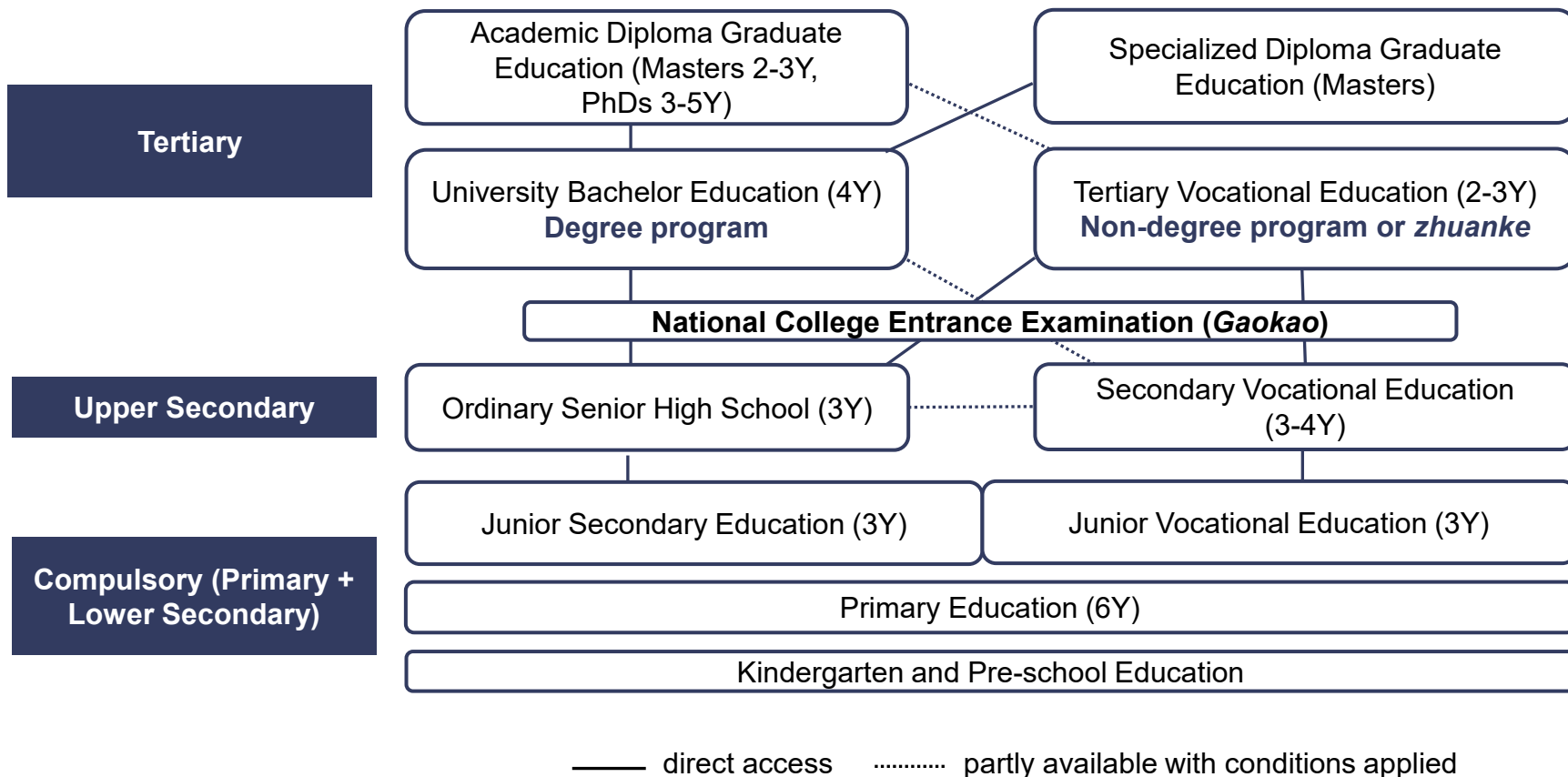


Mainland China vs. Hongkong





Mainland China: Education Overview





National College Entry Exam: Gaokao



- Over 10 million participants per year
- One-test-score-does-all
- Critical reference for international universities
- Fair system vs killing creativity



Number of Higher Education Institutions

Mainland China

Type	Number
Regular HEIs under Central Ministries/Agencies	118
Regular HEIs under local authorities	2642
Adult HEIs under Central Ministries/Agencies	13
Adult HEIs under local authorities	240
Total	3013

Hongkong

Type	Number
Regular HEIs	22

Switzerland*

Type	Number
Universities	10
Federal Institutes of Technology	2
Universities of Applied Sciences	10
Total	21

*Sources: Ministry of Education (MoE) China, updated on [July 2023](#), [Education Bureau Hongkong](#), [SBFI](#)
* without counting Pedagogical HEIs*



Number of Enrolled Students in Tertiary Level

Type of students	Mainland China (2023)	Hongkong (2022/23)	Switzerland (2022/23)
Enrolled students	47.63 million	306'000	276'493*
International students	1.3%	4.8% ^{**}	22.2%




Sources: Ministry of Education (MoE) China, updated on [March 2024](#), [Education Bureau Hongkong](#), [SBFI](#)

** without counting Pedagogical HEIs*

*** 3.4% from mainland China vs 1.4% from the rest of the world*



International Rankings

	 2024	 2024	 2023
ETH	11	7	20
UZH	80	91	59
ZHDK	801-1000	1401+	n/a
UniFribourg	401-500	563	501-600
USI	251-300	328	501-600
Tsinghua University	12	25	22
Peking University	14	17	29
Shanghai Jiao Tong University	43	51	46
Fudan University	44	50	56
Zhejiang University	55	44	33
University of Hong Kong	35	26	88
Chinese University of Hong Kong	53	47	101-150
Hong Kong University of S&T	64	60	301-400



C9 League (China 9)



An alliance of nine elite universities,
Initiated in 2009

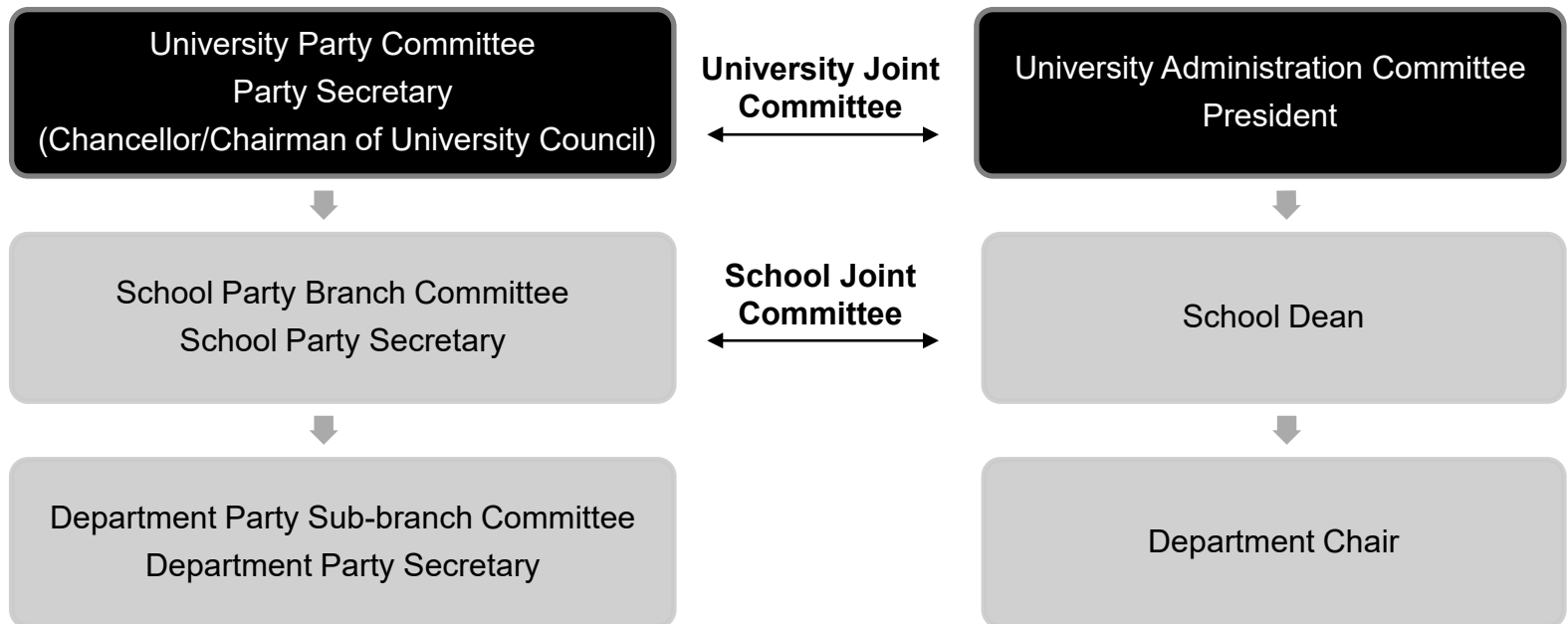
- **3%** of the country's researchers
- **10%** of national research expenditures
- **20%** of the nation's academic publications
- **30%** of total citations





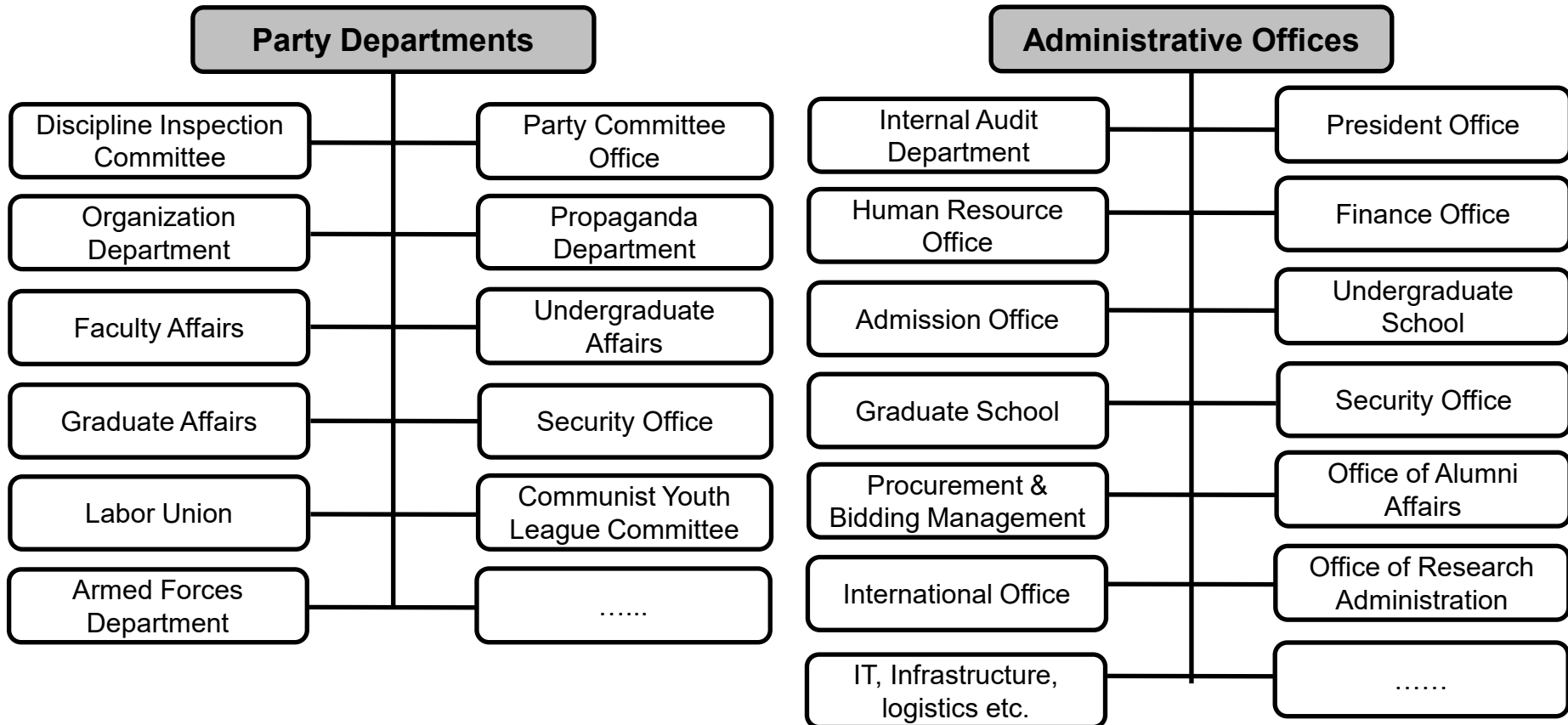
University Governance: Dual Administrative Structure

All HEIs, including private ones, have to establish **grassroots-based committees of the Chinese Communist party** (“President Responsibility under Leadership of the Party Committee”, *Article 39, Higher Education Law of P.R. China*).





Dual Administrative Structure





Classroom Culture

- **Hierarchy and Respect** for authority figures. Challenging or questioning professors' ideas in front of the whole class might be seen as disrespectful
- **Active Learning vs Rote Learning**, more focus on memorizing information and preparing for exams
- **Limited Student Participation**, more accustomed to listening, taking notes than engaging in discussions
- **Group Dynamics** less collaborative projects, individual performance in exams often carries more weight





Intercultural Challenges

- **Language barrier:** still challenging for daily life outside campus
- **Cultural norms:** gift-giving, personal space, face-saving etc.
- **Social integration:** participating in extracurricular activities with local students can be challenging due to language barrier and cultural difference
- **Food and dietary preferences:** meal structure, dining etiquette
- **Communication style:** indirect, context-dependent, misunderstanding can occur
- **Housing:** Most students and some professors live on campus





Other Challenges

- **Bureaucracy and administrative issues:** visa and documentation, registration and enrollment, accommodation, health check and insurance, course registration and transfers, banking and finance, residency permit, official documents and certifications etc.
- **Internet restrictions and censorship policies:** VPN required to access certain websites and social media platforms
- **Academic freedom**
- **No Drugs please! And no violence!**





First steps in China

Q&A China Onboarding Factsheet

Before flight:

- Install WeChat & AliPay on the Phone (or on a second phone)
- Link international credit card to Alipay/wechat
- Install VPN (e.g. AstrillVPN etc.)



After arrival:

- Buy local SIM Card (comparably cheap), change phone number in weChat to the Chinese number (otherwise no payments allowed)
- Register at the local police station, as soon as possible ideally within 24h
- Open bank account if possible, ask university for help



Other nice-to have Apps:

- Meituan -> Food & Grocery deliveries
- Didi -> Chinese “Uber”





Contact Information

Mainland China

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THANK YOU!



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Speaker

Laurence Cserépy

Beijing Institute of Technology



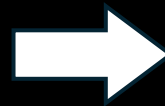
Beijing Institute of Technology

A photograph of the Summer Palace in Beijing, China, featuring the Tower of Buddhist Incense on a hillside under a dramatic, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise.

Laurence Cserépy



Mechanical Engineering



**Mechanical Engineering
& Computer Science**

Why China?

Exploration

Chinese Industry

Exit Comfort Zone



Challenges

Nature

Accommodation

Food

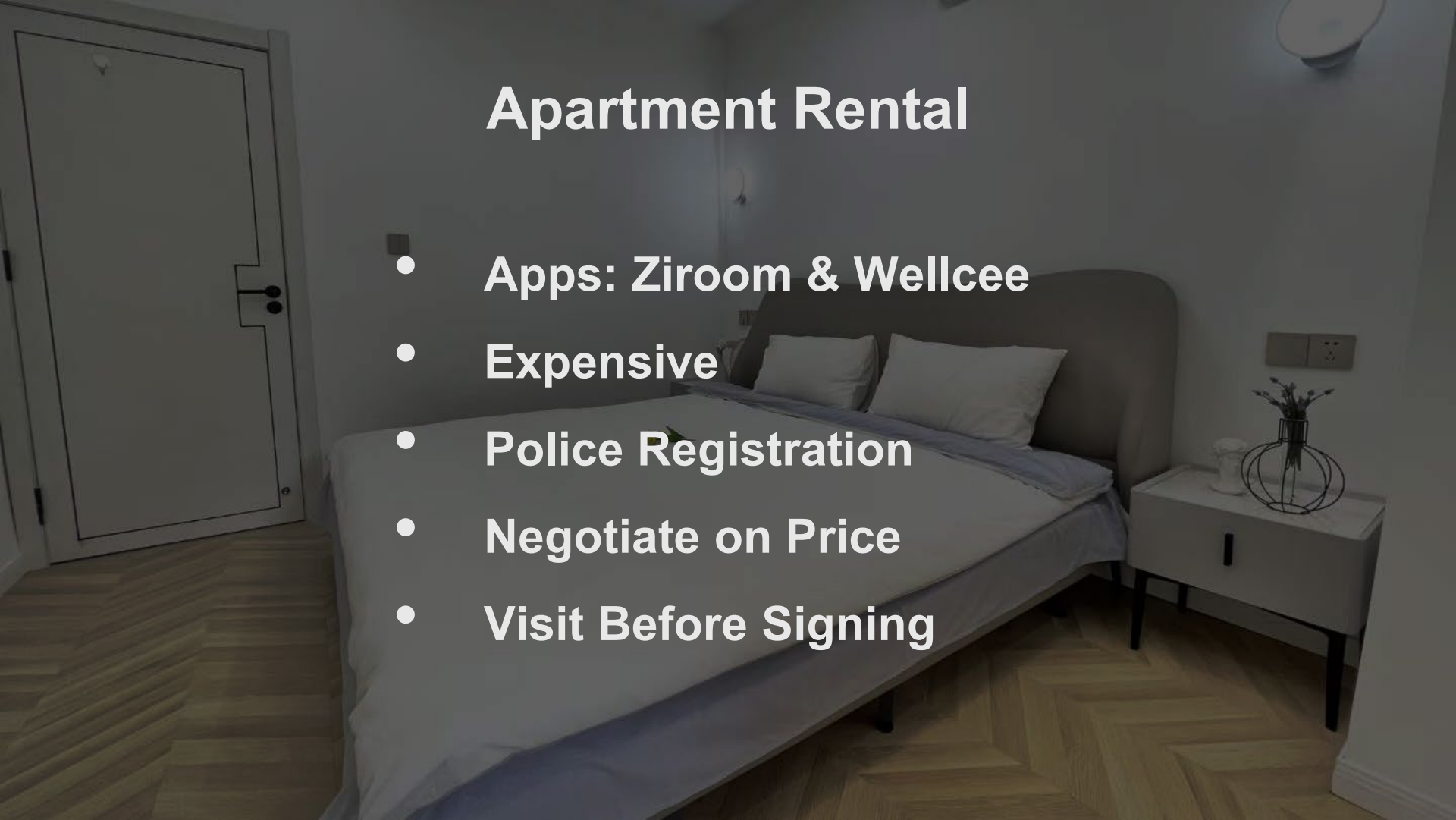
University Dorms

- Roommates
- Cleanliness
- Strict Rules (Curfew)

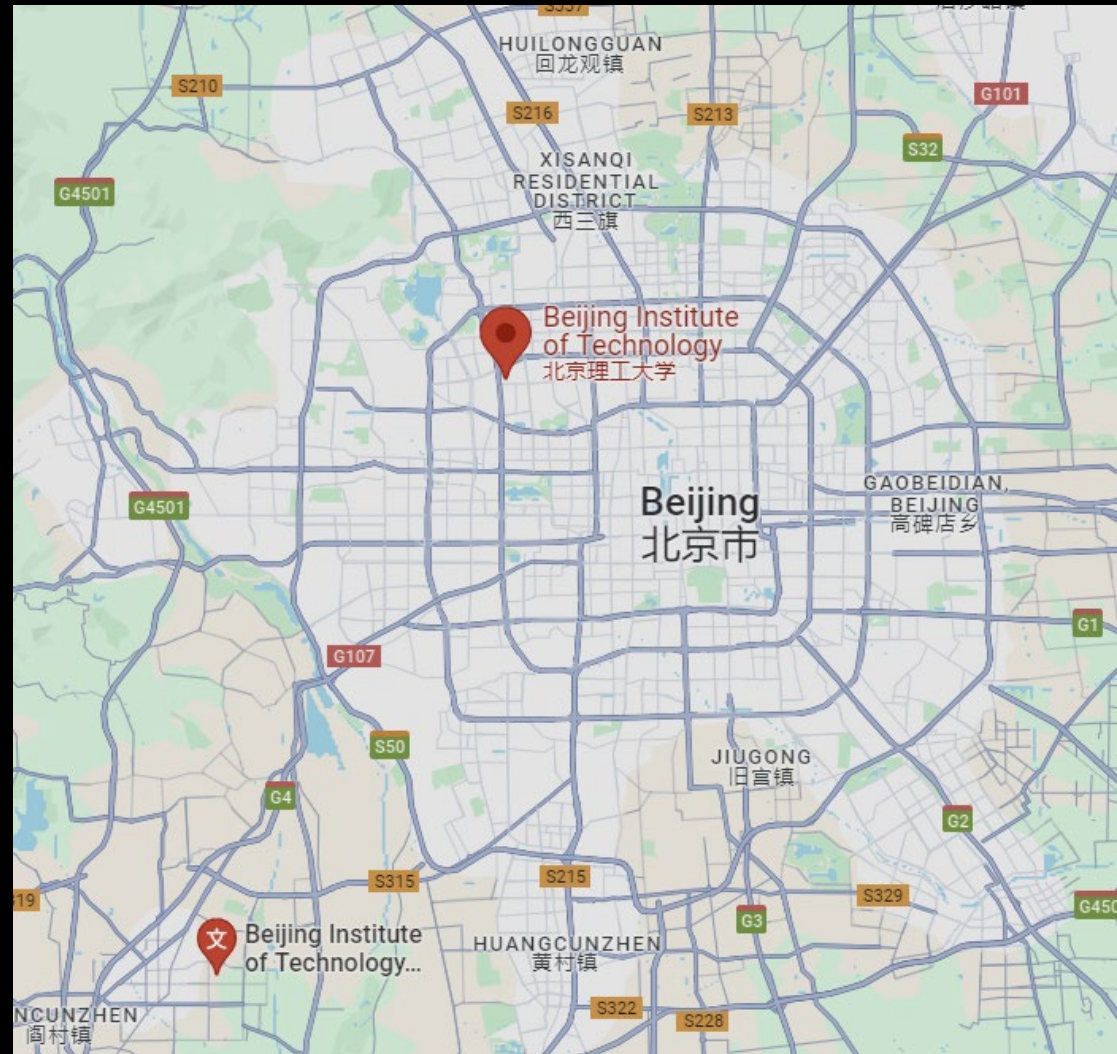


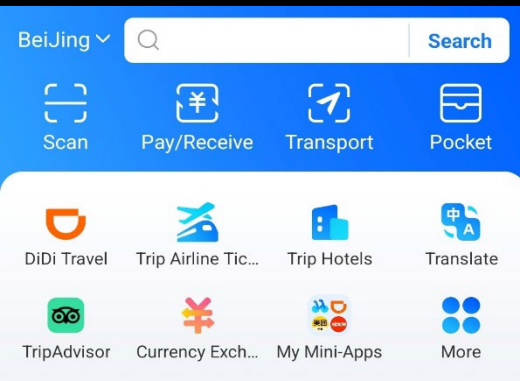
Apartment Rental

- Apps: Zillow & Wellcee
- Expensive
- Police Registration
- Negotiate on Price
- Visit Before Signing



Watch Out!





Transport

- AliPay Transport Card
- Taxi (Didi)
- Hello Bike
- Inter-City Trains
- APP: Amaps
- Navigation
- More Taxi Options





Highlights

Cultural Diversity

Travelling

Reduced Workload

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Speaker

Yasmine Ziltener

Zhejiang University





杭州 HANGZHOU

Yasmine Ziltener

INTRODUCTION

- University of Zurich
 - Postgraduate student
 - Major: Sinology, Minor: East Asian Art History
- 浙江大学 Zhejiang University
 - Chinese Language Programme
 - 杭州 Hangzhou, 玉泉校区 Yuquan Campus
 - China Scholarship Council (CSC)



MOTIVATION

- Improve my Chinese
- To see China with my own eyes
- Change of surrounding
- Why Zhejiang University?

CHALLENGES

- Administration:
- Foreigner Physical Examination Form
- Residence Permit
- Bank
- Dorm
- Making Chinese friends



HIGHLIGHTS

- Friends
- Travel
- Food
- Realizing that your Chinese has improved!



@MYSHYSMYLE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

yasmine.ziltener@outlook.de



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Speaker

Loïc de Prado

Peking University



Peking University

Loïc de Prado



Why China ?

- Certification of Chinese and Business Studies
- Discover a new culture → go beyond stereotypes
- Get out of my comfort zone
- Find opportunities for my futur career

Why Peking University?

- University reputation
- Beijing
- Campus life (nature, facilities, activities, ...)

Biggest challenge !

LANGUAGE

- Apps not translated → screenshots and translator
- People don't speak English
- Administrative documents (residence permit)
- Official documents / contracts to sign (Bank account)

Tip: Take the contact of the person and use the feature of WeChat to translate instantly.

For example, to do my SIM Card I was communicating with the woman in front of me through WeChat to communicate faster than with a translator.

The highlight

TRAVEL → +10 places in 4 months
FRIENDS → from around the world



App and Communication

Communication Social Media	Payment	Online Order Restaurant research	Accomodation	Transportation	VPN	Navigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WeChat• Douyin (tiktok)• Weibo• Little Red Book	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WeChat Pay• Alipay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meituan• Taobao• Dianping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wellcee• Ziroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alipay• Didi• Ctrip (Trip.com)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lets VPN• Astrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan• Baidu• Amap

- VPN are not officially authorized
- Iphone works better in China (ex.: Plan)
- Have always the address in Chinese
- ChatGPT doesn't work with all VPN (with Astrill it should work)

Thank you for your attention

LinkedIn : Loïc de Prado



If you have more questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me on LinkedIn.

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Speaker

Khalil Aouani Cherif

The University of Hong Kong





Hong Kong SAR

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Panel Discussion and Q&A

Moderator



Cissy Sun
Head of Academia & Arts,
Swissnex in China



Laurence Cserépy
Beijing Institute of
Technology



Yasmine Ziltener
Zhejiang University



**Khalil Aouani
Cherif**
The University of Hong
Kong



Loïc de Prado
Peking University

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Thank you

If you have any questions or suggestions,
please contact us at:
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