

# Jamie Lendon – UF in Beijing

**Major:** Finance

**Blog:** <https://ufinbeijing.wordpress.com/category/jamie>

## **I studied abroad because...**

I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone, and I had never been out of the country before, so going abroad in the summer was a great opportunity for me.

## **One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...**

deciding whether or not going abroad for me was financially feasible.

## **A typical meal I had while studying abroad was...**

Hotpot. Similar to "The Melting Pot" here in the US, you are able to pick what you'd like to eat and cook it yourself in what I would describe as a boiling broth.

## **My favorite spot in my host city was...**

The Summer Palace. It was absolutely breathtaking. The many trees there made most parts of it shady, and the view once we climbed to the top of it was the best one in my opinion.

## **One cool event I got to experience while abroad:**

The German and French Chamber of Commerce hosted an event at a nearby hotel that gathered young professionals in the area. I was able to network and meet new people, which was one of my favorite activities that I attended.

## **The most memorable experience for me while abroad:**

I was once boarding (or attempting to board) a bus to go home from work. It was pretty packed, though nothing out of the ordinary for busses in Beijing. The doors were about to close behind by back when the lady still at the stop hops on and shoves herself in front of me, forcing me off the bus without saying a word. I had to wait for the next bus as a result. I find this memorable as I draw a parallel between China and the US. That would have more than likely never happened here in the US. Though in China, it seemed normal and I found myself less than frustrated surprisingly.

## **A skill I picked up while abroad:**

I got exceptionally more talented in using chopsticks. I would say now that I almost prefer to eat with them when it comes to some foods.

## **What I found most challenging while abroad was...**

The language barrier. Between verbal communication as well as not being able to read Chinese characters, I sometimes found the lack of being able to express a thought of mine or find directions difficult. I soon came to realize that with patience and enough hand motions, usually no words are required to get our thoughts across.

## **What surprised me most about study abroad was...**

the food. I suppose I expected general tso chicken to be popular; however, there were many more exotic dishes in Beijing that I would've never thought existed unless I were to see them for myself.

## **My last bit of advice:**

Just go for it. If you even slightly consider studying abroad and you utilize the resources Warrington provides you, it is worth every moment of your time and energy.