



## ImmerQi Au Pair China Participant Update

### Participant information

- Name: Rachel Meadowcroft
- Age: 19 years old
- Nationality: Australia
- Duration: 6 months

### Location

Beijing

### Photos of Rachel



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## **Participant's feedback**

I am now 3 months into my 6 month Au Pair program, I have been enjoying my stay so much in Beijing despite the language barrier.

## **Why did you decide to come to China and do ImmerQi's Au Pair program?**

I always wanted to travel and explore the world. Going to China is a great opportunity for me since I

want to improve my mandarin Chinese skills. I get along well with children and becoming an Au Pair is just a perfect combination!

### **What's something that has pleasantly surprised you while in China?**

I really enjoy the food! There is a housekeeper ( I call her ayi ) who cooks every meal and cuisine is wonderful. The street food is pretty good, as well since it's really cheap and they make it right in front of you. It's fun to try all the weird stuff, like fried scorpions and grubs, but there are also plenty of normal things to eat.

### **What have been your duties as an Au Pair?**

My first week was relaxing so I was able to get settled into life here. So far, I have been helping my au pair child with his homework and playing games with him during his homework breaks. Teddy is really easy to look after and it doesn't really feel like a job. I just expand his vocabulary by explaining new words to him and correct his grammar.

### **What have you been up to in your time off?**

I have so many opportunities to explore Beijing that has so many great tourist places. I have also been to the Forbidden City and JingShan park. When I start to miss talking to English people I meet up with my AuPair friends.

During Spring festival (Chinese New Year) I enjoyed good food with friends that I have made through the program and my mandarin classes, I also went shopping and ice skating on an outdoor rink. While it is Winter here, I want to try out all of the ice skating places.

### **Highlights so far?**

My favourite day in China so far – ice skating at HouHai Lake. I also went to visit the Forbidden City but they had sold out of tickets (welcome to China!). We walked up to JingShan Park instead, so we could look down at the Forbidden City.

During ImmerQi's cultural and social monthly activity, I made some jiaozi (dumplings). The best part was definitely getting to eat them!

### **What is the most challenging thing so far ?**

The most challenging thing for me at the moment is to get enough courage to speak to people in Chinese. Everyone is really nice and understanding if I say something wrong.