

# International Student ID Cards: Opening the World of Discounts

When a German tourist lost his wallet in Beijing, the police managed to track down the owner by the only form of identification within an International Student Identity Card (ISIC), with an emergency help hotline printed on the back. Along with the ISIC in the wallet was a short note: please, write my paper for me.

As related on BTV's Law Online program, this occurred in Beijing during the Olympics, at a time when ISICs were carried by very few in China. In fact, it took police quite a while to figure out what the card was: an ID card offering discounts on the bus, train and air tickets, as well as for stores, hostels and restaurants.

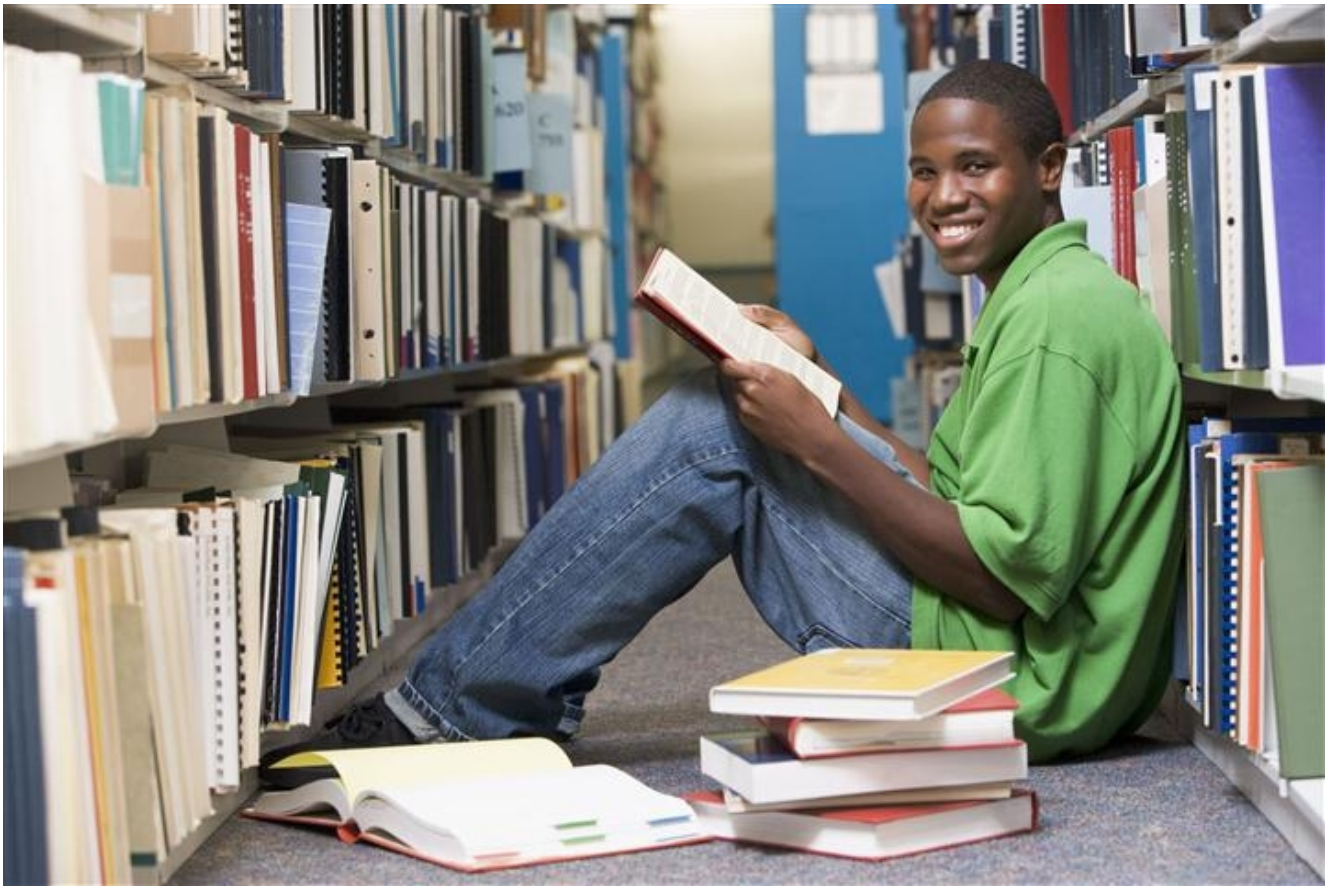


International Teacher Identity Cards (ITIC) and International Youth Travel Cards (IYTC) are also part of the series under the International Student Identity Card Association.

"ISIC isn't as precious as your passport, so many people like carrying this convenient little card in their wallets as an identification card," said Erica Xue, director of ISIC China's Head Office in Beijing. For Chinese going abroad to study or young people who love overseas travel, getting an ISIC or IYTC seems quite necessary. "Many of the applicants are Chinese who are going abroad to study or travel in the US and Europe," Xue added.

Hou Yujia, now working for China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company, is an enthusiastic tourist. "I have quite a few friends studying in Europe who advised me to get an IYTC before I traveled there," she said. "It saved me quite an amount when I was traveling by myself by train, about 20 percent off," she said.

Tian Lijuan got one when she returned to Beijing from Sweden during her summer break in 2008. "My first semester was pretty much spent in schools, but I was starting to take trips in Europe, and this card saved me quite a lot on accommodation and tourist sites," Tian said.



Xue told Lifestyle that they are trying to find more partners that can offer discounts for cardholders in Beijing, especially the areas frequented by expatriates, such as Sanlitun and Nanluoguxiang.

## InterRailing – Backpacker Heaven

InterRail is the world-famous flexible rail pass that allows travelers of all age groups, in particular backpackers, young people, students and baby-boomers to enjoy travelling by train in Europe. The Global InterRail pass allows for travel in 30 European countries, with adult prices starting from EUR399 for 15 days. Bookings can be made directly at [InterRailNet.com](http://InterRailNet.com) or from other rail operators such as SNCF. The InterRail One Country enables travelers to explore a single country in-depth from EUR33. According to the company, the top destinations to explore are Italy, Spain, Benelux, France and Germany. To boost its budget appeal, the company withheld price increases on its youth and adult fares in 2010. Seniors receive a 10% discount for certain products. Discounts on ferries for all travellers are also offered through cross industry partnerships.

[Euromonitor.com](http://Euromonitor.com)

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