

# ***Exchange Report in PHBS***

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This report is written for the student from TU Munich who want to spend one or two exchange term in PHBS (Peking University HSBC Business School) in Shenzhen, China. But actually I own Chinese citizenship, so I would never concern about the issue about visa and residence permit. So at these points I cannot offer you some suggestions, but still other parts would be useful for you.

## **General:**

PHBS is a very international school and all the course are offered in English, which give us a huge range of choices. I am Chinese and as I was a child, I have already known that the Peking University is the top 2 Universities in mainland China. So PHBS which located in south China Shenzhen is a great school and just combines the great two features “International” and “Traditional”.



As for the city Shenzhen, it's also a great city who only has around 30 years history and you will find that it is bigger than any city in Germany, just Chinese style. A great thing of Shenzhen is that it is big enough to find what you need like food all over the world. Another advantage is that there is NO Pollution in Shenzhen, which is much greater than Peking.



Next I will follow several aspects to give you some points about the exchange term in PHBS.

#### **Application:**

There are two steps for the whole application. First you should get the candidate from the international office of the TUM school of management. The tip is just following the coordinator's guidance. After the first step you get the candidate and can start applying for the exchange term in PHBS. It's not that much complicated. You need to register on the Peking University site, which the coordinator in PHBS will give you the link. The registration contains about your personal information and you also need to apply for the dormitory on campus (single room for 6000 CNY/semester or double room 3000 CNY/semester). The all the stuff you need pay attention to would be stressed by the coordinator per E-mail.

I don't need to apply for the visa, so this part you can read other German students' reports. I heard that the material you need for visa will be delivered to you from China and with that you can go to the consulate to apply the visa.

When you get the confirmation of your dormitory, you need to transfer the fees to the appointed Bank account (Notice: Please be careful with every detail doing the international transfers). Remember bring to receipt of your bank transfer to China because it is needed for the Check-in.

#### **Before Departure:**

The most important thing is that remember bring what you need and of course you

can make your own check list. Here are my suggestions:

All the documents;

The Changeover plug when you need to recharge your electronic devices with German plug.

The winter in Shenzhen is not that cold so you don't need much great coat. But when you want to travel to north China, you should.

### **Arrival:**

There are different ways to reach Shenzhen. As far as I know, there is a flight from Frankfurt to Main direct to Shenzhen. Alternatively you can transfer in Peking, Shanghai, Chengdu. (There are flights from Frankfurt to Peking, Shanghai, Chengdu; Munich to Peking, Shanghai; Berlin to Peking; Dusseldorf to Peking.....) Also you can transfer in Hongkong and then take subway, boat or bus to mainland China. With German citizenship you can stay at Hongkong but please pay attention to the date of your visa and do not arrive mainland China earlier.

I flew to Baoan International Airport Shenzhen and then took a taxi to the campus. The fair price for the taxi is no more than 100 CNY (normally over 80 CNY). Taking public transportation is a little bit complicated. So for the first time I recommend you to take a taxi.

### **Check-in:**

The details about check-in and enrollment would be sent by the coordinator from PHBS and just follow their guidance. For the first day, PHBS would arrange a shopping tour to IKEA to buy some basic stuff in dormitory which is highly recommended. Alternatively you also can buy secondhand stuff from the exchange student last year and the coordinator will give you some information about that before you depart.

For the first two weeks, there are some activities arranged by PHBS, which helps the fresh man to adapt the new life in Shenzhen. I think it's very useful and fun. Per these activities you can get touch with all exchange student and some Chinese student. At the same time there are some official obligated events like opening ceremony and formal wear is required.



### **Courses:**

For TUM-BWLers, there are 12 ECTS needed for optional courses, which equivalent 2 courses in PHBS. The whole semester in PHBS is divided into two modules and for each you can at most take 3 courses, totally 6 in the whole semester. For me I just take one course in the first module and 2 in the second. Here I just give some descriptions about the courses I took and hope it's useful for you.

In general, the courses in PHBS are not that easy and especially compulsory courses. (PS: For exchange students who want to take compulsory courses, the permission from the professors are necessary. )

### **Financial Risk Management (1. Module—3credits, 6 ECTS):**

This course is filled with various mathematic models to deal with financial risk. The professor prefers presenting on blackboard and on the slides there is nothing, which means you'd better taking notes on class, although there is no attendance check. The mid-term and final exams are not that difficult but still need time for preparation. The luck thing is that one-page handwriting cheat sheet is allowed for exams, so you don't need to remember a lot of mathematic formulas.

Even if you performed not that good in final exam, based on your not bad mid-term grades and the assignment the final results would be not bad. (PS: Here in PHBS the cut-off scores are 70/100)

**Investments (2. Module—3 credits, 6 ECTS):**

It is a basic course for finance. The professor is kind of free-style, which means he present the content not in a normal way but depends on what comes to his mind. But still the course itself is not difficult. There are a lot assignments about Excel (but easy) and quizzes, which is a great part of the final results. Unluckily there is attendance check. In a word it is easy to get a good points in this course.

(PS: This professor also teaches another course in 1. Module called “hedge funds”, which is similar to this course.)

**Business Model (2. Module—3 credits, 6 ECTS):**

**This course is instructed in Chinese (the only one in PHBS).** When you perform perfectly in Chinese writing, listening, speaking and reading, this course is highly recommended. The course is about using a new theory which is developed by the professor to analyze a company.

Before choosing the courses you'd better asking the suggestions from other senior students. Because in PHBS the course selection is not that free like in Germany. Sometimes if you are late, there may be not left positions for the course you want.

**Life in Shenzhen****Eating:**

The Chinese food is totally different form the German food and the Chinese food you eat in Germany. But based on my taste, the food in canteen does not reach the average level of Chinese food but it's cheap. There are several restaurants on campus which are good: Hongkong restaurant and Uni Cafeteria around Mirror Lake; Shangshufang just on the first floor of PHBS. It's useless to describe the food because after trying it you will know everything.

Good news: there is a Starbucks on the first floor of PHBS and a Subway in dormitory area.

**Shopping**

There is no big shopping mall near the campus. I recommend two Business District where you can find a lot of shops, restaurants and cinema.

Coastal City: Nanshan district

CoCo park: Futian District. There is a club street nearby and several really good Pops.

Of course you also can try online shopping. Taobao.com may be the famous for a huge range of products but at the same time there are still some fake products. So be aware of that. Another famous shopping website in China is JD.COM, which offers the products with quality guarantee. When you want to buy some electronic products, JD is a good choice. As for the delivery, there is a delivery station just inside PHBS, which is very convenient. Alternatively you can just ask your Chinese schoolfellow to help you about all the online shopping stuff.

Another point is that the payment tools. I really recommend you to connect your account in Pinan Bank with your Chinese phone number. Then you can open the Wechat Wallet (like paypal), which you will find its quite convenient to pay in Wechat. Using Wechat Wallet you can buy coffee in Starbuck, pay the food in most restaurants, pay the taxi driver and so on.

### **Transportation:**

**Subway:** There are two subway stations near the campus but still far away from dormitory area by foot. You can buy a public transportation card to take all the bus and subway in Shenzhen and get a discounted price.

**Bus:** there is a bus station near dormitory area and you can take bus to the subway station.

**Bike:** you can choose to buy a bike (new for around 400 RMB or second hand for 100 RMB). But now there is Bike-sharing app you can use (Mobike; ofo... the details you can ask the coordinator or other Chinese students).

**Taxi:** Now here in China it is hard to get a taxi per calling. Almost everyone uses Uber or Didi to call a taxi (which can be paid by Wechat Wallet).

**Train:** When you want to travel to other cities you may need the train. Shenzhen North is located near the campus and offers a lot of choices of high-speed trains to a lot of Chinese big cities. Other train stations are a little bit far away from campus, which may take 1.5 hours to reach.

**Airport:** China is really big and when travel to North China you really need to take a flight.

## Useful Application on Phone:



Wechat: the most popular chat application in China.



Chelaile, 车来了: to check the bus schedule in real time.



DIDI 滴滴 & Uber 优步: for taxi calling.

Hope you can also experience a great time in PHBS.

