

# The Ultimate Moving to Beijing Checklist

Your step-by-step roadmap from packing bags to living like a local

*Brought to you by Connect Mandarin. Use this scannable checklist to ensure nothing slips through the cracks during your relocation to China's capital.*

## PHASE 1: 1–2 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

- Secure the Correct Visa**  
Ensure you have your official Z-Visa (Work), X-Visa (Student), or Q/S-Visa (Dependent) stamped in your passport. Check expiration dates and entry windows carefully.
- Legalize and Authenticate Critical Documents**  
Bring hard copies and digital scans of your degree certificate, background checks, marriage certificate, and medical results. These must often be apostilled or notarized.
- Notify Bank & Unlock Smartphone**  
Inform your home banks of travel to China to prevent fraud locks. Ensure your mobile phone is fully unlocked to accept a foreign SIM card.

## PHASE 2: 1 WEEK BEFORE LEAVING

- Download Core Chinese Apps**  
Install **WeChat** (微信) and **Alipay** (支付宝). Link your international Visa or Mastercard to their wallet functions for mobile payments immediately upon arrival.
- Prepare Cash & Transit Information**  
Keep around 500–1000 RMB in cash for emergency back-ups. Print out your temporary hotel booking and address in both English and Chinese characters for the airport taxi driver.
- Stock Up on Personal Prescriptions**  
Pack an ample supply of personal medications, vitamins, and preferred Western cosmetic/hygiene brands that may be difficult to find or match locally.

## PHASE 3: YOUR FIRST WEEK IN BEIJING

- Register at the Police Station**  
You must complete your Temporary Residence Registration within 24 hours of landing. If staying at a hotel, they do this for you. If in an apartment, visit the local station with your lease.
- Get a Local Chinese SIM Card**  
Visit a China Mobile, China Unicom, or China Telecom office with your passport. A Chinese phone number (+86) is mandatory to log into all local service apps.
- Open a Local Bank Account**

Take your passport, work contract, and local phone number to a bank (e.g., ICBC or Bank of China). Link this new debit card to WeChat and Alipay for frictionless spending.

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## PHASE 4: MONTH 1 & SETTLING IN

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### Find Long-Term Housing

Work with a local agent or use apps like Lianjia. Remember to factor in commuting paths, proximity to subway stations, and neighborhood dynamics (Chaoyang vs. Hutongs).

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### Convert Visa to Residence Permit

Your single-entry Z-visa is typically only valid for 30 days. Coordinate with your company HR to visit the Entry-Exit Bureau and transition it into a long-term Residence Permit.

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### Learn Survival Mandarin Phrases

Begin learning directions, numbers, and basic grocery vocabulary. Being able to interact with delivery drivers, couriers, and neighbors builds real comfort.

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### **Don't Just Survive in Beijing—Learn to Thrive!**

The difference between feeling isolated and feeling right at home in Beijing is the power of language. At **Connect Mandarin**, we specialize in high-impact, practical Mandarin courses tailored specifically for busy expats, professionals, and newcomers.

**Claim your free 1-on-1 trial lesson today and conquer your first month with confidence.**

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