

China Visa Guide & Support

China Visa Guide

This China visa guide is designed to help you prepare your application for a visa to Mainland China through a clear, efficient, and reliable process. Foreign nationals holding valid passports or travel documents are welcome to apply for various types of visas to China, including those for tourism, family visits, or business purposes. Kindly note that all information provided is subject to change without prior notice, and applicants should follow the latest announcements from the official website of the Chinese Embassy or Consulate.

Basic Requirements for Visa Application

Passport: Original passport with at least six months of validity remaining and at least two blank visa pages.

Visa Application Form and Photo: Completed application form with a recently-taken color passport photo.

Proof of Legal Stay or Residence: Required for applicants who apply from a third country.

Minors Under 18: Birth certificate and copies of both parents' passports must be submitted.

Visa Categories

L Visa – For tourism purposes

Q2 / S2 Visa – For visiting relatives in China

M Visa – For commercial and trade-related activities

F Visa – For cultural exchanges, short-term studies, or study tours

Z Visa – For employment in China

X Visa – For study in Chinese schools or universities

Visa Categories and Supporting Document Requirements

1. L Visa (Tourism)

Travel itinerary

Proof of transportation (airfare or train tickets)

Hotel booking confirmation

2. Q2 / S2 Visa (Visiting Relatives)

Proof of kinship (e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate, notarized kinship certificate)

Copy of inviter's Chinese ID or foreign passport with Chinese residence permit

Invitation letter including:

Visitor's full name, gender, date of birth

Travel purpose, arrival and departure dates, relationship to inviter

Host's name, contact, address, signature

3. M Visa (Business)

Invitation letter from the Chinese company

Company's business registration license copy

Invitation letter must include:

Visitor's name, gender, DOB

Purpose, schedule, location, relationship, financial responsibility

Company contact, address, signature, and official seal

4. F Visa (Cultural Exchanges / Study Tours)

Invitation from relevant Chinese entity

Letter must contain:

Visitor details

Visit purpose and dates

Relationship with inviter

Host contact, signature, and seal

5. Z Visa (Employment)

Provide one of the following:

Employment Permit of PRC + Invitation Letter / Confirmation Letter

Foreign Expert Permit + Invitation Letter / Confirmation Letter

Certificate of Representative Office Registration + Invitation Letter / Confirmation Letter

Note: Z Visa holders must apply for a residence permit within 30 days of entry.

6. X Visa (Study)

Original and copy of admission letter from a Chinese institution

Original and copy of JW201 or JW202 form

Note: X Visa holders must also apply for a residence permit within 30 days of entering China.

Disclaimer: This guide is for reference only. The Chinese version takes precedence in legal matters. All final decisions on visa approval, type, duration, and entry allowance rest with the Chinese Consulate or Embassy.

Please refer to the latest list of countries whose citizens do not require a visa to enter China, along with the permitted length of stay, based on official information as of June 2025. If your trip to China is planned for 15 or 30 days, this may offer a convenient and cost-effective alternative to applying for a visa.

Before deciding, please review the Important Notes below to better understand how to select the appropriate visa based on your travel purpose and how to prepare your China visa application if needed.

* Most other nationalities still require a visa to enter Mainland China.

* Visa-free stays cannot be extended or converted to another visa once inside China.

* Visa-free entry is typically limited to tourism, business, family visits, or transit purposes only.

China Visa-Free Countries & Duration

Country	Visa-Free Stay Duration	Notes
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Japan	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Singapore	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Brunei	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Mongolia	15 days	For ordinary passport holders
Thailand	30 days	Policy began March 2024
Malaysia	30 days	Policy began Dec 2023
France	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Germany	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Italy	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Netherlands	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Spain	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Switzerland	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Hungary	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Austria	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Ireland	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
Luxembourg	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)
New Zealand	15 days	Temporary policy (until 31 Dec 2025)

Gulf & Latin American Countries (Special Visa-Free Entry)

Country	Visa-Free Stay Duration	Valid Until
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Saudi Arabia	30 days	Until 8 June 2026
Oman	30 days	Until 8 June 2026
Kuwait	30 days	Until 8 June 2026
Bahrain	30 days	Until 8 June 2026
Brazil	30 days	Until 31 May 2026
Argentina	30 days	Until 31 May 2026
Chile	30 days	Until 31 May 2026
Peru	30 days	Until 31 May 2026
Uruguay	30 days	Until 31 May 2026

ASEAN Multi-Year Business Visa (Not Visa-Free)

Countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, and East Timor

Type: Business visa, not visa-free

Stay: Up to 3 months per visit, valid up to 5 years, multiple entry

Eligible Family: Spouse and children of applicant

China Visa Support Services

We offer professional support throughout the entire China visa application process. Whether you're planning to travel for study, art, or cultural immersion, our team is here to assist you. We support international applicants who intend to join programs in Chinese calligraphy, ceramic pottery, painting, martial arts, and artist residencies across Jingdezhen and other cities in China.

Our programs typically run from 3 to 6 months, allowing eligible participants to apply for visa, which grants legal permission to stay and study in China. We provide all necessary supporting documents for both student and tourist visa applications, streamlining the entire process.

Main Types of China Visas We Support

1. X1 Visa – Long-Term Study Visa

For programs over 180 days

Requires: passport, admission notice, visa application form (JW202/201), physical exam (if required), and passport photos

Valid for 30 days upon entry – must apply for a residence permit within 30 days of arrival.

2. X2 Visa – Short-Term Study Visa

For programs under 180 days

Validity ranges from 30 to 180 days

Requires: passport, admission notice, and possibly JW202/201 form, physical exam, and photos

3. L Visa – Tourist Visa

For travel in China up to 30 days

Duration of stay per entry: Usually 30 days, extendable once for another 30 days while in China

Validity (number of entries):

* Single-entry (3 months)

* Double-entry (6 months)

* Multiple-entry (6 or 12 months, in some cases)

4. M Visa – Business/Trade Visa

Duration of stay per entry: Usually 30, 60, or 90 days, depending on the invitation letter and applicant profile

Validity (number of entries):

- * Single, double, or multiple entries valid for 6 months or 1 year
- * Some frequent travelers may get 2–10 years (especially U.S. passport holders)

5. F Visa – Cultural Exchange or Short-Term Study

Duration of stay per entry: Typically 30 to 90 days

Validity (number of entries):

- * Single or double entry, valid for up to 6 months
- * Occasionally multiple-entry if invited by a recognized institution

We Provide the Following Documents to Help You Apply:

- * Official Study Visa Invitation Letter from ChineseSources.org
- * Accommodation Confirmation Letter
- * Payment Receipt supporting your visa application

We can send digital copies to save time and cost. If originals are needed, we offer DHL delivery (additional charges apply).

Step-by-Step: How to Apply for a Visa

1. Send us a copy of your valid passport
2. Receive official visa invitation documents from us
3. Apply at your local Chinese embassy or consulate
4. Receive your passport with visa and prepare for travel to China

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Do I need original visa documents?

This depends on the embassy or consulate. Contact us or your consulate to confirm.

What are the visa costs?

Costs vary by country. Check with your local Chinese embassy.

How long does delivery take for visa documents?

3–5 business days via DHL, depending on your location.

How long does it take to apply for a student visa?

Standard processing ranges from 3–7 days. Some consulates offer 24-hour express service.

Can I apply several months in advance?

Typically, visas should be applied for within 3 months before departure.

Do I need accommodation confirmation?

Yes. We will provide this for your application.

Can I get a student visa if I don't study with your programs?

No. We only issue documents for our own program participants.

How long do invitation letters take?

Usually within 1 working day after booking (may take longer in peak season).

Can part-time students apply?

Only full-time students are eligible. China requires 10+ hours/week (individual) or 20+ hours/week (group).

Can I study on a tourist visa?

Yes, for up to 30 days. We can help renew your visa if needed.

Are student visas date-specific?

No. They're valid for a fixed duration (e.g., 180 days) starting from your arrival.

Who applies for the visa?

You must apply, but we guide and support you with all documentation.

What is a visa application center?

Some embassies use third-party centers to handle applications. These are not embassies but collect and verify your documents.

What is an X visa?

An X visa is a Chinese study visa. “X” comes from *xué xí* (study).

What does “entries” mean on a visa?

It refers to how many times you can enter China:

* Single entry: “01” (壹)

* Double entry: “02” (貳)

* Multiple entry: “M” (多)

Can I apply if my passport has under 6 months validity?

We strongly recommend renewing your passport if it has less than 6 months validity.

Does China offer a 10-year tourist visa?

Yes, for U.S. and some Canadian citizens. Allows multiple entries, but you must exit China every 60 days.

DO I NEED A VISA FOR CHINA?

Yes, most foreign passport holders require a visa to enter Mainland China, whether for tourism or business. This visa must be obtained in advance.

However, if you're only visiting Hong Kong or Macau for less than 30 days, you do not need a visa. Important note: If you plan to travel beyond Hong Kong—even just for a short visit into Mainland China—you will need a valid Chinese visa.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TOURIST VISA AND A BUSINESS VISA?

* A tourist visa (L visa) is intended for leisure travel and sightseeing.

* A business visa (M visa) allows travel for commercial activities, such as meetings, trade fairs, and negotiations.

To apply for a business visa, a letter of invitation from a Chinese company is typically required. However, the distinction between tourist and business visas is not always strictly enforced. In most cases, holding a tourist visa will not prevent you from engaging in general business activities during your visit.

WHAT TYPE OF VISA DO I NEED?

For most travelers, a single-entry visa is sufficient. It is usually:

* Valid for 3 months from the date of issue

* Allows a maximum stay of 90 days from the date of entry

This visa permits both tourist visits and general business activities.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PASSPORT AND A VISA?

* A passport is an official document issued by your government that verifies your identity and nationality. It is used to enter or exit your country and is required for international travel.

* A visa is an official authorization from the country you are visiting. It is usually stamped or attached inside your passport and permits you to enter, stay, or transit through that country for a limited period.

DO I NEED A VISA FOR HONG KONG OR MACAU?

If you hold a U.S., Canadian, or British passport, you do not need a visa for travel to Hong Kong or Macau, provided your stay is 30 days or less.

Any travel into Mainland China requires a separate visa, regardless of your entry into Hong Kong or Macau.

HOW LONG IS A CHINESE VISA VALID?

* A Single-entry or Double-entry visa is valid for 90 days from the date of issuance.

You must enter China within those 90 days.

* Your length of stay begins on the date you enter China, and is typically written on your visa label (e.g., 30, 60, or 90 days).

* A Multiple-entry business visa may be valid for 6 months or 1 year, depending on approval. Within this period, you can enter China multiple times. Your stay duration for each entry will be specified on the visa (commonly 30, 60, or 90 days).

WHAT IS A PASSPORT-STYLE PHOTO?

When applying for a Chinese visa, you must provide a recent passport-style photo that meets the following requirements:

* Size: approximately 1.5 x 2 inches

* Full face, front view

* White or light blue background

* No hats or tinted glasses

* Professionally taken (home photo cut-outs are not accepted)

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO OBTAIN A CHINESE VISA?

Processing time varies by country and consulate. We recommend applying at least 2 months before your planned departure.

Some consulates offer express services, but this may incur additional fees.

WHY MUST I HAVE A BLANK VISA PAGE IN MY PASSPORT?

Chinese visas must be placed on a completely blank visa page.

Stamps from other countries or previous visas on that page may lead to rejection.

CAN A VISA BE PLACED ON THE AMENDMENT PAGE OF A PASSPORT?

No. The amendment pages at the back of your passport are not acceptable for visas. Chinese embassies and consulates will not issue a visa on those pages.

I AM GOING TO MAINLAND CHINA, THEN HONG KONG, AND BACK TO MAINLAND CHINA. DO I NEED A DOUBLE-ENTRY VISA?

Yes. Although Hong Kong is part of China, it is treated as a separate entry/exit point. If you enter Mainland China, leave for Hong Kong, and plan to re-enter Mainland China again—even for one night—you must apply for a double-entry visa.



China Visa Service Fee

Our China Visa Support Service costs \$98 USD, including visa invitation preparation, accommodation confirmation, and one-on-one guidance. We help you save time and money, ensuring a smooth visa application experience.

For enquiries, please email: [assistline@outlook.com], or contact the staff of ChineseSources.org.