

Frequently Asked Questions on Chinese Visas, Work permits, and Residence Permits

Where can I get information on Chinese visas, and visa requirements?

According to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, "Chinese embassies, consulates and other institutions stationed abroad entrusted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of [the People's Republic of China] are visa-issuing authorities responsible for issuance of entry visas to foreigner citizens abroad, and are entitled to determine the type, number of entries, validity and duration of each stay of a visa to be issued, or to decline a visa application or revoke an issued visa, in accordance with Chinese laws and regulations. According to Chinese law, a foreign citizen may be refused entry into China even if he/she has a valid Chinese visa."

Nationals of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago travelling on ordinary passports to mainland China are required to obtain Chinese visas to enter and exit the People's Republic of China. According to the Exit and Entry Administration Law of the People's Republic of China, foreigners may be exempt from applying for visas if they "hold connected passenger tickets and are in transit to a third country or region by an international aircraft, ship or train via China, [and] will stay for not more than 24 hours in China without leaving the port of entry, or will stay in the specific zones approved by the State Council within the prescribed time limit".

Trinidad and Tobago nationals travelling to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China do not require visas for stays up to 90 days. Trinidad and Tobago nationals travelling to the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China are eligible to receive visas-on-arrival.

Information on the requirements for Chinese visas can be obtained from the Embassies and Consulates of the People's Republic of China, the Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Public Security Police Force of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

Can I apply for a visa extension in the People's Republic of China?

Foreign nationals that overstay the validity period of their Chinese visas may be detained and fined. If your visa has expired or will expire before you can depart China, you must apply for a visa extension from the nearest Bureau of the Exit and Entry Administration of the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China before attempting to leave the country. Note that if the extension is granted, the time granted will not exceed the original duration of stay specified in the visa.

If you overstay your visa's duration of stay, you may be denied service by hotels, airports and train stations, be charged a ¥500 fine per day up to a maximum of ¥10,000, and face possible detention.

Chinese law requires that you carry your valid passport and Chinese visa or residence permit at all times

Entry and exit requirements are strictly enforced, as are restrictions on activities allowed by any particular visa class.

Am I required to register with the Chinese authorities upon my arrival to the People's Republic of China?

Foreign nationals, whether travelling or residing in China, are required to register with the Chinese police authorities within 24 hours of arriving in the country. Failure to do the same could result in fines and deportation. If staying at a hotel during your stay, you will normally be registered at check-in. However, if you are staying in a private home with family or friends, you should present your passport to the nearest police station for registration.

Where can I find information on Chinese work and residence permits?

The State Administration of Foreign Experts Administration (SAFEA) is responsible for certifying foreign experts to work in the Chinese mainland. According to Chinese law, "foreign experts holding a Z Visa shall, within 15 days after entry into the territory of the People's Republic of China, apply for Foreign Expert's License to the authority that issued the Foreign Expert Work Permit, and within 30 days after entry into the territory of the People's Republic of China, shall apply for Residence Permit for Aliens to the local entry-exit administration by presenting Employment Visa (Z Visa) and Foreign Expert's License."

Foreigners on student and other long stay visas are also required to apply for a Chinese Residence Permits within 30 days after entry into the territory of the People's Republic of China

Information on applying for the abovementioned documents can be found at the following links:

[Provisions of Foreign Expert Work Permit Application](#)

[Information on new integrated Foreigner's Work Permit](#)

[Application for Residence Permit by Foreign Students](#)

[Application for Residence Permit by Foreigners Working in Permanent Representative Offices](#)