



# CHINA 2020 –

## PREFERENCE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT

Congratulations! You're going to China! All placements offer jaw-dropping experiences. Life, as you know it, is about to change BIG TIME. We hope you're ready!

The purpose of this form is to give you the chance to identify some specific **preferences** for your placement.

\*\*\* **PREFERENCES ARE NOT GUARENTEED** \*\*\* Think about it. How could they be? That would require us to **force** a given school to employ a given applicant, which just isn't how these things work. The schools have their own selection criteria, which they are of course entitled to have!

We will however try our best to aim your application as closely as possible to what you're hoping for. And we may well succeed! Please just be realistic about the whole thing, and understand two things: 1 – Whether a school accepts or rejects your application is largely outside of our control. 2 - China is a complicated country. Some years we are forced to remove a region completely, perhaps even last minute, owed to **regulation changes, costs, timescales, etc.** If this happens, please don't be upset, or disappointed. Understand instead please that while perhaps unclear to you, there will of course be a reason for this. We always have all applicants' best interests at heart. The alternative will be just as fun!

It is also worth mentioning that there is generally no real difference in terms of 'applicant satisfaction' across placements/regions. People tend to end up pretty happy no matter where they are placed!

**That being said, please feel free to identify the type of placement that you feel would make you the happiest. At the end of the day, your happiness means more to us than anything else.**

Unless you make a preference known to us at this point, on this form, we will not know about it. Forget about any preferences you may have already mentioned by email or during your interview etc. Please re-mention everything on this form in order for it to be taken into consideration.



Please also note that as a general rule, we **TRY** to place people as closely as possible to each other. People sometimes forget however that China is about the **same size as Europe**, meaning that it is not realistic to expect to be living across the street from 49 other applicants. The goal is to have at least 2 teachers at any school, **but this is not always the case, and some applicants do end up at a school alone.**

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Q1 – Before we start, what is your full name please?

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Q2 – Which placement option would you like?

*PLEASE PUT A '1' NEXT TO YOUR FIRST CHOICE, A '2' NEXT TO YOUR SECOND CHOICE, AND A '3' NEXT TO YOUR THIRD CHOICE. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

**Please note:** If you want there to be **zero chance** of you ending up on the Shanghai Pacican option, please do not put a number next to it. The other two options however do require a number next to them.

- Shanghai Pacican Option
  - Standard Option (most likely, you will end up somewhere OTHER THAN Beijing.
  - Standard Option, Beijing Region
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Q3 – Have you applied alone or with another applicant?

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- I have applied alone
  - I have applied with my partner (their name is \_\_\_\_\_). We would like to be placed together.
  - A friend(s) of mine has also applied (their name is \_\_\_\_\_). I would like to be placed as closely as possible to them.
  - A friend(s) of mine has also applied (their name is \_\_\_\_\_). I don't mind if I am placed close to them or not.
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Q4 – Do you fancy quiet countryside or big city life?

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- Quiet countryside
  - Something in between
  - Big city life
  - I am happy with either
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Q5 – Do you want to be placed with/nearby other applicants?

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- I would like some space. Please place me far away from other applicants.
- Something in between
- Yes, please place me with/nearby as many applicants as possible
- I don't mind at all

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Q6 – Would you like to share accommodation with another applicant?

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- Yes, I must share!
- Slight preference for sharing
- I really don't mind
- Slight preference for not sharing
- No, I must not share!



Q7 – Some schools are quite relaxed. Some schools are more serious/full-on. Which type would you like? As a general rule of thumb (not always however), the more serious/full-on the school, the higher the salary. 'Relaxed' is great for those who are not overly excited about the teaching aspect of the whole thing. For those who are however genuinely interested and passionate about the teaching side of things, 'serious/full-on' would likely satisfy you far better.

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- Relaxed
  - Something in between
  - Serious/full-on
  - I really don't mind
-



Q8 – Some applicants work very little (around 10–15 hours a week). Others work far more (around 30–40 hours per week). The main reason for this is that the latter group tends to do ‘office hours’ in and around their lessons (where they are required to hang out in the school office, making lesson plans, talking with Chinese staff etc). How much would you like to work?

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- I want to work as little as possible
  - Something in between
  - I want to work quite a bit
  - I don't mind at all
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Q9 – If you end up on the ‘Standard Option’, is there any part of China that you would (A) Like to be placed, or (B) like to avoid? Please use the spaces and/or map provided to let us know. If you have no regional preferences, please just leave this whole section blank. **IMPORTANT:** Please note that the regions used change from time to time, and those referenced on the website/discussed via phone call/email may or may not be used at all.

Regions I would like to be placed in, and reasons why:

Please note that you can give city names, province names, or even North, South, East, West etc.



Regions I would like to avoid, and reasons why:

Please note that you can give city names, province names, or even North, South, East, West etc.





Please feel free to identify, on this map, regions in which you would like to be placed (please mark with a blue pen/marker), and/or regions that you would like to avoid (please mark with a red pen/marker). Please use these 2 colours, and this method of identification only.





Q10: Have you any preference with regard to the AGE GROUP of the students that you are going to be teaching? (Please note that about 70% of placements are middle/high school = 11-17 years).

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- No preference
- Yes, my preference is (age in years OR primary school/ middle school/high school/university):

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Q11: Would you like to be placed a public school or a private school? Private is usually nicer in terms of accommodation and the likes, but more strict in terms of teaching standards. Salaries are often that little bit higher (20% ish) at private.

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- I would like a PUBLIC school
- I would like a PRIVATE school
- I don't mind either way



Q12: Some placements are directly with a school. Others are via an intermediary. In the case of the latter, you may work at a number of different schools. Have you any preference here?

*PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONE YOU WANT. ANY OTHER METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISREGARDED.*

- I want to work at one school only
- I like the idea of working at a number of different schools
- I don't mind either way

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Q13: Is there anything else you wish to tell us, with regard to your preferences?



Q14: You have given us quite a lot of information on this form. We now need to establish which of that information means the most to you – We need to establish an order of preference.

Please put a '1' beside to the most important preference, a '2' beside the next most important preference, and so on.

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

Q7

Q8

Q9

Q10

Q11

Q12

Q13



Some reassurance on the accommodation aspect of the Shanghai Pacican option (as this often tends to be a huge concern of applicants) when completing their preference forms.

The following was written by a China 2017, Shanghai Pacican applicant:

''I work for Pacican Academy and I teach grades 1 & 2 at Putong Primary School in Jiading, Shanghai. I have 640 students and the classes are pretty big, but I don't have to do office hours and I only teach for 10 hours a week, and everyone there is lovely. I arrived in China later than most of the others, only a few days before I was due to start teaching. The biggest concern for me before I arrived was accommodation. Not knowing where I was going to stay and the idea of having to sort that out on my own as soon as I arrived was TERRIFYING. In reality, I needn't have worried. I was dropped off at a rental agency in Jiading with my suitcases and told I was going to find an apartment now. None of this helped with my worrying to be honest, but then I met Veronica, my coordinator, who was waiting for me and took me to see 4 apartments that were near to the school I would be teaching at. Within an hour of seeing the first apartment, I had chosen which one I wanted, signed a tenancy agreement with Veronica's help, had the keys and had moved my cases in (would never happen in England!). My landlady even drove me to the supermarket that afternoon and pushed my trolley round as I bought the bits I needed. My 2-bedroom apartment is cheaper and SO much nicer than I was expecting. Pacican have been great, they've been there if I need anything and Veronica has been wonderful. They aren't good at letting you know which school you will be going to beforehand (because they don't know themselves until the last minute), but if that's the only complaint I have about them then that's not too bad''.



In other words, when contemplating the Shanghai Pacican option:

- You needn't worry about the difficulties of finding accommodation. It is INCREDIBLY EASY.
- You should however take the initial costs of accommodation into consideration. Please check out the 'China 2020 - Shanghai Pacican' sub tab (of 'placements' tab) of our website, for details on this.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT UNLESS YOU REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE SHANGHAI PACICAN OPTION, YOU WILL NOT BE PLACED ON THE SHANGHAI PACICAN OPTION. THIS IS A GUARENTEE!**

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