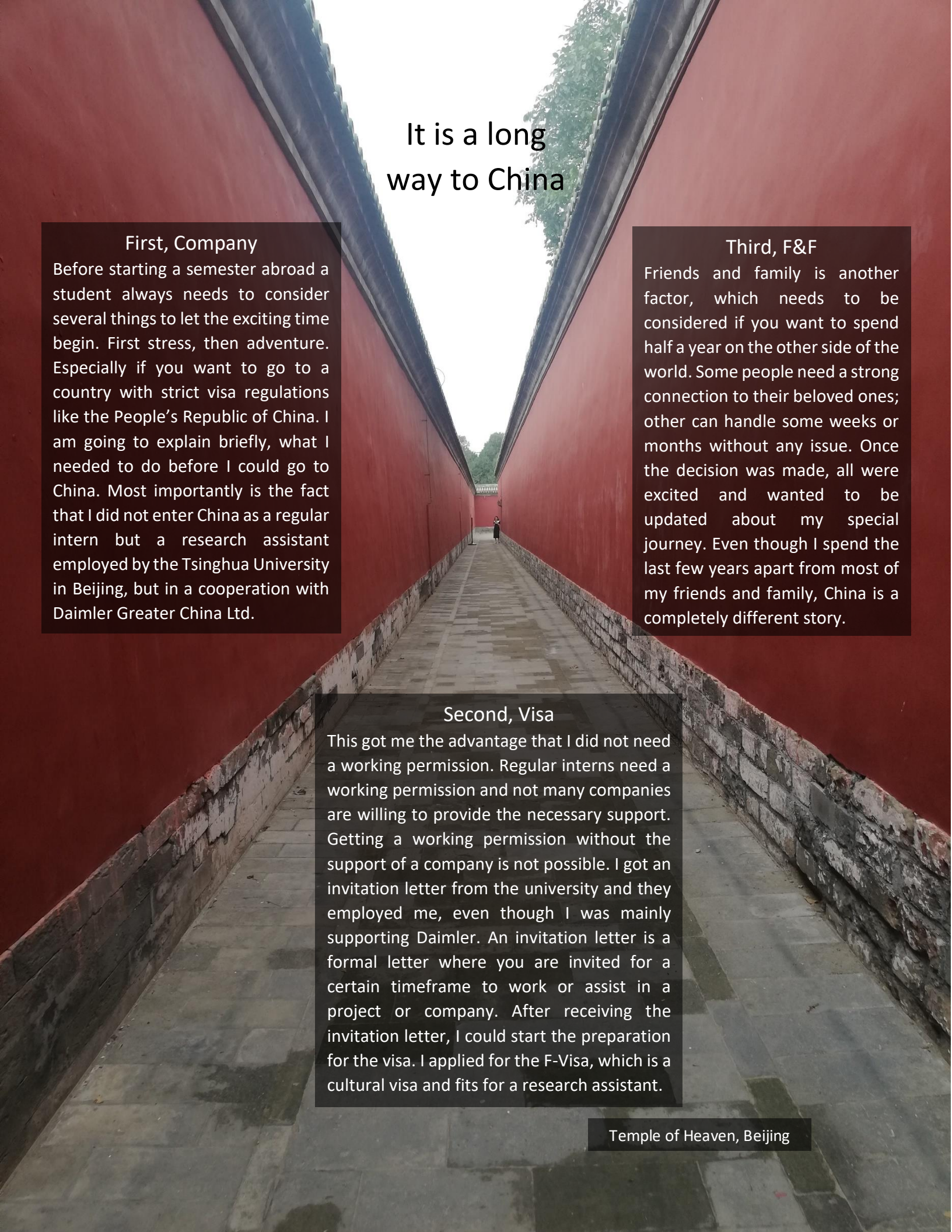


SS2019  
Beijing,  
China

Entrance to a  
**Different World**

Temple of Heaven, Beijing





# It is a long way to China

## First, Company

Before starting a semester abroad a student always needs to consider several things to let the exciting time begin. First stress, then adventure. Especially if you want to go to a country with strict visa regulations like the People's Republic of China. I am going to explain briefly, what I needed to do before I could go to China. Most importantly is the fact that I did not enter China as a regular intern but a research assistant employed by the Tsinghua University in Beijing, but in a cooperation with Daimler Greater China Ltd.

## Third, F&F

Friends and family is another factor, which needs to be considered if you want to spend half a year on the other side of the world. Some people need a strong connection to their beloved ones; other can handle some weeks or months without any issue. Once the decision was made, all were excited and wanted to be updated about my special journey. Even though I spend the last few years apart from most of my friends and family, China is a completely different story.

## Second, Visa

This got me the advantage that I did not need a working permission. Regular interns need a working permission and not many companies are willing to provide the necessary support. Getting a working permission without the support of a company is not possible. I got an invitation letter from the university and they employed me, even though I was mainly supporting Daimler. An invitation letter is a formal letter where you are invited for a certain timeframe to work or assist in a project or company. After receiving the invitation letter, I could start the preparation for the visa. I applied for the F-Visa, which is a cultural visa and fits for a research assistant.

Temple of Heaven, Beijing





Welcome to

China

Yes, the air quality can be bad!

I highly recommend starting in a flat where you are sure this flat exists. Transferring money as a rent to a completely random person can end very bad. Therefore, I started the first month in an Airbnb. The property owner was several years abroad and spoke fluent English. Thus, the communication was easy and she gave me first recommendations about restaurants and places to visit. The flat was in a very nice area, but more expensive compared to the average price in this area. This needs to be considered as well. Foreigners will always pay more! In cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and similar, the rent will be similar to Stuttgart, Berlin or even Munich, if you want to have comparable conditions to western standards. The price can decrease to a very cheap level, if you do not mind lowering your standards in hygiene or privacy. But it can also increase enormous if you want to live at a top spot with European standards.

CCTV Tower, Beijing



# Work, work, work...

1 As mentioned before, I was working for Daimler Greater China Ltd. There, I was part of the research and development of engines. This department has several teams and I was in the mechanics team. The mechanics team is responsible for testing and evaluation of components.

2 At the beginning, the main content of my tasks were updating and creating Excel or PowerPoint files. Other tasks for interns were sending out parts, photo document parts from the endurance testing and preparing the life cycle management meeting.

3 Life cycle management includes all issues after the start of production. Those issues were presented and updated in a certain meeting. At the beginning, this meeting was conducted with printed DIN A3 pages but it was changed to a digitized form.

4 The intern still needs to prepare the meeting. Luckily, I got quite fast other tasks as I took over component responsibilities of parts of the water circuit and one turbocharger.

5 Additionally, I started writing my master thesis to graduate. And finished it as well.



## Time to explore



The Bund, Shanghai



Great Wall, Gubei



Chicken Feet, Beijing



Wedding gift, Beijing



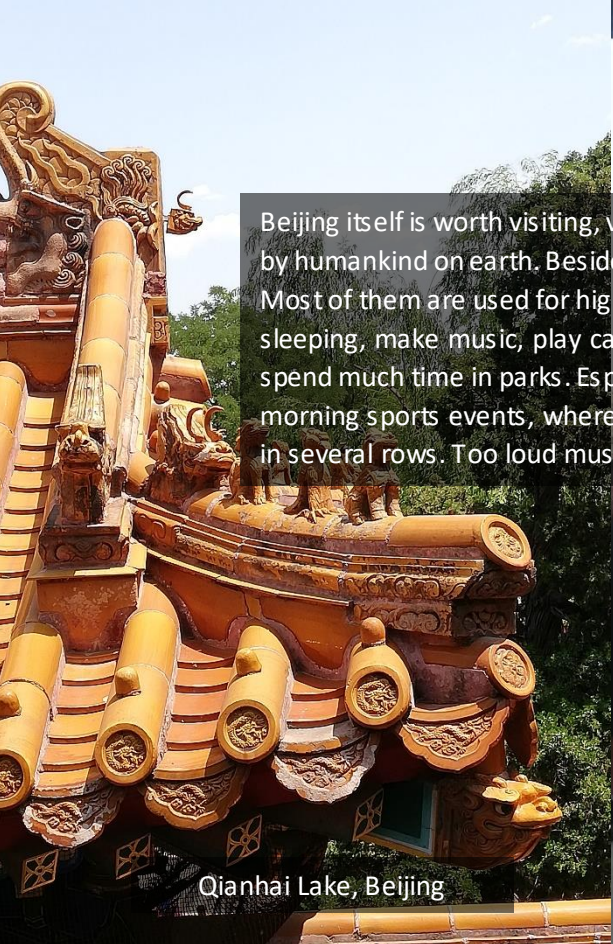
Temple, Beijing

China is a huge country with uncountable many opportunities to spend time. Beijing is seen as a very traditional city with the opportunity to experience China as you would imagine it. Whereas Shanghai is a very modern international metropole. Beijing has an area with old traditional buildings, called "Hutong". This area is very famous for food and marriage pictures. Chinese couples take photos before the wedding to distribute them to friends and family during the wedding ceremony. The Hutongs and the Forbidden City in the center of the Hutongs are sought-after for those pictures. The Forbidden City is probably the most famous museum in China. Once the emperor lived there with his concubines.



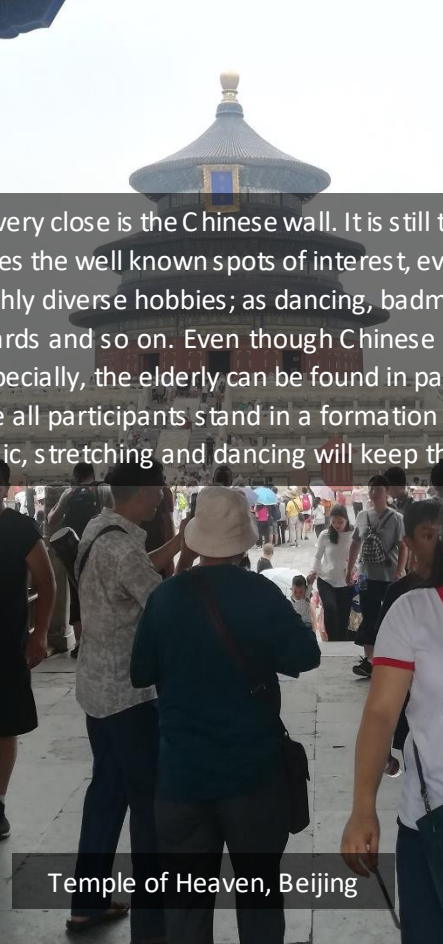
Hutong, Beijing





Qianhai Lake, Beijing

Beijing itself is worth visiting, very close is the Chinese wall. It is still the largest ever build object by humankind on earth. Besides the well known spots of interest, every park has its own charm. Most of them are used for highly diverse hobbies; as dancing, badminton, kite climbing, picnic, sleeping, make music, play cards and so on. Even though Chinese people avoid the sun, they spend much time in parks. Especially, the elderly can be found in parks. Most certainly for their morning sports events, where all participants stand in a formation comparable to the military in several rows. Too loud music, stretching and dancing will keep their bodies fit.



Temple of Heaven, Beijing



Hallway, Beijing

But leaving Beijing is also a must, once you are in China. Trips to for example Shanghai can be done with a fast train. It would take around 5 hours. I took the plane because the train was booked out and the costs were similar. Around 1200 RMB, around 160 Euro. Once in Shanghai, you feel almost like in a western metropole. Skyscrapers and the riverside are great for sightseeing and adventures. I only visited the very famous "Pearl Tower" at the Bund, because I needed to work as well. Visiting Korea or Japan is very easy due to the short distances as well.



Temple, Seoul, Korea



Another great opportunity is having food with locals. I stayed for one week in a flat with a Chinese family. The flat was owned by a married couple, the husband was out of the city for work. But the parents, a sister of the wife stayed in the flat as well as the two daughters of the sister. Fortunately, I got my own room but the two sisters and the kids shared one room and the grandparents slept in the living room. I needed to walk through the living room to get to my room. After having some nice conversations with the two sisters, they invited me to participate on dinner. The grandparents cooked the whole day to prepare the best food. They prepared several dishes of meat, vegetables and other things I could not identify. But everything tasted great. In a city like Beijing, you will also find all different kinds of food from all over the world. I even found my favorite Italian beer, which I found one year previously during a semester in Italy.



Summer Palace, Beijing



Italian restaurant, Beijing



Japanese restaurant, Beijing



Beijing duck restaurant, Beijing



# Staying in China?

Did I like China enough to consider staying a longer time or going back?

Yes, I got a job offer and I will go back for at least three years.



Great Wall, Gubei