

Practical Information for Incoming Students

I. About Chengdu:

1. Where is Chengdu?

Chengdu, known as “Rong” for short and dubbed “Jin Guan Cheng”, has maintained its name since the Qin Dynasty over 2,000 years ago. Located in the southwest of China, Chengdu is the habitat of giant pandas. For more: www.gochengdu.cn.

- **Capital** of Sichuan Province
- **Location:** 30°05'N-31°26'N, 102°54'E-104°53'E
- **Climate:** Subtropical monsoon climate, -3.3°C ~37.4°C
- **Population:** 21,268,000 (in 2022)
- **Transportation in City:** bus, metro, tram, bike, taxi etc.
- **Host city for:**
 - The second UNESCO City of Gastronomy (2010)
 - Fortune Global Forum (2013)
 - G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting (2016)
 - World Police & Fire Games was hold in Chengdu (2019)
 - 2021 FISU World University Games Summer (postponed to 2023)
 - The 81st World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon)
 - TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024 (2024)
- **Top city for:**
 - #1 in China, the Happiest City of China, consecutive for 14 years
 - #6 Top 100 Digital Cities in China, #1 in midwestern China
 - #59 worldwide by GaWC Classification of cities 2020

2. How many airports in Chengdu?

There are two international airports:

- 1) Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport (CTU): www.cdairport.com/en/.
- 2) Chengdu Tianfu International Airport (TFU): www.sctfia.com/EN/.

II. School life:

1. Where are the campuses?

SWUFE has two campuses, Liulin Campus and Guanghua Campus. Almost all students and offices are on Liulin Campus. Here is the address:

- Liulin Campus (Main Campus): 555, Liutai Avenue, Wenjiang District, Chengdu, Sichuan, P. R. China, 611130 (中国四川省成都市温江区柳台大道 555 号. If in Pinyin, it is Zhongguo Sichuan Sheng Chengdu Shi Wenjiang Qu Liutai Da Dao 555 Hao).
- Guanghua Campus: 55, Guanghuacun Street, Qingyang District, Chengdu, Sichuan, P. R. China, 610074 (中国四川省成都市青羊区光华村街 55 号. If in Pinyin, it is Zhongguo Sichuan Sheng Chengdu Shi Qingyang Qu Guanghua Cun Jie 55 Hao).

2. What facilities are there on campus?

There are canteens, small restaurants, libraries, supermarkets, beverage shops, print shops, ATMs, laundry, gymnasiums, basketball courts, volleyball courts, tennis courts, football fields, university hospitals, and so on.

3. How to pay on campus canteen?

You can use your student card to buy meals at canteens or some stores on campus. If it is run out, you can recharge it on phone or at the counter at canteens.

4. Does the school have a Muslim restaurant?

Yes, we have a Muslim restaurant on campus.

5. Is dormitory available?

There is limited dormitory on campus and is for full-time degree students, which is RMB 500 or 800 yuan/month, signal room, with furniture and bathroom, RMB 1000 yuan for deposit.

For exchange and short-term students, we will help them find a proper apartment off campus, which is about RMB 1500-2500 yuan/month depending on its location and room conditions.

6. Is there any student association or club?

There are about 100 student associations and clubs in different fields at SWUFE. SBA will also hold Mid-Autumn Festival, New Year party and other activities for incoming students.

7. Who can help incoming students adapt to the new environment?

The programme coordinator will provide timely assistance to all incoming students. Meanwhile, the **International Students Association (ISA)** is a volunteer group of SBA International Affairs Office dedicated to helping incoming students get acquainted with studying and living at SWUFE and Chengdu.

III. Daily tips:

1. Is tap water in China drinkable?

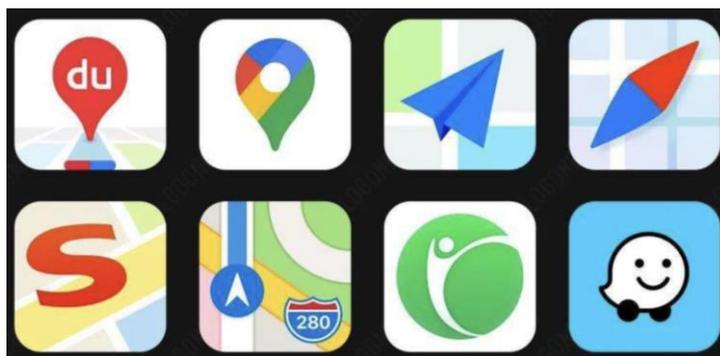
Tap water must be boiled. There is a drinking fountain on campus. Please bring a cup. In other cases, you will need to buy bottled (mineral / pure) water at a supermarket or vending machine.

2. What are the popular chat tools or applications?

WeChat and QQ are the most widely used applications for sending messages or documents, online calling, moment sharing etc., applicable to both work and private occasions.

3. Which map application is working?

You can try Apple maps, Tencent maps (腾讯地图), Gaode map (高德地图), or Baidu map (百度地图).



4. What are the sockets like?

The outlet voltage in China is 220 volts. If necessary, you can purchase plug converters in advance. Phone chargers are also widely available in Chinese stores, so don't worry. The two images show the most common types of sockets.



5. Can I buy a Chinese sim-card when I get there?

There are three SIM card / mobile service providers in Chinese mainland, China Telecom (中国电信), China Mobile (中国移动), and China Unicom (中国联通). Usually, the contract length shall be at least three months.



6. Is there any shop or department store by Liulin Campus?

Besides some small shops selling daily items on campus, there are many shops nearby. If you want to go shopping in department stores, you can take the subway to nearby Ito Yokado, Carrefour, RT-Mart, Hopson One and so on.

7. Is it compulsory to give tips?

We usually don't give tips at restaurant or hotel or any other places. But you can if you want.

8. Can I ride a motorbike?

You need to have a Chinese driving license to drive a motorbike or car.

IV. Payment methods:

1. How about payment methods?

You can pay by UnionPay bank card or in cash, and you can also link an international card in WeChat Pay or Alipay within limits.

WeChat Pay supports international cards issued by the following credit card companies: VISA, MASTERCARD, AMEX, JCB, DINERS, DISCOVER, and CLUB.

Alipay supports international cards issued by the following credit card companies: VISA, MASTERCARD, JCB, DINERS, and DISCOVER.

2. How much cash can I bring to Chinese mainland?

You can take dollars less than \$5000 or other currencies less than \$5000 when you exchange them for dollars. If you take RMB, you can take less than 20000 yuan.

3. Where to exchange cash?

Please go to banks to exchange. The main banks include Agricultural Bank of China (ABC, 中国农业银行), Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC, 中国工商银行), China Construction Bank (CCB, 中国建设银行), and Bank of China (BOC, 中国银行).

4. Is there a commission charged for payment by international cards?

You won't be charged for commission if a single deal is under RMB 200 yuan, and a 3% commission is charged if a single deal is above 200 yuan.

5. How do I link an international card to WeChat Pay?

If you use a WeChat account registered with a non-Chinese mainland mobile number, you will not have the access to WeChat Pay until you have entered Chinese mainland. Go to "Me" > "Services" > "WeChat Pay" > "Wallet" > "Cards" and link a card as instructed.

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6. What merchants can I use for international cards in WeChat?

Available merchants include but are not limited to:

- **E-commerce platforms:** JD.com, Suning, and Missfresh.
- **Offline convenience stores and supermarkets:** Walmart, Yonghui, Carrefour, PT-Mart, Wastsons, Meiyijia, Family Mart, and 7 Eleven.
- **Offline restaurants and shopping:** McDonald's, KFC, and Starbucks.
- **Ticketing and travel services:** 12306 (train tickets), Didi (滴滴, online taxi platform), Huazhu, Home Inn, Airbnb, Tujia, and some subways, buses, and bus terminals.
- **Other public services:** Sinopec, PetroChina, China Mobile, China Unicom, China Telecom, and some hospitals.



V. Chinese language course

1. Is there any Chinese language course for international students?

Yes. Free Chinese language classes from beginner's to HSK 5 level are available to international students during the semester, which is once a week. If you want to take intensive Chinese language course, you have to pay for it and please visit <https://international.swufe.edu.cn/info/1085/1357.htm> or contact College of International Education for more details (email: international@swufe.edu.cn).

2. What are the basic Chinese words you have to know?

Hello. 你好 (nǐ hǎo)

Please. 请 (qǐng)

Thank you. 谢谢 (xiè xiè)

Okay. 好的 (hǎo de)

Goodbye. 再见 (zài jiàn)

How much? 多少钱 (duō shǎo qián)

Sorry. 对不起 (duì bù qǐ)

I'm lost. 我迷路了 (wǒ mí lù le)

I don't understand. 我听不懂 (wǒ tīng bù dǒng)

I want to go here. 我要去这里 (wǒ yào qù zhè lǐ)