

I spent one semester at Nanjing University in China as an exchange student from the University of Freiburg. First of all, I must say that I truly appreciate the opportunity to experience life in China, especially given my major (Modern China Studies). I believe this stay was immensely helpful in improving my Chinese language skills and deepening my understanding of Chinese culture. Below, I will elaborate on my overall experience during the exchange.

Starting with the organization of the stay, I must admit that I received all the necessary information from the moment I applied for the exchange. Dr. Langer provided clear guidance on all the necessary steps I needed to take to complete the required procedures. Applying for a visa also went smoothly, allowing me to prepare everything before leaving for China without any complications. The only issue I encountered before my departure was the lack of direct confirmation regarding my student dormitory room. As I later found out, all exchange students are assigned rooms by default. However, I believe that sending a confirmation in advance would help reduce the stress associated with the journey.

After arriving, I was able to check into my dorm, and on the same day, I paid for my health insurance in cash, so this procedure also went smoothly. Regarding the dormitory itself, my experience was generally positive. The rooms were spacious with plenty of storage space, allowing me to keep all my belongings well-organized. One small inconvenience, from my perspective, was the inability to get a single room— all exchange students were required to live in double rooms. On the plus side, there were many stores and canteens right next to our dorm building, which made daily life very convenient.

The only disadvantage was the location of the dormitory. Nanjing University has two main campuses: Gulou Campus, which is in the city center, and Xianlin Campus, which is about an hour away from the center by subway. Since all exchange students were assigned to live in Xianlin, getting to the city center was quite time-consuming. Moreover, I participated in a Chinese language course, but unfortunately, classes at my level were not available on the Xianlin campus. As a result, I had to commute between the two campuses every day for classes starting at 8 AM. However, I must admit that public transport in Nanjing is extremely convenient, which made the daily commute more manageable.

Apart from this inconvenience, I had a very positive experience with the classes. All the teachers were extremely understanding and did their best to make our stay in China enjoyable. The university also organized many activities to help us better understand Chinese culture, including dumpling-making workshops and language tandems. Additionally, we had a WeChat group with our Chinese coordinator, who spoke English. This allowed us to quickly get answers to any questions or concerns we had. Thanks to this, I felt very safe during my stay, knowing that I was not on my own. During weekends and national holidays, we had time to travel around China, which was extremely convenient thanks to the high-speed train network. I was able to visit many different cities, including Shanghai, Hangzhou, Xi'an, Chongqing, Wuxi, and Shenzhen. These trips provided a perfect balance between the academic aspects of my stay and the opportunity to explore China as a tourist.

To sum up, I am very satisfied with the entire exchange experience. It was truly remarkable, and I will never forget it. I am glad I decided to take part, as it greatly enriched both my academic and personal growth. I would definitely recommend this exchange to anyone who

might have any doubts. Below, I have included a few of the many beautiful photos I took during my stay.







