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GUIDE

VISA ESSENTIALS

Navigate the Visa Process with Ease



YOUR WAY ABROAD

asiaexchange.org

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YOUR VISA COMPANION

In Europe, one can normally travel abroad quite freely but in Asia, a visa is needed. Chinese authorities require you to have a passport and a visa for long-term residency and studying. The information in this document is general so please contact the Chinese embassy in your home country before applying for a visa for further information.

Applying for a visa is different from country to country, sometimes even from one official to another. AE recommends that students acquire a visa before leaving for the destination. Applying for a visa is part of the preparations for your study abroad semester. You should always apply for a visa at the Chinese embassy of your home country.

The type of visa to obtain depends on the length of your study abroad period. For a study period of less than 6 months (i.e. one semester), you should get an X2 visa. Typically, it is possible to get only 1 – 2 entries for this type of visa, although usually some students have also succeeded in getting a multiple entry visa. The number of entries granted may depend on various factors, such as the nationality of the applicant, the embassy and even the official who you are dealing with.



However, you can apply for a re-entry permit at the destination with the help of the admission documents provided by Shanghai University. If your study period lasts longer than 6 months (i.e. two semesters), you should apply for an X1 visa. X1 visa holders must also apply for a Residence Permit within 30 days of arrival in China. For the Residence Permit, students must undergo a medical check-up at the destination.

Check the latest updates about applying for visas, the required documents, as well as the opening hours of the embassy's website or by calling the embassy directly. Embassies are open according to the public holidays of the country they represent, as well as the holiday of the country where they are located.

We recommend you have a look at the visa instructions on our web page. There you find an example of a filled-out visa application form.

Take copies of your passport

It is also advised to have electronic copies of your passport and other important documents on your computer, email, and a USB stick.



YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student

