



## CHINA

---

### Education System Overview

**Pre-high school (# of years):** Six years in elementary school starting from age six or seven, followed by three years of middle school education

**High school (# of years):** 3 years

**Academic year:** September – July

**Major school holidays/break:** January – February and July – August

**Major exam period(s):**

- Semester I/ Fall: December/January
- Semester II/ Spring: June/July

**Recommended times for U.S. institution visit:**

- Semester I/ Fall: September – November
- Semester II/ Spring: March – May

### Secondary Education (high school)

**Language of instruction:** Chinese Mandarin

**Years of mandatory English courses:** 3 years

**Grading system and interpretation:**

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: < 59

**Subjects required:**

- Chinese - 3 years
- Math - 3 years
- English - 3 years
- Physics - 2 to 3 years
- Chemistry - 2 to 3 years
- Biology - 2 years
- Politics - 3 years
- History - 2 to 3 years
- Geography - 2 to 3 years
- P.E. - 3 years



**Graduation requirements:** Students need to pass a provincial-level graduation exam

**Name of school leaving exams:** National College Entrance Examination (also named Gaokao) is required and is the only criteria used by domestic Chinese universities to admit students.

**How to verify school leaving exams:** There is currently no governmental department or national agency that is able to verify high school transcripts. Individual schools should be contacted if a transcript needs to be verified. Gaokao and High School Graduation Exam results can be verified by contacting regional educational authorities.

**Other credentials:** There are also vocational schools at high school level. Students attending these schools typically enter the labor market after graduation instead of taking the Gaokao to enter colleges and universities.

**Standardized test availability in-country and adviser recommendations:** TOEFL, IELTS, PTE Academic, GRE, GMAT tests are all available in Mainland China. Students have to travel to Hong Kong to take SAT or ACT.

**Notes/Comments/Special Circumstances:**

China has a three-year high school system. However, typically, high schools complete teaching by the end of year two and leave the entire last year for Gaokao preparation. There are many public high schools that have set up international divisions/classes for students who have made early decisions to study abroad after graduation. Students from these classes might have different curriculum with those attending regular high school programs.

**Structure of the university system:**

**Years of study required to earn a bachelor's degree:** 3 years

**The language of instruction in universities:** Mandarin Chinese

**Years of required English instruction in universities:** 3 years

**Grading system and interpretation:**

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: < 59



### **Educational Authorities and International Education Resources:**

Organization: Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China

Website: [www.moe.edu.cn](http://www.moe.edu.cn)

Telephone: (86-10) 6609-6114

Email: [english@moe.edu.cn](mailto:english@moe.edu.cn)

Organization: China Academic Degrees & Graduate Education Development Center

Website: [www.cdgd.edu.cn](http://www.cdgd.edu.cn)

Telephone: (86-10) 8237-9478

Email: [zhc@mail.cdgd.edu.cn](mailto:zhc@mail.cdgd.edu.cn)