The Power of QQ and Weixin (We Chat)

QQ International

Although there are many instant messenger programs to keep in contact with family, friends and acquaintances, in China, there is only one IM program worth knowing - QQ. Developed by the Chinese company Tencent, its trademark penguin mascot is as familiar to the Chinese as the Google logo is to us. Most Chinese students have a QQ account.

The international version of QQ offers several features that can be particularly useful. It has an English language interface or French, German, Japanese, Korean or Spanish. Once you have downloaded the program and opened it, there’s a button to press on the interface to sign up for an account. It is free, and the procedure very straightforward.

Don't speak Chinese? No problem. At the bottom of any conversation window you open is a 'Translate' button. Set it up to translate to and from your chosen language and Chinese and – presto – the message is translated; at least given the limitations of automatic translation software.

Weixin (We Chat)

Becoming very popular in China, WeChat is - in effect - QQ for mobile phones, but well-adapted to them as an alternative means of communication. With your QQ ID and password, just log in and you’re away. Check out all the options and find some of the things you can do with it. You can be online in QQ using WeChat, for example, and one useful smartphone-related addition is 'Look Around'. With this you can find other users nearby. In a Chinese city, you’re likely to find dozens of people within just a few hundred meters.

How used

1. Instant message one or group of students
2. Group discussions
3. File transfer
4. Qzone and Moments – like face book – for sharing what is happening with you
5. Sending photos
6. Can be used in the USA

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