



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

Working at Wellington College and Living in Tianjin, China



WELCOME FROM THE MASTER

Welcome to Wellington College International Tianjin, and many thanks for your interest in working at the College. This information package is designed, firstly, to supplement the details to be found on the school website, and, secondly, to try to address the many questions you might have both about the College and living in Tianjin, China, as you ponder the possibility of coming to work here. I hope it encourages you to pursue your interest in joining the outstanding teaching staff at Wellington.

Wellington College International Tianjin opened in August 2011. The College occupies a substantial inner-city campus just to the north of the centre of Tianjin. Though the College is therefore only at the start of what I know will be a long and illustrious history, our ethos and values, as outlined here on the College website, are firmly traditional in nature, being built upon our close relationship with the highly prestigious Wellington College in England.

The close ties with Wellington College will be apparent from the moment you enter the College, with the uniform, the House names and the emphasis on the 8 Aptitudes, a model for educating the whole child. However, the relationship is much more than that, with staff and student exchanges, and common INSET and professional development initiatives. Sir Anthony Seldon, the Master of Wellington College, is one of two Wellingtonians who sit on our governing body. These close ties will give everybody at Wellington in Tianjin the opportunity of remaining closely involved with educational developments in the UK, while working in what is undoubtedly the fastest growing centre of international education in the world.

The first section of this information package will, I hope, tell you all you need to know about working at Wellington College in Tianjin. The school boasts an enviable facility, well supplied with resources and staffed by some extraordinarily talented and dedicated teachers and TAs.

We are looking for teachers who can carry the tradition and prestige of Wellington College to Tianjin through commitment, enthusiasm and the desire to work and succeed as a team. I hope this information package encourages you to apply for a teaching position at the College and, if so, I look forward to meeting you in the future and to discussing this most exciting of educational ventures.

Julian Jeffrey



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

WORKING AT WELLINGTON COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL TIANJIN

Salary and Salary Scale

Wellington College has its own salary scale, which reflects the College's aim to attract high quality staff. The salaries offered are extremely competitive in comparison with other leading international schools in China, and are awarded according to a points system on the scale. Further details of the salary scale will be given to candidates invited for interview.

Each qualification and year of relevant teaching experience is taken into account when assessing each teacher's point on the salary scale. Staff appointed will progress up the salary scale one point for each year of successful service at Wellington. Contracts issued will be for two years duration.

Responsibility Allowances

Wellington College offers a series of responsibility allowances and, once again, the level of remuneration is designed to attract the best possible candidates. Those applying to positions of responsibility and asked to attend an interview will be provided with further details.

Payment

During the Teacher Induction Programme, held every August, a local bank account will be opened for each member of staff, in which the salary will be deposited by the school. Individual payslips will be distributed to each member of staff.

Accommodation

For the first year of service, Wellington will provide staff accommodation, to a high standard, with all modern conveniences, and within easy reach of the College. After the first year, staff will be provided with an accommodation allowance, which will enable them to choose where they live.

Additional Benefits

The Wellington College overseas package include health insurance, provided by a reputable health care scheme, enabling the recipient and his/her dependants, if any, to take advantage of the good hospitals and medical facilities available in Tianjin, or if required Beijing. The overseas package also contains annual flights home for each member of staff and his or her dependants. Two school-age children of each overseas member of staff will be entitled to full remission of tuition fees at the College. There will be other benefits attached to the overseas contract, in line with other international schools in China. Once again further details of all benefits will be given to candidates invited for interview.



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

LIVING IN TIANJIN

China

Capital:	Beijing
Largest city:	Shanghai
Population:	1,355,692,576 (July 2014 est.)
Area:	9,640,821 sq.kms, or 3,704,427 sq.mls
Language:	Standard Mandarin <i>See Below</i>
Government:	Communist Party led People's Republic
Establishment:	1st October 1949
GDP:	\$8,767 trillion (2nd) Per Capita: \$6,549 (97th)
Currency:	Chinese or Yuan or Remnimbí <i>See Below</i>
Time Zone:	China Standard <i>See Below</i>
Date format:	yyyy-mm-dd
Drives:	Right, except Hong Kong and Macau
Internet TLD:	.cn
Tel. Code:	+86

Tianjin

Tianjin, the city and Municipality

The sixth largest city in China, population-wise, Tianjin is one of the four municipalities in the country that has provincial-level status, reporting directly to the central government. The city is located along the Hai He River, which connects to the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers via the Grand Canal. The port towns are located some distance away on the coast of the Bohai Gulf. The municipality incorporates the coastal region of Tanggu, home to the Binhai New Area and the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (TEDA). It borders Hebei province to the north, south and west and Beijing is to the north-west. The Bohai Gulf lies to the east.

Tianjin Municipality is generally flat, and swampy near the coast, but hilly in the far north with the Yanshan Mountains. The highest point is Jiushanding Peak on the northern border with Hebei, at a height of 1078 metres. The city of Tianjin is found in the southern central part of the Municipality, while along the coast are the port towns, notably Tanggu and Hangu.

Tianjin Municipality has a population of over 12 million people, of whom around five million live in the city itself. The majority of Tianjin residents are Han Chinese. There are also 51 out of the 55 minor Chinese ethnic groups living in Tianjin. Major minorities include Hui, Manchus, Koreans and Mongols.

Language

The official “common language” of China is Mandarin. Pinyin is the name given to the written script using Roman letters to represent the pronunciation of characters. Sounds are as similar to the English pronunciation, but with a few exceptions:

c is pronounced ‘ts’ as in ‘tsunami’

z is pronounced ‘ds’ as in ‘bids’

q is pronounced ‘ch’ as in ‘choose’

zh is pronounced as the initial ‘j’

x is pronounced ‘sh’ as in ‘short’



Weights and measure

China has converted to the metric system, though there is still a domestic system in use:

Weight: 1 Jin = 0.5 Kilogram

Length: 1 Li = 0.5 Kilometre

1 Mi = 1 Meter

Area: 1 Mu = 0.0667 hectare (15 Mu is equals to one hectare)

Climate

Tianjin's climate is a monsoon-influenced humid, sub-tropical climate, characterised by hot, humid summers, with the monsoon, and dry, cold winters, due to the Siberian anticyclone. Average high/low temperatures in January and July are 1.8 °C (35.2 °F) – 7.5 °C (18 °F) and 31.0 °C (87.8 °F) - 22.7 °C (72.9 °F) respectively. Spring is windy but dry, and most of the rain occurs in July and August. Tianjin also experiences occasional spring sandstorms which blow in from the Gobi Desert and may last for several days. The chart below gives greater month-by-month detail.

Climate data for Tianjin

MONTH	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
AVERAGE HIGH °C (°F)	1.8 (35)	5.0 (41)	11.7 (53)	20.5 (69)	26.1 (79)	30.1 (86)	31.0 (88)	30.2 (86)	26.3 (79)	19.7 (67)	10.6 (51)	3.9 (39)	18.1 (65)
AVERAGE LOW °C (°F)	-7.5 (19)	-4.9 (23)	1.3 (34)	8.9 (48)	14.6 (58)	19.7 (67)	22.7 (73)	21.9 (71)	16.4 (62)	9.3 (49)	1.3 (34)	-4.9 (23)	8.2 (47)
PRECIPITATION MM (INCHES)	3.3 (0.13)	4.0 (0.16)	7.7 (0.3)	20.9 (0.82)	37.7 (1.48)	71.1 (2.8)	170.6 (6.72)	145.7 (5.74)	46.1 (1.81)	22.7 (0.89)	10.4 (0.41)	4.1 (0.16)	544.3 (21.43)
SUNSHINE HOURS	178.3	176.9	205.3	229.8	265.7	251.2	217.6	223.3	223.3	211.1	173.1	166.2	2,521.9
% HUMIDITY	56	54	53	51	56	64	76	77	68	64	63	59	62
PRECIPITATION DAYS	2	3	3	5	6	8	13	11	6	5	4	2	68

Source: World Meteorological Organisation (UN)[1] December 2009

Local Time

One time operates across the whole of China. Tianjin is eight hours ahead of GMT and thirteen hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time (EST).



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

The Economy

The nominal GDP for Tianjin Municipality was 750bn RMB (US\$110bn) in 2009, with a year-on-year growth rate of 16.5%. The manufacturing sector is the largest part of the economy (54.8%) and is also the fastest-growing (18.2%). The major industries include petrochemicals, textiles, car-making, mechanical industries, and metalworking. Just under half of Tianjin Municipality's land is used for agriculture. Wheat, rice, and maize are the most important crops. Fishing is important along the coast.

There are also important mineral deposits, with Dagang District containing several oilfields. Salt production is also important, Changlu Yanqu being one of China's most important salt production areas. Geothermal energy is another resource of Tianjin. Deposits of manganese and boron under Tianjin were the first to be found in China.

Reflecting the recent economic growth of China, there has been considerable inward investment into Tianjin. EADS Airbus has, for instance, opened an assembly plant for its A320 series aircraft, operational since 2009.

Currency

The basic money unit is the "Yuan" (元) (RMB), which in daily oral language is referred to as "Kuai" (块). It is divided into 10 "Jiao" (角) (more commonly referred to as "Mao" (毛)). The smallest sub-division is the "Fen" (分) or Cent.

1 Yuan (RMB) = 10 Jiao = 100 Fen (Cents)

1 Jiao (Mao) = 10 Fen

Notes are issued in denominations of: ¥ 100, ¥ 50, ¥ 20, ¥ 10, ¥ 5, ¥ 1; 5 Jiao and 1 Jiao. Coins are issued in six denominations. The ¥ 1 coin is made of polished nickel with a smooth edge. It is marked ¥ 1 Yuan and shows the numeral 1. The 5 Jiao coin is worth 50 Fen or half a Yuan. It is made of brass and inscribed with Wu Jiao and the numeral 5. There are two 1 Jiao coins worth 10 Fen or 1 Mao. One is aluminium with the numeral 1 and the other is larger with an octagonal pattern around the edge, also made of aluminium. It is marked with the numeral 1 and Yi Jiao. There are coins for 5 Fen, 2 Fen and 1 Fen.

Electrical Voltage

Electricity in China is 220 volts, 50 cycles AC. Outlets come in at least four designs: three-pronged angled sockets (Britain and Australia), three-pronged round sockets (Hong Kong), two-pronged flat sockets (US) and two-pronged narrow round sockets (Europe).

Conversion plugs and battery chargers are available at most large shopping centres in Tianjin. Industrial converters for larger appliances, such as computers, are also easily available in Tianjin.

Electricity, Water and Gas

Normally, each apartment has an electricity card and a water card, which is used to buy adequate amount of water and electricity for future usage. Electricity and Water can be bought from Agriculture Bank of China. To check how much electricity is left in order to recharge the cards, you can insert the card in the metre and check the amount of electricity.

Water: RMB4.9/ton Electricity: RMB0.49/kwhr

Gas is different from electricity and water. It is paid on monthly/bimonthly basis and is currently RMB 2.4/m³.



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

Transport

Just a few expats drive themselves in Tianjin. The common practice is to take a taxi or the metro around the city, which is safe, efficient and inexpensive. Foreign driving licences are not valid in China.

The Metro, Buses and Trams

The Tianjin Metro opened in 1984, being the second such system to be built in China. The service was suspended in 2001 for reconstruction and reopened five years later with Line 1. The track was extended to over twenty-six kms. Several new metro lines are planned and construction work on two cross-lines, Lines 2 and 3, is ongoing. Line 9 has also partially opened. Though the Metro is limited in its geographical scope, it is cheap and efficient, certainly compared to traffic along Nanjing Road. The Metro is probably the most convenient means of moving around the city.

The price of a Metro ticket is determined by how many stations you travel through, from RMB 2 to RMB 9. You can buy tickets from the automatic machine in the station hall, choosing your starting station and your destination station, and the price appears on the screen. If you travel by the Metro frequently, you can get a City Card (which can also be used when taking buses) and save money on it. The cost for each trip by City Card is a little cheaper.

The Tianjin tram network was opened in 1906. It was the first city-wide tramway system in China. There are over four hundred bus routes in Tianjin and this is the most frequently used form of transport by the local community. The common fare is RMB 1.5 per person, with RMB2 per person for air-conditioned buses. Please prepare your small change before getting on. Or you can use a City Card for ticket payment.

There is also a light railway line in the city, the Binhai Mass Transit line, which operates two lines, the major one running between the city centre of Tianjin and TEDA in the coastal region. There is also a rail-tram system in TEDA, called the TEDA Modern Guided Rail Tram.

Railways

The city has several railway stations, the main one being Tianjin Railway Station, which has had two earlier locations, before being completely rebuilt on its current site in 1988. It is locally known as the East Station, due to its geographical position. In January 2007 the station began another long-term restructuring project to modernise the facility and, as part of the larger Tianjin transportation hub project, to incorporate the Tianjin Metro lines 2, 3, and 9, as well as the Tianjin-Beijing high-speed rail link.

Tianjin West Railway Station and Tianjin North Railway Station are also major railway stations in Tianjin. The former is being completely rebuilt to accommodate the fast rail link between Beijing and Shanghai. There is also Tanggu Railway Station, located in the important port area of Tanggu District, and TEDA Railway Station located in TEDA, to the north of Tanggu.

Construction of the Beijing-Tianjin high-speed rail link began in July 2005 and was completed by August 2008, the line going from the Tianjin East Railway Station to Beijing South Station. The non-stop service takes twenty-nine minutes.

Airport

Tianjin Binhai International Airport (ZBTJ) is located to the east of the city, in Dongli District, and there are a few international connections, in addition to a large number of internal flights.

Nearly all international routes, with most international carriers, and all domestic routes are available at Beijing International Airport. It is very easy to take an airport shuttle bus to Beijing International Airport from Tianjin city centre. The price is RMB 82 per person, with a maximum of two pieces of luggage. The journey time is two hours and a half, with buses departing at thirty-minute intervals.



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

An alternative and quicker route to Beijing International Airport from Tianjin is by the bullet train to Beijing South Railway Station, and then by Beijing subway lines 4 and 2, to Dongzhimen, where you can take the Airport Express (cost RMB58) to Terminals 1 and 3.

Taxis

Taxis are the most common way of getting around Tianjin, and all taxis have meters. The license plate registration for taxis is “E” plus 5 digits. You can easily hire a taxi by streets or outside restaurants, shopping centres, hotels and residential complexes. The initial charge is 8RMB for 3km or less, and fares are cheap, with RMB1.70 charged for every additional 1km. The taxis are fairly comfortable if a little small. More comfortable taxis can be hired on a daily, monthly or annual basis from taxi companies. Very few taxi-drivers speak English, so the College will provide you with cards announcing several of the most popular destinations. To help you navigate your way around the city, all signposts are in Chinese and English, a legacy of the Olympic Games in 2008.

Television

Satellite broadcasts are available in most hotels and apartment complexes with non-Chinese passport holders. Chinese Central Television (CCTV) has one English-speaking television channel, CCTV9, which includes news, cultural, current affairs and general entertainment programmes.

Television transmissions in China use the PAL system that differs from the North American NTSC system. Most hotels and residential complexes include a Chinese system TV (PAL) which will pick up broadcasts from Hong Kong, Japan, Korean, the USA, etc., but not all cable or digital channels are available in each complex. You will need to check with the management of your complex for this information.

Telephones and Internet

Internet

Broadband or DSL internet access is available in every residential complex. Usually the broadband monthly charge is RMB300 in most serviced accommodations and RMB100 in normal apartments.

Mobile Telephones

Mobile phones are widely used and can be easily purchased from digital products shops, department stores or major supermarkets. Two SIM cards service are available in China, one is the China Mobile, and the other one is the China Unicom. SIM cards can be bought in any of the above, though you will need your passport when making the purchase. tariffs are far cheaper than in the UK, even for 3 and 4G phones.

DDD and IDD

DDD is short for ‘Domestic Direct Dial’. There is an area code for each city in China, which you need to dial before the telephone number when making a long distance call. For example:

- Beijing 010
- Tianjin 022
- Shanghai 021
- Guangzhou 020

IDD is short for ‘International Direct Dial’. In rented accommodation, the IDD function needs to be implemented by the property owner in advance.



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

Telephone Bill Payment

At the beginning of each month, you must remember to pay your home phone and mobile bills at a telecommunication office, a post office or a bank. If you fail to do so before the end of each month, your home phone and ADSL internet access will probably be disconnected until the bill is paid. Normally you can get a receipt listing the total usage amount. If you want a breakdown record with detailed numbers and time of time, you need to apply to the Telecommunication Bureau in your district with the payment receipt and your passport.

To check individual bills: for a home phone line, dial 10060 ext. 1; for a mobile phone bill, dial 10010 if your number starts with 130,131,132,133 or 134; otherwise, dial 10086.

Postal Services

Most Hotels and serviced apartments provide postal service to their tenants. Stamps, envelopes and post cards are usually available at their business centres.

For posting a parcel abroad, the customs inspection is a must. Therefore, do not seal it before having the inspection and getting a stamp of approval on the parcel. Post offices only accept cash payment.

Nightlife, Shopping, Entertainment and Sports

There is a fairly lively nightlife in Tianjin and even more so in Beijing. The Italian area is a popular destination for restaurants and bars, but there are several others. Prices compare favourably with those in the West, and you can pretty well indulge any form of food: Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Western. Standards are usually very high.

Shopping malls are becoming a feature of life in Tianjin, again following in the footsteps of Beijing, where they abound. Designer labels are commonplace. The main shopping area in Tianjin is Binjiang Road, which is now mostly a pedestrian precinct and extremely crowded at the weekends. Sports facilities abound and you can pretty much play any sport you like. Most of the hotels have health clubs, with gyms and pools, which are open to non-residential members at very competitive rates. There are also snooker clubs, bowling centres and many cinemas. Films are very popular in China and you will quickly discover that DVDs are easily available, including Western titles.

Tipping

Tipping is not customary in China, though it is becoming more common in hotels or restaurants. A 10-15% surcharge is normally added to the bill in hotel restaurants, so in this case tipping is not necessary. Taxis will require an extra RMB1 on the fare shown on the meter as this is a fuel tax for the taxi.

Clothing

Tianjin enjoys extreme temperatures during the year. Lightweight summer clothing is normal in the hot summer months, while sweaters or jackets will be required in the spring and autumn. However, it does turn cold quickly and thick winter clothing is essential from November to March. Temperatures are regularly below zero in the winter. China has a very relaxed dress code. All items of clothing are on sale locally, with a wide array of designer labels. Dry cleaning can be arranged at the main hotels, even if you are not a resident, while laundrettes are available, where you can arrange a door-to-door service.



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

Drinking Water

It is not recommended to drink water directly from a tap. Bottled water is a common and practical choice, which can be pure water, mineral water or distilled water. There are several reputable brands, such as Anderson, Dynasty, Nestle, Robust, Watsons, etc. Usually one bottle contains five gallons. The bottled water goes on a water dispenser, which caters for hot and cold water. Water dispensers are available in most big supermarkets or electronic appliance shops. The school will help you source water supplies.

Maids

Maids, or 'Ayi' as they are commonly called in China, are relatively cheap to hire. You can do this through an agency and they can come as often or as infrequently as you want. The cost is usually RMB100 for 3 hours.

Supermarkets

The main supermarkets are Carrefour, Vanguard and Century Mart. They are very reasonably priced and most foodstuffs are available. The only drawback is that they are very crowded, particularly at weekends. The most western supermarkets are at Isetan, Far East and Hisense Plaza in the centre of town, and their prices reflect their exclusivity. Some staples like bread, butter and cheese are therefore expensive, but other foods are remarkably cheap if you shop around. An interesting parallel is what you pay for one apple, or one potato for that matter, in Hisense will get you six in a Chinese supermarket. Chinese beers and wines are also very cheap, in comparison with imports. The beer is very good, but Chinese wine is definitely an acquired taste.

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Beijing is now, after the Olympics, quite high, though the standard of living is also high. Tianjin, as you might expect, lags behind, and many things are much cheaper than in the capital.

Security

The crime rate in Tianjin is low. Although crimes against non-Chinese passport holders are very infrequent, common sense should prevail and normal precautions should be observed. Identification or a copy of your passport should be carried with you at all times.

Visa Application

To work in China, a work Visa (Z Visa) is needed. To apply for a Z Visa in your home country, a foreign expert permit needs to be applied and issued in China. You can provide your documentation, such as passport, degree certificate, recommendation letter, CV, certified health check, etc., to the College and we will apply for and obtain your expert permit within China. You can then apply for the Z Visa from the China Embassy in your home country.



WELLINGTON COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL
TIANJIN

What to Do and What Not to Do in China

Wellington College is a very high profile school in both China and the UK. So a sense of responsibility, allied to simple common sense, is important in all our staff. It should never be forgotten that China remains a communist state, and laws are stringent in a large number of areas. Drug-related offences, for instance, carry a mandatory death penalty, which will be carried out. Alcohol is easily available in China, and cheap, but getting drunk and/or getting into trouble with locals are viewed as serious criminal offences.

Any public criticism of the Chinese government is to be avoided at all times, especially on internet websites or blogs. Similarly, discretion must be adopted in the area of photography. Normal tourist pictures are acceptable, but photographs of government buildings or military installations should not be taken.

Finally, there is crossing the road, where quite literally you do take your life into your hands. The Chinese seem to have a general strategy of heading straight into the traffic, and manoeuvre, and weave, your way to the other side. In the process they encounter bicycles, cars and other pedestrians, coming from all sides. This is not to be recommended, and you should wait until the lights go red, or the little green man appears, but a degree of agility, watchfulness and personal courage are inevitable if you want to get across.

In general Tianjin is a good place to work and live, as long as you ally a sense of adventure to common sense. One of the very few disconcerting aspects of life there is that you will get stared at by the local people. This is nothing personal and do not think you have left something undone by mistake. Many of the Chinese in Tianjin are still not used to seeing foreigners, particularly on the Metro, and are only staring out of curiosity. If you smile back, they will invariably return the smile, and might even risk a few words of English, such as 'hello'. Tianjin is a very friendly place.

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