Eoin Brown’s Dos and Don’ts
CET Shanghai
Shanghai, China

GEO Peer Advisor, 2010-2011

DO

1. Travel. Shanghai is not “real China.”
2. Volunteer. In a city as fun as Shanghai, it is important to live a balanced life.
3. Use the weekends to go to Shanghai’s beautiful parks. Play with little kids. Play cards with the old people.
4. Find the perfect internship. The director of the program is fantastic and he will help you find something that you love.
5. Go to American Chamber of Commerce events (and educational events in general). The networking opportunities and the fantastic western food are worth the fee.
6. See an acrobatic show. WOW.
7. Take motorcycle taxi rides at your own risk. Economical (if you negotiate properly) and exciting.
8. Take advantage of acting opportunities afforded to westerners. The training video I filmed for China Eastern Airlines is hilarious.
9. Go to the markets and be prepared to haggle. Consider recruiting a Chinese roommate to join you. Definitely buy some professional clothes! 100 dollars will get you a high quality suit!
10. SPEAK MANDARIN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. Many people in Shanghai speak English, but try to speak only Mandarain whenever possible. You will never have such a good opportunity to improve your language ability.

DON’T

1. Buy lots of pirated DVD’s and waste your weekends away watching movies in your room.
2. Spend all your time socializing with expats.
3. Eat too much McDonalds. They deliver, so be careful!
4. Do not be offended if people are curious, and direct, about learning about America.
5. Don’t be overwhelmed by all the modes of transportation.
6. Don’t be afraid to travel by yourself. Protect your belongings but you will be safe.
7. Don’t be afraid to accept extra-curricular opportunities like tutoring. You have a lot of time.
8. Don’t be fazed if you are the only foreigner around.
9. Don’t be afraid to try new food. You may learn to love something you have never tried.
10. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Chinese people are more than happy to help you.