Research first
Malaysia Nottingham Doctoral Programme yields first graduate.

Cancer breakthrough
New test allows pre-tumour detection of the disease.

Living off the land
Academics live a greener life for a month.

Your guide to life
At The University of Nottingham Ningbo China

For general enquiries, please contact:
The Recruitment and Admissions Office
e: admissions@nottingham.edu.cn
w: www.nottingham.edu.cn/admissions

Design: www.campbellrowley.com
In a major scientific breakthrough with important long-term consequences for the environment, researchers at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) have developed a material that will cut the amount of energy a building uses by more than a third.

The material has the remarkable quality of being able to retain and release heat according to the specific temperature requirements for a building and will help dramatically reduce heating and cooling bills.

It has the unique advantage of possessing a larger energy storage capacity with faster thermal response than existing materials and could be cheaply manufactured. If, for example, the required optimum temperature in a building is 22°C, the material can be fixed so that it starts to release heat back into the room when the temperature dips below 21°C.

“The University’s strategic investment in research infrastructure to facilitate the advancement of knowledge in sustainable energy technologies is reaping rewards. We are very proud of the research excellence of this particular team of scientists, who have proven to be world-class specialists in the field of sustainable energy technologies. The University of Nottingham has a longstanding commitment to the global environmental agenda,” said Professor Gindy.

The building material was recently awarded a patent application approval in China, and patent applications are in the pipeline in other countries.

Professor Nabil Gindy, Vice-Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at UNNC, said the University’s cutting-edge research feeds into all teaching programmes and our PhD students get the opportunity to make valuable contributions to the advancement of science.”

Professor Nabil Gindy
Vice-Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School

Meet us at international student fairs

Want to find out more about studying for a UK degree at a top British university with a campus in China? Don’t miss the international student fair in your area.

Our Recruitment and Admissions Team will provide information and advice to you about all our degree programmes and possible career paths and tell you all you need to know about qualifying and applying for entry to our unique university.

To find out more about when we will be visiting your area, see our events listings on our website: www.nottingham.edu.cn

Ningbo has a reputation as China’s most web-crazy city. Latest statistics show that nearly five million people who live in the east city of Ningbo spend an average of at least four hours every day on the internet.

This is apparently more than the national average and no mean feat when you consider that China has the world’s largest internet population, with more than 500 million people logging on each day to chat, shop and have fun on the web.

The details about the time the average Ningbo-based (Ningbo citizen) spends on the web was revealed by Dr He Zhenbiao of the Ningbo Institute of Technology, Zhejiang University, who spoke at a seminar about his research on internet culture in the city.

The seminar for media and communications studies students and academics was hosted jointly by the Ningbo Institute of Technology and The University of Nottingham Ningbo China’s International Communications Division in May.

How to choose your degree programme

Download our new international student prospectus now!
Available on the University’s homepage (www.nottingham.edu.cn), it is packed with information about degree programmes and the many career pathways available to you.

China’s most devoted netizens live in Ningbo

Ningbo, even though its population is roughly the same as London, is a ‘tier-two’ city – one of China’s smaller cities.

It has an official population of about six million, and up to nine million including migrant workers across the greater Ningbo region.

Did you know

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China was the first foreign university to open its doors on the mainland in 2004 and has expanded rapidly. It delivers UK programmes in English and awards degrees from The University of Nottingham (UK).

The University has more than 5,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students. It was granted a PhD licence in 2010 and is rapidly expanding its PhD student population across its three faculties:

Science and Engineering; Arts and Humanities; and Social Sciences.
2012 Best Student Photogapher awards

A flash mob gathers on campus and dances in costumes and make-up on ‘singles day’, 11/11/11.

Picture by Mayowa Ojo.

10 category winners
1. Life on campus: Mayowa Ojo
2. Night life in Ningbo: Cai Chenggang
3. Cultural life in Ningbo: Mayowa Ojo
4. Sports life: Cai Chenggang
5. Student club life: Mayowa Ojo
6. Helping lives in the community: Wang Wenhui
7. International student life: Tan Yee Kuan
8. Research life: Cai Chenggang
9. Academic life: Mayowa Ojo
10. Life around China: Mayowa Ojo

International student wins top photography prize

Valentine Mayowa Ojo, 22, took first prize in five categories and won the prize as best overall student photographer in the University’s ‘Real Life, Real People’ themed competition.

Ojo epitomises the modern international student: he was born in Nigeria and lives in the US. He is registered as a student at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, UK and took the opportunity to broaden his university experience with a year at The University of Nottingham's Ningbo, China campus on a student exchange programme.

In addition to his extensive international experience, Ojo has opted for a broad honours degree programme, spanning arts, media, business and management studies.

Asia calling

Of his decision to pick up some of his degree modules outside the UK, he said: “I felt Asia was the next destination for me to experience. China came to be my prime choice because of my interests in business, culture and arts.

“The University of Nottingham Ningbo China had just started an exchange programme with our university so it was brilliant timing. This, along with some support from friends and family, made it viable,” he said.

On winning the photography awards, Ojo said: “I’ve only been taking photos for just over a year now, so I’m very much still a student photographer. In one form or another, though, I’ve been an artist for most of my life. Aside from photography, I also dabble in graphic and web design, along with film-making.”

Ojo benefited from taking a journalism module at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China, which hires top experts from around the world to teach its international communications students.

One of Ojo’s entries, a powerful image of children in an impoverished village near the University campus, came from a practical photo essay workshop with an award-winning international photojournalist.

“What I like most about The University of Nottingham Ningbo China is simply the amount of opportunities that are available. Geographically, economically and culturally, Ningbo has a lot to offer,” said Ojo.

“Being a student at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China has opened up quite a lot of these opportunities for me. From travelling to making new friends and networking – it continues to be a brilliant experience,” he added.

Ojo received a total of ¥7,000 (about £700) in prize money, while the other award recipients won ¥1,000 (about £100) for each entry. The photography competition is held annually at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China.
Friends from around the world

Also winning an award in the 2012 Student Photographer of the Year competition was Tan Yee Kuan, a 21-year-old exchange student from The University of Nottingham’s Malaysia Campus.

Tan, a business, economics and finance student, has plans to be a successful entrepreneur by the age of 30 and decided that a stint in China would serve as an invaluable foundation for a business career.

Tan’s winning entry was drawn from a collection taken to record the diversity of people from around the world at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China.

“I just randomly picked some photographs I look and submitted them. I was trying my luck,” said Tan, who receives a cash prize for an entry that shows a group of international students having fun.

Eye of the Tiger

Chinese student Cai Chengang, or Tiger Cai, as his English-speaking friends call him, won three of the 10 categories and was a strong contender to win this year’s competition to find the best student photographer.

Tiger’s sports photographs in particular caught the attention of the judges.

Cai, in his third year of a four-year International Communications degree programme, has plans to use his photography talents in a career as a war photographer.

He hopes to spend some time honing his journalism skills at a local daily newspaper in his vacations so that, by the time he graduates, he is ready to hit the ground running as a working journalist.

Longer term, Cai is determined to be a “famous professional photographer” and would like to publish a popular coffee table book showcasing photographs of village life in China.

‘If my family agrees, I want to be a war photographer in the Middle East…or work for National Geographic in less-developed countries’

Cai Chengang

Plans for 2014

Architecture students developing practical skills to solve real engineering problems in the Science and Engineering Building.

Picture by Cai Chengang.

Cheeky picture of students fooling around on campus.

Picture by Tan Yee Kuan.
Happy snaps

Wang Wenxiang, a 21-year-old International Business Management student from Zhejiang, was among the winners, taking the award for the best photograph in the ‘Life on Campus’ category. The picture encapsulates the vibrant student society scene on campus.

Wang, whose English name is Patti, would like to pursue postgraduate studies in the UK before working in a management role in the creative industries – one of China’s fastest-growing sectors.

Joan Chen, Head of Communications and Marketing at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China, said: “Judging this year’s entries was incredibly difficult. Dozens of students submitted excellent pictures in all the categories.

“It is quite obvious that our students are benefiting from the professional expertise of their lecturers and are developing skills that they will be able to apply to a very high standard at work after they graduate,” she said.

The photographs entered in the ‘Life around China’ category were particularly strong, said Joan. “Clearly our international students have a lot of fun and life-changing experiences during their leisure time travels,” she noted.

“Clearly our international students have a lot of fun and life-changing experiences during their leisure time travels.”

Joan Chen
Head of Communications and Marketing

A village in Yinzhou, Ningbo, which appears abandoned ahead of demolition to make way for urbanisation, reveals signs that there are still some people living here. These young children enjoy the attention of being photographed. Picture by Mayowa Ojo.
Welcome to the world’s most extraordinary university

Thank you for choosing to study at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC). There are many reasons why you have made an excellent choice.

“The University is a top 10 university in the UK (Shanghai Jiao Tong World Rankings 2011) and in the top 1% of all universities across the world (QS World University Rankings 2011/12).”

Lauren Quinn Taylor (right)
International Student Recruitment team

Not only will you graduate with a degree from one of the world’s top universities – you can expect to have many fun and exciting experiences during your study years that will be with you for life.

Lauren Quinn Taylor, of the University’s International Student Recruitment team, gives the top 10 reasons international students spend part or all of their degree programmes at UNNC.

1. Our students receive a UK degree that is sought-after and recognised globally. This is very important when dealing with international employers at a time when more and more companies want to do business in and with China.

2. The University of Nottingham brand is well respected globally. The University is a top 10 university in the UK (Shanghai Jiao Tong World Rankings 2011) and in the top 1% of all universities across the world (QS World University Rankings 2011/12).

3. Students here study in English. International students whose first language isn’t English can improve their fluency. This helps them when they embark on their careers because in the business world, English remains a global language.

4. Students here are taught and supervised by academics from around the world, unlike at a Chinese university.

5. Facilities on campus are excellent, not to mention sports and recreational opportunities. Basic groceries and services, like hairdressing and a post office, are available on the University’s High Street and badminton and basketball courts are within walking distance of student residences.

6. There’s a great atmosphere on campus. Students and staff are friendly, there are many clubs and activities and loads of places just to hang out and relax.

7. Students are exposed to different cultures through their international peers and their lecturers.

8. Our students have many chances to travel – in their leisure time as well as on international student exchange programmes and as part of their degree courses. Travel costs are relatively inexpensive compared to other countries and Ningbo is a convenient base for travelling around China and Asia in general.

9. Students have the unique opportunity to develop an understanding of China from the relative comfort and familiarity of a UK-style campus. This is undoubtedly an advantage when job-hunting because China is a major trading partner to many countries; young professionals who understand how to engage with the Chinese have a competitive advantage.

10. The University is safe and secure and it looks after its students. China is a relatively safe place and the campus has security guards at all entrances and close monitoring of the entire premises through video cameras.

Top tips for new applicants

When you study at The University of Nottingham in Ningbo, China you are working towards a UK degree that will be issued by The University of Nottingham (UK).

The entry criteria is competitive, as you would expect of a top 10 UK university.

Viola Ye, of UNNC’s International Student Recruitment team, has this advice if you would like to study at the University:

• If you aren’t English, practise your English to ensure you get an IELTS score of at least 6.5.

• Work for the highest grades you can for your school-leaving exams.

• Check our website for scholarships and remember that the Ningbo government has a special scholarship programme for students from elsewhere in the world who want to study here.

Choose from a wide range of degree programmes

The University offers taught undergraduate and masters programmes across its three faculties: Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities; and Science and Engineering.

For more about our comprehensive range of degree programmes, please download our international student prospectus.

Vibrant international community

Most of our students are from China, but we also have several hundred students from dozens of countries. We have students from Brazil, Panama, the US, Tanzania, Russia and South Korea, among the many nations represented here at our international campus.

Affordable lifestyle

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China’s fees are in line with UK levels; however, living costs are generally lower in China, which means students who want to carefully manage their finances can still enjoy a good quality of life.

Employer appeal

Studying for a UK degree at a university in China, where all programmes are delivered in English, is a highly attractive proposition for individuals looking to add an international dimension to their overall university experience, says Marina Chen, Head of Student Recruitment and Admissions at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China.

“There are tremendous career opportunities for our alumni because they have unrivalled insights into the culture and workings of China, an important trading partner for most countries,” she says.

“Aside from the scholarship programmes, we support our international students through special social programmes and organised events. We are also developing our career support for international students and have plans to facilitate internships,” says Marina.

“For more about your scholarship opportunities, see page 16.
The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) has a special medical team dedicated to helping staff and students at a modern clinic on the University’s campus.

24-hour medical care

Medical adviser Dr He Yanping is on 24-hour standby throughout the academic year, and can take students to see specialists at hospitals around Ningbo.

A team of four full-time nurses and doctors provide additional support for minor medical matters.

Medicine to treat cold and flu symptoms and illnesses that aren’t serious is available over-the-counter on campus for a small fee. Medication for many chronic illnesses, like asthma, can be ordered at the clinic with a prescription.

Compared to the cost of pharmaceuticals in western countries, medical drugs in China are cheap. Most western medicine is available in China, and much of it is even manufactured in China for export to other regions.

Compulsory medical insurance

The University arranges compulsory medical insurance for students who stay in China for more than six months.

The insurance, from Ping An, covers students for treatment for accidents and hospitalisation in Ningbo.

Treatment elsewhere, like the international hospitals in Shanghai and Hangzhou, is not covered by this insurance policy. The insurance only partly covers treatment at the international medical centre in Ningbo.

Dental care is also not covered by your student medical insurance.

If you’re visiting us for less than six months, you can buy your medical insurance in your home country. You will have to present proof of accidental injury and hospitalisation cover for the duration of your stay when you get here.

Health certificates

All students are required to undergo rigorous checks to ensure they are in good health and free of any communicable diseases in order to obtain a health certificate – which you will need for your student visa application.

If you opt to have your health examinations at home, you’ll need to pick up a Physical Examination Record for Foreigners from your Chinese Embassy or Consulate and take it with you to your local hospital or designated medical institution. Later, your medical results will have to be authenticated by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate.

Remember to bring the original manuscript of the form and your blood test records with you to China.

If you don’t do your medical check-up at home, Dr He will accompany you to a Chinese clinic for the tests. The fee for the medical examination and blood tests in Ningbo will come to about ¥500 (about £50 or US$80).

Top-notch dental care

High-quality dental care at a reasonable price is available in Ningbo. The Cheery Dental Clinic, in the city centre, is particularly popular among expats and visiting family members who make a point of having their regular check-ups and dental procedures here in Ningbo.

Q&A with Dr He

The University’s medical adviser Dr Yanping He has nearly two decades of experience working as a doctor in Shanghai and Ningbo and has expertise in cardiac medicine (ultrasound). She is always on call to accompany students to local hospitals to ensure they get the medical care they need. Dr He is fluent in English and Chinese.

Q: What kinds of problems do you treat at the clinic?
Dr He: Minor ailments such as diarrhoea, colds and fever.

Q: How do you describe the medical treatment in Ningbo compared to other countries?
Dr He: The main difference is language; few hospitals in Ningbo have doctors and nurses who are fluent in English.

Q: Will students mostly get Chinese medicine or ‘Western’ medicine if they are treated here?
Dr He: Normally Western medicine.

Q: Can students opt for Chinese medicine and when would this be to their advantage?
Dr He: Students sometimes opt for Chinese medicine when they have back pain (and want acupuncture).

Q: Is there any medication you suggest students should bring with them?
Dr He: Treatments and medicines are available here.

Q: Do you provide contraceptive advice and prophylactics?
Dr He: Yes. Birth control pills and condoms are supplied by the clinic free of charge.

Q: Do all students go for a health check when they get here?
Dr He: Yes, for the purpose of obtaining a visa. The main concern is communicable diseases, especially sexually transmitted diseases.

Q: Are there things students should bring with them to make the process easier?
Dr He: No. Students must pay for this medical check.

Confidential support is available to all students, says University counsellor Gayle Chell, who has extensive experience of counselling students from a wide range of backgrounds – here in China, as well as her home country, New Zealand.

University Counselling Service

When you need someone to talk to…

Making the choice to study in China offers opportunities and challenges which can be exciting. However, it also means that the support of family and friends is not always available in the way we are used to.

When problems arise in an unfamiliar environment it can be unsettling and some international students have found that the University Counselling Service (UCS) is a useful place to talk things over. At present, counselling conversations are available in English, but in 2012 we hope to offer counselling conversations in Chinese as well.

Counselling is a free service to all registered students and staff at UNNC. Counsellors working in the UCS hold professional qualifications in counselling and/or psychotherapy and work within the ethical frameworks of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP). In order to keep up to date, counsellors employed by the University also engage in on-going professional development.

The core service provided by the UCS is one-to-one counselling for a wide range of concerns such as stress, pressure, anxiety, sleeping difficulties, relationship difficulties, worries about others, making decisions, the effects of cultural differences, loneliness, depression and other personal or psychological problems. However, at times a counsellor may also refer students to other sources of help.

People often ask about the confidentiality of the service. In line with the professional code of ethics, counsellors will not disclose verbal or written information about what is said in the counselling room, or about the contact a person has had with the UCS, unless requested by that person.

However, if there is a matter of serious risk or harm to the person receiving counselling, or to others, a counsellor may need to pass this information on to others, preferably with the consent of the person.

If you have any questions about the UCS you are welcome to email gayle.chell@nottingham.edu.cn. Further information is also available on the UNNC website under University Counselling Service.
The Master of Match-making

Arts and Humanities student Ryan Freeman explains how he harnessed his fascination of the laws of sexual attraction to produce a serious piece of academic work towards his Master of Arts degree.

What’s a better way to spend a Ningbo night than having a romantic date with someone new and exciting? My answer: having 15 of them.

Unless you’re a genuine Don Juan, you might be thinking: “Wait, but that’s impossible!” What if I told you that it’s not only possible, but that it’s a lot of fun, doesn’t involve Viagra (well, not usually), and is as easy as signing up via email?

Is that something you might be interested in? Surprisingly, not everybody is quick to take me up on the offer.

Speed-dating, a fast-paced event in which participants rotate amongst members of the opposite sex, going on a series of short ‘dates’ that typically last two to eight minutes, can conjure up quite a bit of stigma for the uninitiated. While many people are intrigued by the inherent time-saving value of such events and aren’t shy of meeting the opposite sex. After dispelling the many myths surrounding speed dating, assuring participants that I’m not trying to set them up with a future husband or wife, and reminding them that I’m providing the service absolutely free while most others charge money for it, I get most brave people to sign up. So what’s my angle?

Well I’m not cupid and I’m definitely not your matchmaking grandmother. I’m better: I’m a postgraduate student of International Communications (IC) at UNNC.

Major Attraction

One of the greatest things about doing a masters in IC is that you have the freedom to choose a dissertation topic on just about anything that interests you. Ideally it should be related to International Communications, but for the savvy brainstormer, connecting one’s interests with their major should be relatively easy.

Take my topic, ‘Romantic Attraction in China’, for example. I have always been profoundly interested in what exactly attracts people to one another (and its practical application) and was certain that this was the topic for me.

At first glance, however, it screams of ‘social psychology’. But consider these three points:

1) A large function of communication is used to either attract someone or enhance attraction.
2) The more people are attracted to one another, the more they will communicate with each other.
3) The more we are attracted to another person, the more influence that person has on us in communicating. I could list many more connections, but I think you get the point: attraction and communication go hand-in-hand.

Sex and the City

Starting my research, the first thing I noticed was that while there was a lot already written on the subject of ‘romantic attraction,’ the overwhelming majority of theories came from the West (particularly the US). A significant portion of those theories were based on studies conducted in laboratory settings several decades ago and it wasn’t until recently that scholars (again, in the West) began to use speed dating to replicate an environment where attraction might actually take place.

Using speed dating as a method of measuring the many variables that can cause humans to be attracted to one another, researchers are now making some very interesting findings, some of which contradict long-held beliefs (for example, we now know that women find a man’s physical attractiveness more attractive than his bank account).

There remain a lot more discoveries to be made, and I have set out to do just that here in China. By putting 15 men in a room with 15 women (a mixed group of Chinese and ‘laowai’) and having them date each member of the opposite sex for three minutes and then record their level of attraction for each date, it is my hope to not only learn some incredibly interesting insights but also to help fill the large gap of ‘attraction’ research currently missing here in China.

If a few matches are made and babies born along the way, so much the better!

Living in China, it’s easy for a laowai (Chinese for ‘foreigner’) to get involved with many things they might not normally do back in their home country. When people ask me what I do, I tell them the truth – I’m an actor, a model, an English teacher, and a postgraduate student of International Communications at UNNC. I guess I can add ‘attraction scholar’ and ‘speed date coordinator’ to that list now.

So do you want to know what men and women are really looking for? Email me at ryznone@yahoo.com for a copy of my dissertation (once it’s finished of course).
Your money matters

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China awards scholarships worth about ¥9,000 (about US$1,500 or £900) to graduates from all universities in the Universitas 21 (U21) network who enrol for its masters degree programmes.

Masters scholarships for U21 alumni

The scholarship, equivalent to 10% of the maximum annual tuition fee of ¥90,000 (US$1,500 or £900), is awarded on a non-competitive basis to all U21 alumni who register for full-time degree programmes. The U21 is a group of research-focused universities who create opportunities for students to enhance their university education by studying abroad for a period. They include:

- The Universities of Queensland, New South Wales and Melbourne in Australia
- McGill University and University of British Columbia in Canada
- The University of Delhi, India
- University College Dublin, Ireland
- The Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Birmingham in the UK
- Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
- Waseda University, Japan
- University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Lund University, Sweden
- The Universities of Connecticut and Virginia in the US
- University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands
- Korea University, South Korea
- National University of Singapore
- China's Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the University of Hong Kong

Postgrad scholarships for alumni and family

Eligible for postgraduate scholarships of 10% of the first year’s tuition fee are:

- The University of Nottingham’s alumni
- any student who has spent time at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China on a study abroad programme or as an international exchange student during their undergraduate years
- immediate relatives of The University of Nottingham’s alumni and current students

These scholarships are only available for students who register for full-time degree programmes and are for the first year of study.

PhD scholarships

A limited number of full scholarships covering tuition fees and living costs may be available for exceptionally qualified candidates. Graduate teaching assistantships, combining paid teaching with PhD research, may also be available. Contact Peter Chen of our Recruitment and Admissions Team for details: peter.chen@nottingham.edu.cn

International student scholarships

Students can apply, with the help of the University, for generous scholarships for international students from the city of Ningbo.

In the 2011/12 academic year, Ningbo granted more than ¥750,000 (£75,000) in funding to international students who enrolled for degree programmes at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China.

Fees in China

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China’s fees are in line with UK levels, however living costs are generally lower in China, which means students who want to carefully manage their finances can still enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Please check our website for latest details about fees.

RMB or YUAN?

RMB is short for Renminbi, which is the Chinese word for ‘Chinese currency’. The Yuan is the name for a unit of RMB and is the Chinese word for ‘dollar’.

Most locals use the term ‘kuai’ (loosely pronounced: cw-eye) instead of the formal Yuan when they talk about payment. Kuai is the Chinese word for ‘unit’.

There are smaller units of currency: Fen is the equivalent of penny, 10 Fen come to 1 Jiao (or Mao) and 10 Jiao equal 1 Yuan. These very small units don’t get you very much and are usually only given out as change.

Cash or card?

Cash payments are very common in China; however, it is possible to pay using a debit card in many stores.

The University will arrange for a Bank of China debit card on your behalf. Don’t rely on your international debit or credit card working in China. Check with your bank at home to ensure you will have access to cash while you are studying here in Ningbo.

How much pocket money do I need?

The cost of living in Ningbo is much lower than in many cities in the world. Our Chinese students work on about ¥2,000 to ¥4,000/month to cover the basic extras, like food and toiletries, and leisure.

Remember to factor in additional money if you plan to travel around China while you are studying at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China.

You can get a budget flight to Beijing for about ¥500 if you shop around. It is best to shop around when you get to China for a good deal. Check in advance, check with the Expedia.com and l强国.com are worth checking for specials; the Lonely Planet and similar guides are also packed with useful tips on how to find a good student travel deal in China.

Can I work in China?

Not unless you have a work permit. Unfortunately, a student visa does not entitle you to find work in China – on a part- or full-time basis.

Bear in mind there have been cases of students agreeing to work as language tutors only to find that they are not paid for their work by an unscrupulous school operator – and have no recourse to the law because they are working illegally in the first place!

Some students, however, do earn some extra cash babysitting for lecturers and modelling for clothing catalogues for the many apparel manufacturers based in Ningbo.

Cash on campus

The Bank of China has an ATM on campus. If you need to change a traveller’s cheque, you’ll have to go to a bank in the city centre.

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It costs just over ¥100 to Shanghai on the bus or by train and roughly ¥250/night at a Shanghai hotel.

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Remember to factor in additional money if you plan to travel around China while you are studying at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China.

It costs just over ¥100 to Shanghai on the bus or by train and roughly ¥250/night at a Shanghai hotel.

RMB or YUAN?

RMB is short for Renminbi, which is the Chinese word for ‘Chinese currency’. The Yuan is the name for a unit of RMB and is the Chinese word for ‘dollar’.

Most locals use the term ‘kuai’ (loosely pronounced: cw-eye) instead of the formal Yuan when they talk about payment. Kuai is the Chinese word for ‘unit’.

There are smaller units of currency: Fen is the equivalent of penny, 10 Fen come to 1 Jiao (or Mao) and 10 Jiao equal 1 Yuan. These very small units don’t get you very much and are usually only given out as change.

Cash or card?

Cash payments are very common in China; however, it is possible to pay using a debit card in many stores.

The University will arrange for a Bank of China debit card on your behalf. Don’t rely on your international debit or credit card working in China. Check with your bank at home to ensure you will have access to cash while you are studying here in Ningbo.

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Living on or off campus: what’s best?

It’s a tough choice: living in a residence with friends from around the world versus getting the real feel of China and being independent. Russian students Arina Frolova and Konstantin Efremov have done both and share the pros and cons.

“We had an amazing, big kitchen, where we could cook anything.”

The Quiet Type

Arina Frolova is an International Communications with Mandarin student from Blagoveshchensk, a small city near the Russia-China border. Arina, 20, prefers living off-campus with carefully selected friends.

“We had an amazing, big kitchen, where we could cook anything. I loved the restaurants in the area, because it gave us a lot of choice in food options. I preferred the kitchen off-campus, though if you cook for yourself it is expensive. Groceries are pretty expensive for a Western person in Ningbo because we live in a different world. Chinese people's markets are a cheaper option but then there's a lack of quality.”

On campus, everything is close to you. You don't have to go anywhere. The food is right here; all the services are right here.

I'm a very quiet person, so it is important for me that people do not bother me. I understand most students want to have fun and be loud all the time, but I personally did not enjoy that aspect of living in the residence.

I also preferred the restaurants off-campus, though University canteen food is cheaper. Security is great wherever you are.

The international residence doesn't have the same curfew rules that the Chinese students have to follow. It is nice to hang out on campus, because there are many people around you and you make friends. So in a nutshell: off-campus, the food is better, the living environment is better and the study environment is better. You get to go places. You have to go shopping, so you move around more.

On the other hand: it is more expensive to live off-campus. It wasn't difficult to find an apartment. There are hundreds of empty apartments. There are two ways to do this: go to an area and ask at the office. There's always a maintenance, or some sort of, office that can give you this information. Or, you can go through an agency which will charge half a month's rent as commission. We had a very nice landlord. They are generally very nice to foreigners because they are a source of money, and that is a service they provide.”

Let's get that party started

Konstantin Efremov, 22, graduated with an International Studies degree this summer and returned to Blagoveshchensk in Russia. He preferred living on campus.

“I moved back to campus because I was bored. I was living with a friend. The money is fine, the conditions for studying are fine, but when it comes to the lifestyle – off-campus is boring.

On campus, everything is close to you. You don't have to go anywhere. The food is right here; all the services are right here.

Every three months you have to pay a bunch of bills: electricity, gas, water, whereas at University you just go downstairs and pay whatever you have to pay. In an apartment, bills are more expensive and it is a hassle to keep paying them. At the University you just go downstairs and pay whatever you have to pay.

At the University your room is about 6-7m², so the bills for air-conditioning and heating are lower than for an apartment – which is inevitably bigger. It cost about ¥3,000/month for two people, or about ¥1,500 for each person. On campus rent is lower.

I preferred the kitchen off-campus, though if you cook for yourself it is expensive. Groceries are pretty expensive for a Western person in Ningbo because we live in a different world. Chinese people's markets are a cheaper option but then there's a lack of quality.”

I'm a very quiet person, so it is important for me that people do not bother me. I understand most students want to have fun and be loud all the time, but I personally did not enjoy that aspect of living in the residence.

A major plus point about living on campus is that it's much cheaper than paying for an apartment. Bills for water and electricity, especially in winter, are particularly expensive off-campus.

We cooked a lot off-campus, too, so we spent much money on food.

I love that the Robin Hood Restaurant on campus delivers meals to your door on campus :) I spent a lot of money on decorations, toys, carpets, candles and many other useless things that made my room off-campus look amazing.

If you are an out-going and loud person, I’d recommend you stay on campus.

But, if you want to study and live like an adult, I guess you need to get an apartment, either alone or with people you know for sure won't annoy you for a long period of time.

The Quiet Type

Arina Frolova is an International Communications with Mandarin student from Blagoveshchensk, a small city near the Russia-China border. Anna, 20, prefers living off-campus with carefully selected friends.

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Chinese customs: dos and don'ts

Cultural differences can be a source of great amusement or frustration. You'll discover in Ningbo that you have much in common with your new Chinese friends – but there'll be some big differences, too.

Minding your Ps and Qs

- Chinese people generally don’t say “excuse me” when they move around you in buses and in stores, so there’s no point feeling indignant when it happens to you.
- Jumping a queue isn’t a big deal in China as it is in some other countries, so don’t be surprised when old ladies try to muscle in on your turf or you get pushed around at the train station.
- Spitting isn’t socially unacceptable in China, as it may be back home, though there’s no need for you to take up the habit. The flip side of the coin is you can expect your Chinese friends to look off-colour when you blow your nose into a hanky.
- Chinese people can’t stand it when you lose your temper. Either they’ll give in to your demands to ensure a swifter return to a state of harmony – or they’ll giggle and run away because they think you look silly.
- If you ever wondered what it was like to be David or Victoria Beckham, having every move scrutinised and recorded, now’s your chance. Expect to be stared at and photographed – a lot. Many Chinese people find foreigners fascinating.
- Asking personal questions about money isn’t considered rude in China as it might be elsewhere. Also expect strangers to peer over your shoulder at your till slip to see how much you paid for your shopping; that’s normal here, too!

Etiquette for eating

- The Chinese aren’t big on serving utensils. Expect to tuck into the same dishes with the rest of the group, with the chopsticks you’ve just used to pop a tasty morsel into your mouth.
- It is customary for your host to put down the quality of food you are being served – but it is also customary for you to disagree with your host. Avoid offending anyone; always compliment your host profusely for the wonderful meal.
- Don’t stick your chopsticks upright in a bowl of rice. It may remind your Chinese friends of incense burning in a bowl of sand, which is a ritual for remembering the dead.
- When you eat something that has bones, like fish or chicken, you are expected to spit the bones onto the plate when you’ve finished sucking the flesh off them.
- Slurping your Chinese tea will help you enjoy the flavour, and your hosts will expect you to do this. If you’re wondering how to drink your green tea without swallowing the leaves, here’s the secret: blow them to the other side of the cup or use your lid to move them around. If all else fails, have a chew: you might find the taste grows on you after a while.
- The older generation won’t like it if you turn a fish over while you’re eating it. This is because it reminds them of a capsized boat and is therefore considered a bad omen. So, work your way through the flesh from the top.

Meal times

- The Chinese eat earlier than Westerners. Lunchtime starts from 11.30am and is finished by 1pm; supper is from 5 to 6pm.
- Chinese people don’t hang around for a smoke and a chat after a meal; when you’ve finished, you’re done. The socialising happens while you eat and it isn’t considered rude at all – in fact, it is expected – to leave the table almost as soon as you’ve swallowed your last bite.

Siesta

- You think the French, Italians and Spanish love their post-prandial rest? The Chinese also like to take a little nap to let their lunch settle. Your friends won’t thank you if you organise important meetings around lunch hour.

Take your tissues with you everywhere

- It’s easy to find Western-style toilets in China, particularly in hotels and restaurants. But there’s one important difference: the toilets in China don’t take paper. Expect to put your paper, when you’re done, in a bin next to the toilet – or you could be kicked off by the person who has to unblock the loo after you’re done. Toilet paper is a rarity in Chinese bathrooms. Keep a pack of tissues with you wherever you go.

- Not readily available either is soap. Your best bet, if you want to disinfect after a bathroom visit, is to always carry a small bottle of waterless hand-cleansing gel handy.
Ningbo’s top 10 spots for students

Like most college towns, Ningbo has a plethora of activities available to students from more universities than I can think of, writes Nick Jumara, editor of the popular monthly Ningbo Guide.

The student communities from all of these universities are a large and vibrant part of the Ningbo population. The only main difference between Ningbo and other college towns is that people don’t tend to think of Ningbo as a college town. The overshadowing from the worlds of logistics, trade, and business in general tend to take people’s eyes off the fact that Ningbo has a lot to offer the student community.

First of all, let me say that I have always had a soft spot for college towns. There’s something great about having fun places and events accessible to a group of people that are interested in…well, being interested in things. With all the diversity of activities that college towns can have, here are 10 of the best that Ningbo has to offer.

1. CMK Music House. Students looking for a night out can find great ones at the new CMK Music House location in Qianhu Tiandi just near Metro. The venue is closer to The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) than Laowaitan and student specials are constantly changing and available.

This is Ningbo’s one-and-only true live music venue with two floors, three stages, live bands from all over China and the international circuit, and the best DJs from Shanghai and Beijing. I’ve heard they want to have a weekly night called, ‘Nottingham Nights’. Everyone from UNNC will be able to make it their home-away-from-home.

2. Yinzhou Park and Ningbo Museum. Ningbo has a lot of great parks. Sun and Moon Lake are both nice but they can get a little crowded. I’ve also never been a fan of the ‘keep off the grass’ rules. It is a park and I did come here for grass.

Yinzhou Park, on the other hand, is around the corner from UNNC and has sprawling lawns near a small lake that are great for picnics, frisbee, or just being in a little nature with friends. Ningbo Museum, across the street, is always great for unique architecture from world-renowned Wang Shu.

3. Dongqian Lake. If you’re looking for a more substantial getaway from the city, Dongqian Lake is a straight shot down Yinxian Dadao. A great place for all sorts of outdoor activities from cycling to hiking, there is also a paintball course for the weekend warriors.

Among the hidden gems at the lake is the abandoned school on the hill with the best street art Ningbo has to offer. It is officially closed, so as you inconspicuously make your way up the hill, just don’t say I told you about it. And keep your eyes peeled for the opening of a brand new water park! It’s big.

4. Tiantong Temple. Even further past Dongqian Lake is Tiantong Temple. Most of us with an itch for the historical think we need to head to Hangzhou or even Beijing to see something really old.

Tiantong Temple, located in the beautiful Tiantong forest, has been there for 3,000 years. Yep, 3,000. Granted the buildings have been rebuilt due to fires and other disasters but it doesn’t diminish the awe it can inspire. It’s still a functioning temple with resident monks, 4 main halls that ascend the hill, and more than one Buddha over 10 metres tall.

5. Xikou. Though the new water park at Dongqian Lake might claim first prize for what to do on a hot summer day, Xikou’s river tubing will always be popular. The clear, clean and wide river is a great place to swim, or float through the cool trees surrounding it.

It’s also the site of Chang Kai Shek’s house. This is now a fascinating museum giving a glimpse of what the Chinese leader was like as a person.

6. Pa Ba La. College wouldn’t be college without caffeine and conversation. Just near Wanda Plaza and tucked into a courtyard off Jinyu Lu is Pa Ba La. Run by the ever lovely Mao Mao, it’s the perfect getaway for quiet studying and reading. It can easily transform into the perfect place to spend a late night determining if Kant really knew what he was talking about.

7. Brazilian BBQ. Everyone’s favorite barbecue in town is a staple for UNNC students. There are a few factors that culminate into the perfect storm.

One, there is a lot of really good food. Two, you can eat as much of it as you can possibly stomach. Three, they love students and offer specials regularly.

8. Laowaitan. It’s the obvious pick and there’s a reason for it. This part of town has a little bit of everything, from food and drink to retail.

The Ningbo Art Museum is located at the end of the cobbled stone street. It is a great place for creative inspiration.

9. Buddha Market. Also known as, “Wow I’m broke”. Cheng Huang Miao, or Buddha Market, is the place for clothing, food, and general necessities that are cheap.

I mean cheap like, “Wow, I don’t feel so broke even though I’m in college” cheap. The market is mostly clothes but don’t forget to venture across the street to the food stalls where culinary adventure awaits.

10. Yinzhou Ice Skating Rink. Tucked behind the Living All Mall, just west of Wanda Plaza, Yinzhou is Ningbo’s only hockey-grade skating rink. The rink is on the fourth floor of a building that kind of looks like somebody stacked the floors asymmetrically.

If you didn’t know it was there, you wouldn’t know it was there. Everything you need is available for rent and the rink is always well maintained.
Things to do in and around Ningbo

If you want to know where the buzz is in Ningbo, keep tabs on Elaine Chan, founding editor of the bilingual Ningbo Focus magazine. Big events and hot new places are regularly featured in her publication and she is occasionally spotted in the social pages of the Ningbo Guide.

Elaine’s top 10 favourite places are:
1. Golf simulation venue in South Business District (Korean Village)
2. MoonLake Flourishing Park
3. South Business District – Bike ride
4. Zorba’s Greek Restaurant
5. Mingyang Tianxia Hotpot
6. Dongqian Lake – Fuquan Mountain
7. Park Hyatt Resort and Spa
8. Xikou
9. Heyi Avenue – by the river (picnic!)
10. Reno Gym

About Elaine
Elaine Chan, originally from Singapore, has more than eight years’ experience in the international hospitality industries in Singapore, London and China. Following a hotel marketing career in Singapore, Elaine moved to the UK in 2005, where she worked for Hull’s telecommunications company – Kingston Communications.

In 2009, Elaine moved to Ningbo, China, to join Shangri-La Hotel, Ningbo, to be part of the hotel’s pre-opening team as Director of Communications. In February 2011, Elaine moved on to be one of the founding members of Ningbo’s first and only bilingual magazine, Ningbo Focus. In August 2011, Elaine was elected Chairman of Singapore Kakis Club (Ningbo).

Loving Lao Wai Tan
Lao Wai Tan is the student place to be, whether it’s to play pool, watch sport or have a dance, reckons Ryan Parker, who compiled The University of Nottingham Ningbo China’s City Guide.

Ryan likes the western style pubs, in particular the bars with big TVs where he can watch important football matches from across the world. Here are his top picks for places to hang out in Ningbo:

- A8 Music Club
  Good for: electro, dance and house

- Studio
  Good for: an intimate bar with live music

- Victoria Fashion Club
  Good for: a moving dance-floor!

- Constellation Bar
  Good for: fancy cocktails, big armchairs and waitrons in white gloves and bow-ties

- Shamrock Irish Pub
  Good for: a beer, coffee, quizzes and watching international sport

- KTV
  Good for: Karaoke!

- Bass Clef
  Good for: live music

- Sol Bar
  Good for: Western food, happy hour, live sport and pool

- Club TNT
  Good for: dance music, live DJs and table service

- Munich Brewery
  Good for: a drink by the river on a summer’s day
Great places to visit in China

1 hour away: White-water rafting

Xue Ao is a scenic spot in the mountains with crystal clear water not far from Ningbo. You need to hire a car or a cheap taxi or club together with friends to book a bus to get to this fun venue. Be warned: the rafting looks gentle but there are some nasty twists and turns in the river. Lifejackets and helmets are essential.

2 hours away: Island-hopping

Tantoushan is a popular resort island within easy striking distance of Ningbo city centre. You get there by road and then boat. It’s a popular spot for camping, swimming and eating seafood. If you’re into amazing infrastructure, the drive alone is worth the visit. The many different styles of bridges that get you from the mainland to the islands are impressive.

3 hours away: Bright city lights

With skyscrapers as far as the eye can see, Shanghai is undoubtedly one of the most awe-inspiring cities in the world. It’s also one of the most exciting metropolitan areas in China. Pubs, clubs, Chinese and international restaurants, art museums, creative industry districts, bustling rivers, an efficient underground train service – Shanghai has got it all. Whether you want to experience the modern Chinese economic miracle or have a taste of the past, you’ll find it here. Reasonably priced accommodation is in abundance too.

4 hours away: Giant pandas

Chengdu is the city you need to get to if you want to see giant pandas playing, eating and sleeping in an expansive reserve. You can pick up a budget air ticket for around ¥800. The city, in the province of Sichuan, is also fun to explore. Chengdu is a popular stopover for tourists on route to Tibet on a train that takes you gently up to higher altitudes in preparation for a visit to Mount Everest.

5 hours away: Beijing

You haven’t experienced China until you’ve visited Beijing. The city at the centre of the world’s most populous nation, and some might even argue the epicentre of the new world, exudes power. The Forbidden City, so-called because it was once the exclusive preserve of China’s ruling elite, will take you back to a bygone era when visitors kowtowed to emperors who thought they were gods. Concubines’ chambers and living quarters where eunuchs once served their masters have pretty much been stripped of all the most valuable adornments, but the architecture remains impressive. Then, when you’ve had enough of catching up on Chinese history, step out of the Forbidden City’s gates onto Tiananmen Square – which is surrounded by all the important government buildings. China’s political decision-makers gather regularly at the Great Hall of the People, which flanks one side of the square. Also worth a visit, if you’re prepared to stand in the queue, is Chairman Mao Zedong, who is widely credited as liberating the Chinese from oppressive imperial masters. His body has been preserved and is on display under the watchful eye of heavily armed guards in a marble mausoleum on Tiananmen Square so that the masses can continue to pay homage to the first leader of the Communist Party of China.

6 hours away: Dandong

China's border town with North Korea is an intriguing blend of two cultures. Rumours abound of beautiful young women from impoverished North Korea being exchanged for bags of rice by desperate Chinese brides. One hour air flight to Dalian (budget deal: ¥600), followed by a bus journey (about ¥50). Visit the Yalu River, heavily guarded on the Korean side, during the day. Unfortunately you can’t step across to the other side. Enjoy singing and dancing shows put on by travelling Korean entertainers at night. Less polluted than most other parts of China, this is a popular tourist area for visitors who want to take in fresh air and beautiful scenery. Military history buffs interested in the Korean war are likely to get a kick out of seeing original shrapnel remnants and artefacts housed in a military museum.

Travelling Troy

Troy Chen, 25, is the voice of The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) in Chinese cyberspace. He manages the Uni Weibo (equivalent of Twitter account, RenRen pages (Chinese Facebook) and regularly refreshes the Uni website pages.

Troy has a passion for photography, travel and food. Originally from Dalian, a colourful coastal city that has been occupied at various times by the Russians and Japanese, Troy has visited just about every city on the east coast of China. His dream is to have explored each one of the 34 provinces by the time he is 30. We asked him to give us pointers on some of the most interesting places to visit in this vast, beautiful country.


Design: www.campbellrowley.com
The University of Nottingham Ningbo China is a very welcoming environment – which is why many of our Chinese students sign up as personal contacts, or buddies, for fellow students from elsewhere.

Your Chinese buddy will act as your translator and help you learn to speak Mandarin, if you so desire.

He or she will show you around the city and accompany you to interesting and scenic tourist spots in the region.

Chinese buddies also encourage their international buddies to take the opportunity to experience life in a Chinese home by inviting them for a short stay with their own families.

All you have to do to participate is register your interest in the Buddy System, preferably before the end of May. You will then be paired with a Chinese student.

Your buddy will make contact with you and can help answer any questions you may have about living and studying at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China.

Your new Chinese friend will show you around campus and the city when you get here.

Your Chinese buddy can help you get your life up-and-running in Ningbo by assisting you in signing up for mobile phone contracts and other services you will need. You can also expect to be taken to food feasts and cultural events.

For information on how to pair up with a Chinese buddy, send an email to nanjie.you@nottingham.edu.cn.

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**Grow your friendship circle**

By Dan Rigby

I'm Dan, and Tracy is my buddy. I'm 22, from Gloucester in England; she's 19 from Korla (庫庫庫, Kù'庫rlè) in Xinjiang province.

I'm here studying Chinese for one semester and she studies Finance, Accounting and Management.

We were assigned to each other – and got on very well! We tend to see each other once a week and normally go for a meal, often with another pair of buddies.

We haven't visited each other's homes (men aren't allowed in hers, and my room's too messy to have visitors!).

She's definitely helped me with my Chinese! It's great to have someone I can practise with.

We're quite good friends, and laugh a lot and have lots of fun when we're together, and we both discovered we have similar interests too (both like similar bands, both play guitar). I'd definitely recommend the Buddy System to other students, and we hope to keep in touch!

She has Skype. I keep meaning to get RenRen (China's equivalent of Facebook).

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**For the fun of it**

By Carolyn Pao

We were assigned to each other based on our interests. I remember I put on my application that I liked hiking and reading manga (a Japanese style of comic book).

The best thing about friends is that you can hang out together and share similar interests and different experiences. I would tell Janet many stories about America and she would find them interesting, funny, or very weird.

Whenever (which is quite often) I would do something that is not normally seen in China, Janet wouldn't give me a disgusted look, but rather say that I am so interesting.

I have, sadly, never been to Janet's house, but I am hoping that, the next time I visit China, I will definitely call her up and hang out like "old times."

Janet helped me feel very comfortable here at Nottingham. She was one of the first Chinese students I got to talk to.

I feel a bit shy sometimes around strangers, but Janet is such an outgoing and warm person that I felt immediately at home here in Ningbo. I introduced her to some of my new friends and we had a blast together!

She also improved my Chinese :)

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**Best buddies**

By Carolyn Pao

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Janet and I are good friends. She is a person who accepts me for who I am. I can totally be myself with her. When we were playing badminton together, I would make the weirdest chants and sounds that she would just laugh and tell me how funny I was.

Definitely we will always be friends! Even though distance, language, and time is a huge gap between us, we have Renren, Facebook, Skype, QQ, postcards, phone numbers, e-mail, MSN, Twitter, and other communication methods.

My message to those coming to The University of Nottingham Ningbo China is: don't be afraid to say a friendly ‘hi’ or ‘hello’ to a stranger. It may seem awkward at first (most friendships start like that), but you know what? You both share something and that is The University of Nottingham :)
Chinese film star gives UNNC students a rave review

Glamorous Chinese film star Yao Chen gave students at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) a rave review on her microblog following a shoot at the park-like campus in the city of Ningbo in Zhejiang province.

Yao has the largest number of microblog fans in China, with a staggering 14m followers linked to her Sina Weibo account. Sina Weibo is China’s equivalent of Twitter.

The actress and co-star Wang Luodan were on campus for the filming of Chen Kaige’s movie called Search, scheduled for release by early 2013.

The drama has the hazards of rumour-mongering in cyberspace as its central theme.

Yao said on her blog: “I was at UNNC for a shoot. The enthusiastic students quickly circled the site. They were excellent when filming began; hundreds of students immediately went silent. Filming went smoothly thanks to the students.”

The message was re-tweeted about 4,000 times and immediately went silent. Filming went smoothly thanks to the students.

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“Life on campus”

All the sports action

Sporting opportunities abound at The University of Nottingham Ningbo China. Take your pick – from home favourites like rugby and tennis to Asian specialties, like Kendo and Taekwondo. Here’s a selection of some of the popular sports available on campus:

• Badminton. A popular game throughout the year, it’s always easy to find someone to play badminton at one of the indoor courts on campus.
• Tennis. With courts on campus and at nearby sporting facilities, tennis is a firm favourite for international staff and students.
• Football. Friendlies are a regular weekend fixture, with local teams taking on international staff and students on the campus pitch.
• Frisbee. ‘Ningbo UFO’ and ‘Ultimate Frisbee’ are among the most popular student societies on campus.
• Swimming. Hotel and public swimming pools near the University mean you can cool off in summer and keep up with your fitness training while you are studying here in Ningbo.
• Table tennis. Your China university experience is incomplete without watching or participating in ‘ping pong’ or ‘ping pang’ as your Chinese friends call it.
• Rollerblading. So you think you can move? You ain’t seen nothing until you’ve seen UNNCers working their blades on the high street.
• Chess. Pit your wits against some of the smartest minds on campus.

Sports

It’s naughty and it’s not, strictly speaking, allowed – but they did it anyway! Yes, members of the UNNC Runners’ Club stripped down to the bare essentials on a chilly morning before running around campus to herald the start of spring.

They enjoyed it so much they have decided to make it an annual event. Talk about being cheeky!
18-year-old PhD student seeks to unlock early language abilities

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China’s youngest ever PhD student, 18-year-old Feng Yang of Guangdong, has begun work on a research project that could dramatically change the way Chinese children learn to speak English.

Feng, born in December 1993, was accepted to the University’s School of Education in mid-2012 after submitting a proposal to research how to help Chinese children under the age of six learn English faster and more effectively.

The young PhD student was home-schooled by his parents, who work in educational fields.

He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree with an English major through a correspondence-style programme. At the age of 16, he entered Tianjin Normal University, China, where he studied for a programme. At the age of 16, he entered Tianjin Normal University, China, where he studied for a

Four languages

In addition to Mandarin, Feng can speak three other languages: English, Korean and Japanese.

His score for English language proficiency is at the level of IELTS 7.5, which puts him in the league of the most fluent speakers of English as a second language.

Feng said he taught himself to speak English, relying on Western movies to hear native speakers.

“English has become the international common language. Typically in early childhood, you can learn a language quite easily. I want to help poor children in remote China or even children in remote areas in other countries to learn English.”

Feng said his education at home was not overly demanding in terms of hours, unlike for children who attend the average Chinese school.

His mother, Feng Yan-Hong, a sports theory lecturer at Qunlun University, China, where he studied for a masters degree in philosophy of education that

World-class education experts

The School of Education is the latest addition to the University’s academic divisions. It is a branch of one of the largest and most respected research-oriented education departments in the UK.

At Ningbo, the school offers masters degree programmes in educational leadership and management, international higher education and in the area of teaching English to speakers of other languages.

Individuals who wish to study beyond a masters degree have the option of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in International Higher Education or a Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD).

Feng has enrolled for the PhD because his proposal is focused on pedagogical research, while the EdD is largely aimed at education professionals in management roles who wish to advance their careers.

Dr Andrys Onsman, Associate Professor of International Higher Education, said: “We are delighted Mr Feng chose our university to enrol for his PhD. “He has proposed a very exciting, very detailed project with outcomes that could easily have a significant impact on the way education is delivered to disadvantaged communities around the world.”

Onsman said Feng had to satisfy all the criteria that any potential PhD student must meet. “In addition, he had several phone and face-to-face interviews because we needed to be sure that he was capable of being successful,” added Onsman.

Helping the poor

Of his academic area, he said he believes it is vitally important for all Chinese children to learn English from a young age.

This is also the reason he spends most of his Saturdays and Sundays teaching English to kindergarten-age children in his area.

“I think I’m just a very normal person. I haven’t had my IQ (intelligence quotient) measured,” he said the lecturer.

Parent teachers

Feng said his education at home was not overly demanding in terms of hours, unlike for children who attend the average Chinese school.

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The debate was in Chinese and tested the abilities of non-native Chinese speakers to argue and defend themselves in Mandarin.

Aired on the state TV channel to a potential audience in excess of one billion people around Asia, the Nottingham team of Ricky Jeavons, Kenrick Davis and Peter McSweeney held their nerve to come out as winners in the debate asking: “When getting married, should your spouse love you more than you love them?”

After the debate Peter, an MA student in English/Chinese Interpretation and Translation, explained: “Although the debate subject may seem odd to us, it is a question often debated in China.

“Knowing how many people could be watching made the early exchanges extremely nerve-wracking, but we soon relaxed and enjoyed the experience. The competition was fantastic and gave us the opportunity to meet fellow Chinese language learners and native speakers from all over the world.”

For his performance during the debate, Peter was presented with the ‘Best Debater’ prize for the second year in succession. The University’s School of Contemporary Chinese Studies (SCCS) was also celebrating after its students, Ricky and Kenrick, followed in the footsteps of two of the School’s PhD students who won second prize last November at the ninth International Varsity Debate.

Love and marriage

Of the topic, Kenrick said the key to winning the debate was to focus on the argument that “marriage needs stability more than it needs passion”.

“In turn, by choosing this person with a sober mind, you are more likely to choose someone who is right for marriage. The person you choose will suit you, will be someone you are willing to ‘guanxin’, someone you believe deserves your respect and care until the day you die,” he said.

Sixteen participating teams took part in the four-day competition, separated into two groups, with eight teams competing as native Mandarin speakers and eight teams competing as non-native Mandarin speakers. Each team competed in one debate, with a best debater selected from each event.

The eight non-native Mandarin-speaking teams included those from Harvard University, Princeton University, The University of Nottingham, The University of Sheffield, Moscow State University, The University of Melbourne, Tel Aviv University and The University of Heidelberg.
## Survival Chinese

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Rough pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Nottingham</td>
<td>诺丁汉大学</td>
<td>Nuòdīnhàn Dàxué</td>
<td>Nor-ding-hun-duh-shw-air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>study</td>
<td>学习</td>
<td>xuéxí</td>
<td>Shoe-eh-shé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>student</td>
<td>学生</td>
<td>xuéshèng</td>
<td>Shoe-eh-shing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teacher/tutor/lecturer</td>
<td>老师</td>
<td>lǎoshī</td>
<td>Loush-uh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friend</td>
<td>朋友</td>
<td>péngyou</td>
<td>Puhng-yaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hello/hi</td>
<td>你好</td>
<td>nǐhǎo</td>
<td>Nee-how</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thank you/thanks</td>
<td>谢谢</td>
<td>xièxi</td>
<td>ss-yeh-ss-yeh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goodbye</td>
<td>再见</td>
<td>zàijìàn</td>
<td>tzz-eye-tzz-ee-en</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>是的</td>
<td>shìde</td>
<td>shoe-duh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>不是</td>
<td>búshì</td>
<td>boo-shhh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My name is...</td>
<td>我叫……</td>
<td>Wǒ jiào…</td>
<td>Wai j-row</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are you from?</td>
<td>你是哪国人？</td>
<td>Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén？</td>
<td>Nee sth huw gwor rin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much?</td>
<td>多少钱？</td>
<td>Duōshǎo qián？</td>
<td>Dour shaw chee-en?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here you are.</td>
<td>给你。</td>
<td>Gěi ni.</td>
<td>Gay knee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) play football</td>
<td>踢足球</td>
<td>Tī zúqiú</td>
<td>Tea zoo chee-ow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boring</td>
<td>无聊</td>
<td>wúliáo</td>
<td>Ooosh lee-auw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interesting!</td>
<td>太有意思了！</td>
<td>Tài yòu yìsi le！</td>
<td>Tie yauw ee sil luh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are you going?</td>
<td>你去哪儿？</td>
<td>Nǐ qù nǎr？</td>
<td>Nee chew nah-rr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would you like to eat?</td>
<td>你喜欢吃什么？</td>
<td>Nǐ xiǎng…maì？</td>
<td>Nee chee wan chir shin ma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you like to…?</td>
<td>你想……吗？</td>
<td>Wǒ xiǎng…maì？</td>
<td>Nee see-yung muh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want…</td>
<td>我要……</td>
<td>Wǒ yào…</td>
<td>War yaow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's really pretty!</td>
<td>真漂亮！</td>
<td>Zhēn piàoliàng！</td>
<td>Jin pee-yaow-lee-yaow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I love you!</td>
<td>我爱你！</td>
<td>Wǒ ài nǐ！</td>
<td>War eye nee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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