

NOVEMBER BLOG 2

Are family coming out to visit you?

Yes, on December 12月 24th my mum and younger brother 弟弟 are travelling over here for two full weeks to visit. I'm not sure what we are going to do when they come but I am sure we will take a wee trip somewhere out of Tianjin. I have exams the first week that they arrive so time with them will be limited by exams and much studying for that week however after that is done we should have a full week together. That second week we should be able to spend all day together. I'm most excited to show them around all the local restaurants that I eat in day to day and for them to know how the food here is.

What's the weather like?

When we arrived it was hot and humid until around October time however now the cold has started to come. At the moment it's just like being out on a particularly cold Scottish day however we know it's going to get much colder. There have been a few days however that have been especially cold over the past two weeks with high winds 大风 making it feel worse. At our university and in the surrounding streets the bushes have been getting wooden fence posts put around them and bright rolls of material with pictures of flowers and bushes on them to hide the leaveless bushes behind them. It's crazy to think that they'd go to that amount of effort just to make it look like the bushes were still there!

Are you wanting to stay?

I am starting to think about staying over here for at least another year as I'm loving it so much. I am still thinking hard about this and whether I want to stay longer but will have nearly decided by the start of 2020 so will let you know!

Month part two

Start of week three we took the very last minute trip to Beijing 北京! It was my first time using the trains 火车 in China alone as when I traveled previously Alexandra's teacher, Anna, did all the booking 预定 for us. The trip was good, first we went off to Tian'an'men Square 天安门广场, getting pictures as we went. When we arrived, across the road from the main entrance, a crowd had gathered around the flag and lined the roads around the entrance to the forbidden city. We stood and watched as many soldiers marched out from beneath the photo of Chairman Mao, crossed the road and then lowered the flag in front of us. It was really interesting but made us realise how hard it must be for the soldiers to stand on their long shifts in the cold! That was the first day where I really felt the biting cold so made sure to wear my gloves, and have my hood tight around my head.



For the next two weeks all I have really done is study and eat plenty of Chinese food! I am beginning to think about what I want to do during the spring holiday coming up in the new year so I've spent plenty time looking at flights, trains and hotels to both Hong Kong and Australia!! At the end of the month I went skiing 滑雪 and also we all went to a ceilidh in Beijing followed by the annual St Andrews ball which were both absolutely amazing (More info below!!) and gave us some time away from uni 大学 and revision 复习 at great relief!

"Fun run"

My teacher told 告诉了 our class that there was a fun run at the main uni campus and that she wanted me and two classmates to take part, we said okay. On Thursday we arrived to find 1000 participants had signed up and we were some of the only foreign students there! It was 5km of running with roads closed and I did enjoy it, I ran in around 22m 30s :)



Skiing!!!



On the 24th of November Maia, Kirsten and I all took a three hour 三个小时 bus journey into the mountains for a day of skiing fun! I love skiing and back in Edinburgh 爱丁堡 I love to go up the dry ski slope where I gained all my levels in lessons through high school so I was super excited. When we arrived we were all pretty surprised, the slope was just a hill with ice machines used to add snow 雪 onto it so we 我们 were apprehensive but after getting used to the very icy texture it

was great fun. The queue to the tow was very crowded 拥挤 with everyone trying to push in but after a few times we did as everyone else did and pushed in too! I used my GoPro and phone 手机 to take videos and photos and they look great. I think the thing we found funniest and hardest was how terrible everyone else there was as there was no help to tell people how to slow down or stop so it was like watching total wipeout half of the time but for me and Maia it was great for us to weave in between everyone. We already have plans to go back and some of my foreign classmates are looking to come too!!!



Beijing... Ceilidh and Ball

On the 29th of November we all travelled the short hop across to Beijing for a St Andrew's Ceilidh and some of us to the St Andrew's Charity Ball the next day. First the ceilidh at the Peninsula, a beautiful hotel in the heart of Beijing. The event started with networking, some canapés and a couple of speeches then onto the dancing. It was hard to dance with people who didn't know what to do but after a while people understood how to do some of the dances. It was so nice for us all to get out of studying and just being at home in the dormitory 宿舍. Afterwards some of us went out to a club, others straight to their hotels, and apartments. At around 2am Maia, Erin, Morgan and I left into the snowy Beijing streets and got a taxi home- leaving Colin to party the night away. I used my GoPro to take videos of the night and on Saturday morning created a wee video of the night, I did the same for Saturday night too, just so we have a record of the great time! On Saturday some of us staying went out to the pearl market, Scottie, Francesca and I bought watches, Margaret bought shoes but we all made sure to use our Mandarin to ensure we got the best prices. Before long Colin and I had sat in the Pearl Market Starbucks for 2 hours chatting to Americans from Ohio about their time in China travelling before returning home to get ready for the night ahead. It was amazing, we had reception drinks and canapés to begin then after the grand march into the room we sat for a stunning 5 course dinner. The night was sponsored by lots of companies 公司 who did a charity raffle and most people had a better idea of how to do Scottish country dancing so it worked much better than Friday. All in all it was a fab weekend where we could socialise, dance 跳舞 and really enjoy ourselves. On Thursday I'm heading back to Beijing with Margaret for an event run by main sponsors of the event, LehmanBrown and BlueStar AMG, on China's new income tax laws and offshore financing which we are interested in learning about!

