

A Day in the Life of an International Intern In Beijing, China

Out of the four destination options, I decided to choose Beijing in China. It is the capital city with lots to see, do and explore. China is a completely different world, you really do have to go there to fully understand what their culture is like. Almost everything is different from the food, to the cutlery, the language and more!



7:00am A typical day would begin with a 7am alarm clock coming from my iPhone – how triggering. I had to set several alarms before getting up because my bed was so comfy. Usually, I would make my breakfast at home as it was more convenient for me. Everyone had different working hours so it was hard to all be up at the same time. Work started at 9 am and was only a 20-minute walk; however, I felt like my life was at risk every time I crossed the road. The traffic was horrendous, motorbikes were driving on pavements, cars were still moving when there was a red light – I was surprised I made it to and from work each day!



9:00am I worked for a tech investment company called Magma Partners, in Wangjing Soho area. The building I worked in was Tower 1, each day I looked up at the buildings gobsmacked at the beautiful architecture I was fortunate enough to work in.

We were focusing on a small start-up idea called '8 Billion' for a mini program within WeChat. The idea behind the mini-program is like LinkedIn; however, there is built-in voice and text translator which enables people to connect and share their knowledge with the local community and with people from all over the world. The mini-program is mainly targeted towards the Expat community in Beijing. The language-barrier is one thing I could really relate to, I feel as though I could have missed out on a few networking opportunities due to the language barrier. Therefore, I was passionate about the project and gave my in-depth ideas, thoughts and feedback to ensure we created the best service. Each morning we would have a meeting to discuss any new suggestions that we wanted to put forward for the mini program and feedback on our progress from the previous afternoon.

Most times I focused on finding the best translation provider for the mini program, created social media accounts for the business, worked on designing the website and the application and helped to financially prepare the whole project.



1:00pm Lunch time was at 1.00pm and was different each day. Sometimes my boss would treat my colleagues and I for lunch when he was not busy with meetings. They encouraged me to try lots of things, some I liked and some I would never try again – ha-ha! Other times, I would grab some lunch from anywhere I could be understood and bring it to this waterfall display outside of my office.

2:00pm In the afternoon at 2.00pm, we would have our second team meeting to share all our new ideas and the work we had been working on. This was a great way of making our team working skills even stronger as we would all provide individual feedback. Once our meeting was finished we would continue to work until the end of the day. Sometimes we would even have to attend a meeting at another office to pitch our ideas to the UI



6:00pm My day at work ended at 6pm. I made my way back amongst the hustle and bustle of the traffic, I got used to it though. Towards the end, I even managed to walk with my earphones in. Most of the time once everyone had finished work for the day, we would get dressed up for dinner. This was a lovely way for us all to explore our area, try new food and catch up on everyone's day at work!