

**Lurn** *Voyage*

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**Demystifying**  
**CHINESE**  
**STUDENT**  
**VISA**

**A Comprehensive  
Guide for International  
Students**



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## INTRODUCTION

Are you considering pursuing your higher education in China, a land of rich history and vibrant culture? If so, understanding the intricacies of the student visa process is crucial. Navigating the requirements, application procedures, and visa types can be a complex task, but with the right guidance, you can embark on your academic journey in China with confidence.

In this comprehensive article, we will provide you with a detailed overview of the student visa for China, offering invaluable insights into the application process, necessary documentation, and essential tips to ensure a smooth and successful visa application. Whether you're planning to study in China for a semester, a year, or longer, this guide will equip you with the knowledge needed to make your educational dreams in this dynamic country a reality.



## TYPES OF STUDENT VISAS

China offers two distinct categories of student visas:

- **X1 Visa:** Designed for international students pursuing full-time degree programmes at Chinese educational institutions with a study duration exceeding 6 months.
- **X2 Visa:** Geared towards short-term international students enrolled in non-degree programmes or language courses at Chinese universities or colleges, typically for study periods lasting less than 6 months.



## ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a student visa, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- The student needs to secure admission into a full-time programme at an accredited Chinese university or college.
- The student is required to possess a current and valid passport along with an up-to-date passport photo.
- The student must fill out and submit a duly completed visa application form.
- The student must obtain a JW201 or JW202 form from their respective Chinese university or college.
- The student should provide evidence of financial means to support their stay in China.
- A medical examination records
- Bank statement (for self-funded students)



## SCOPE OF COVERAGE

With a Chinese student visa, you gain the following privileges:

- Engage in studies at a Chinese university or college.
- Reside in China throughout your academic programme.
- Travel within the country for exploration and cultural experiences.

It's important to note that employment is generally not permitted under this visa category, although there might be opportunities for off-campus internships. Feel free to consult your university upon arrival to explore potential internship possibilities and arrangements.





## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

**Passport:** You must present your valid, signed passport, along with one copy of the personal information page. Your passport should adhere to the following criteria:

- Validity extending at least six months beyond the requested visa duration (e.g., if you seek a 12-month visa, your passport must be valid for 18 months).
- At least two blank visa pages are available for visa stamps (amendments and endorsement pages are not acceptable).
- The passport should be in good condition, without fraying, tears, separations, or alterations.

**Photograph(s):** The Chinese Consulate mandates strict requirements for photographs. We strongly recommend that you electronically submit your photo to the China Visa Service Centre, ensuring it complies with the Chinese Consulate's stringent specifications.

Electronic photo submissions should meet the following criteria:

- Taken within the last six months, against a completely white background.
- A full frontal view of your head, with the face centred, shoulders visible, and a neutral (non-smiling) expression.
- Eyes open, mouth closed, and ears exposed, with no background light or shadows.
- Avoid wearing eyeglasses, jewellery, or headwear (except for religious purposes). Do not wear a white shirt.



- In case you prefer to submit a physical photograph, it should meet all the above criteria and:
- Measure exactly 48 mm in height by 33 mm in width.
- Be printed on high-quality photo paper.
- Must not be attached to your application with adhesive tape or staples, and there should be no evidence of such attachment.

**JW202 Form** for Self-sponsored applicants (Required for Stays Longer Than 180 Days) planning to stay in China for more than 180 days should obtain a JW202 form from their Chinese educational institution.

**JW201 Form:** Full or Partial scholarship applicants (Required for Stays Longer Than 180 Days) planning to stay in China for more than 180 days should obtain a JW202 form from their Chinese educational institution.

**Letter of Invitation:** You must obtain an official letter of invitation from your sponsoring organisation.

**Proof of State Residency:** You need to provide proof of your current residency address. This document must be a copy of the front of your driver's licence, government ID, or utility bill. The document should:

- Display your name as it appears on your passport.
- Show your current residence address as provided on your visa application. Please note that the consulate only accepts electric, gas, or water bills; phone and cable bills are not accepted.

**Visa Application Form:** Complete your China visa application form online.





**Health Declaration:** Applicants must provide the Health Declaration Form available within the China Visa Service Centre Application kit.

**Proof of Travel Arrangements:** Provide proof of travel arrangements for the duration of your trip. The details should:

- Include a copy of an itinerary or e-ticket displaying your round trip travel, entry and exit dates for your destination.
- Show the traveller's full name as printed in their passport.
- Previous Visas If you've been granted a China visa in the past, provide a copy of the most recently issued China visa. If the visa is not in your current passport, you must submit the original passport containing the previous China visa.

Applicants Under the Age of 18 All minors travelling to China must provide a copy of their birth certificate in addition to the other visa requirements specified in these instructions.

**Proof of financial support;**

**A police clearance certificate; and**

**A processing fee.**

**English Language Proficiency Requirements:** A language proficiency test score is not needed while applying for a student visa in China.



## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply for a student visa to China, you must:

- Download and complete the application form (JW201 or JW202).
- Gather all of the required documents.
- Submit your application form and supporting documents to the nearest Chinese embassy or consulate.
- Pay the processing fee.

	Consular Fee	Service Fee	Processing Time
<b>Standard</b>	\$185	\$185	8 Business Days
<b>Rush / Urgent</b>	\$185	\$235	4 Business Days

- Wait for the processing of your application.
- Once your application has been approved, you will be issued a student visa.



## VALIDITY

The X1 visa is typically granted with a validity of up to 5 years and permits multiple entries.

X1 visa holders are required to complete registration at their local public security bureau within 30 days of their arrival, at which point the China Residence Permit will be issued to replace the X1 visa.

On the other hand, the X2 visa is generally issued for a single entry and has a validity of up to 6 months.



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is a Chinese student visa, and who needs one?**

A Chinese student visa, commonly known as an X visa, is required for international students who wish to study in China for a period exceeding 180 days.

### **How do I apply for a Chinese student visa?**

To apply for a Chinese student visa, you need to submit your application to the Chinese consulate or embassy in your home country. Ensure you meet the required criteria and provide all necessary documentation.

### **What are the two types of Chinese student visas?**

There are two types of Chinese student visas: X1 visas for long-term studies and X2 visas for short-term studies.

### **How long can I stay in China on an X1 visa?**

An X1 visa allows you to stay in China for the duration of your academic programme, which may be more than 180 days.

### **What is the maximum duration of an X2 visa?**

An X2 visa permits a stay of up to 180 days for short-term studies or language courses.

### **Can I work while on a Chinese student visa?**

Generally, you are not allowed to work while on a Chinese student visa. However, exceptions may apply for certain off-campus internships. Check with your university for details.



## **Do I need to register with the local public security bureau once I arrive in China?**

Yes, if you have an X1 visa, you must register with the local public security bureau within 30 days of your arrival, where you will receive a China Residence Permit.

## **What documents are required for a Chinese student visa application?**

Required documents typically include a valid passport, visa application form, admission letter from a Chinese institution, and proof of financial support.

## **Is proof of financial support mandatory for a student visa?**

Yes, you are required to provide evidence of sufficient financial means to support your stay in China during your studies.

## **Do I need to undergo a medical examination for a Chinese student visa?**

In some cases, a medical examination may be required, particularly for students planning to stay in China for an extended period. Check with your chosen institution for specific requirements.

## **Can I apply for a Chinese student visa from within China if I am already there on a different visa?**

In most cases, it's recommended to apply for a student visa from your home country. Changing visa types within China can be complex.





## **How long does it take to process a Chinese student visa application?**

The processing time for a Chinese student visa can vary. It typically takes around 4-8 business days, but it's advisable to apply well in advance of your intended departure.

## **Can I extend my Chinese student visa if my programme lasts longer than expected?**

Yes, it is possible to extend your Chinese student visa. You should apply for an extension at least 30 days before your current visa expires.

## **What should I do if I lose my student visa while in China?**

If you lose your student visa, contact your local public security bureau immediately to report the loss and apply for a replacement.

## **Can I travel within China on my student visa?**

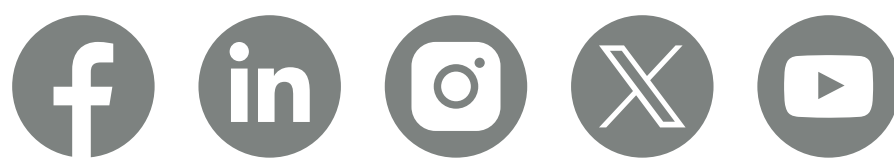
Yes, a student visa allows you to travel within China. However, if you plan to leave China and return, ensure your visa allows for multiple entries or apply for the appropriate visa type.





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**ADVISORY SERVICES**

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