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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Mainland China

Visa Arrangements

Please be aware that Study Abroad Office staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.

For study periods of less than six months

Students should apply for an X2 Study Visa if their period of study in China is less than six months.

For study periods of more than six months

Students should apply for an X1 Study Visa if their period of study in china is more than six months.

Submitting your visa application

Full step by step guidance and links to the relevant forms can be found here:

<http://www.visaforchina.org/>

Plan to submit your visa application at least one but no more than three months prior to your intended travel date.

On the website above, select the Visa Application Centre you will be using, click on the 'Step by Step Guidance' section and select the appropriate visa type. The step by step guide will provide relevant links to the online application form and declaration you will need to make your visa application. The site will also provide details of which documents are needed for the visa process. The application form can be completed online (but not submitted online) or can be downloaded to your computer for completion.

Students should make an appointment to submit documents to the Chinese Visa Application Centre in either Manchester, London or Edinburgh via the website above. Once booked, the documents can be submitted on your behalf by a named representative or by yourself. Once you arrived at the Visa Application Centre on the day and time of your appointment, you should only have to wait a few minutes to be seen.

You will normally have to pay the application fee on collection of your visa. The Visa Application Centres will only accept cash or a debit card. For a regular application, the total cost is £151 including both the visa fee and an application service fee, while the express application service costs £178 in total.

Processing times

Visa applications are normally processed in four working days. You will need to collect your passport and visa from the Visa Application Centre. You will need the pick-up form provided on the day of application appointment and the payment receipt to collect your passport at the Centre.

You can track your application online here (choose the 'Quick Access' section): <https://www.visaforchina.org/>

Documents required

- Original passport valid for at least six months from the date of application and sufficient blank visa pages
- Photocopy of the photo and data page(s) of your passport
- One completed Visa Application Form
- A recently taken colour passport photo (bare-head, full face) against a light background (size 48mm x 33mm) attached to the Visa Application Form
- A signed Declaration Form
- Photocopies of any previous Chinese visas or passports
- Original and additional photocopy of acceptance letter from the host university in China
- Original and additional photocopy of "Visa Application for Study in China" (Form JW201 or Form JW202) – this should be issued to you by your host university along with your acceptance letter
- If you are applying for your visa in a country other than your country of citizenship, you will need to show proof of your legal status in the country where you are applying

Upon arrival

Once you have arrived in China, you should apply for a foreigners' residence permit at the local public security authority within 30 days of entry.

Embassy contact details

London Visa Application Centre: http://www.visaforchina.org/LON_EN/aboutus/263895.shtml

Manchester Visa Application Centre: http://www.visaforchina.org/MAN_EN/aboutus/264091.shtml

Edinburgh Visa Application Centre: http://www.visaforchina.org/EDI_EN/aboutus/264287.shtml