



Visa for Studying in China FAQs

Before I apply for a visa what should I consider?

Firstly you should check if your passport will expire soon and how many empty pages you have. If it will expire within 12 months it is better to get a new passport before coming to China to save time and money later. You will need two-three empty passport pages for new visa stamps so get a new passport/extra pages if you have only a few empty ones left.

What kind of Visa do I need?

All students studying in China need an X visa. If you are studying for more than six months you need an X1 visa and for less than 6 months an X2 visa

What documents do I need to obtain the X Visa?

You need the following:-

- Application form from Chinese embassy or consulate (from embassy website)
- JW202 from XJTLU
- Admission notice from XJTLU

How do I get these documents?

After you have paid your deposit we will process the documents and send them to your designated postal address.

Where will they be sent?

We will use the postal address given in your application form. If this is not the address you want to have the documents sent to please write to isrs@xjtlu.edu.cn in good time to let us know of the change.

How do I find my nearest Chinese Embassy or Consulate?

Go to <https://www.visaforchina.org/> to find the nearest Chinese consulate to where you live. Be aware of Chinese national holidays when the embassy/consulate may be closed.

How long will it take to get a visa?

This depends on where you are applying. In some countries it is very quick - less than two days, in other countries the process may take two-four weeks. We suggest all students allow at least six weeks from the start of the process to the date they need to arrive in China.

Can I apply for the visa by post?

The rules depend on each consulate so check your local consulate for opening hours/ processing times/holidays and postal application options.

What is a Residence Permit (RP)?

For students who live in China for more than six months they require a "Residence Permit". This is a stamp in your passport giving you the right to live in China for the duration of validity. You will receive a residence permit for one year, which is renewed each year until you complete your study. The RP allows multiple entries and exists in and out of China.

How do I get a Residence Permit (RP)?

You will arrive in China on an X visa. If your stay is more than 6 months then you will be able to "convert" your visa into a Residence permit within 30 days after entry in China. ISRS office will guide you through this process and assist you with processing. No special additional documents need be prepared in advance before coming to China to obtain this but do arrive in time for the Induction week when the RP processing takes place.

What do I need for the RP?

You need to arrive in time for the start of induction week, and follow certain procedures to prepare documents that are required for the RP application. ISRS will guide you through this process but is very important you do not miss the induction period.

Do I need a medical exam/certificate?

When you apply for your Residence Permit you will be asked to submit a medical examination report. This can be completed in Suzhou after you arrive and is probably the cheapest and easiest way to meet this requirement. The medical exam in Suzhou covers all required sections and is 580RMB in total. All students arriving in the induction week in late August will be guided and transported to the medical health check center so you will need to arrange this yourself. You can bring medicals from your own country but there it is up to the visa officer in Suzhou to decide whether to accept them. Often they will require translation and notarization which raises the cost.

Can I travel to China on a tourist visa and apply for a student visa after arrival?

No

Can I change my Chinese working visa to a student visa after arrival?

Normally not but we can check on your behalf. Please email isrs@xjtlu.edu.cn with a photo of your passport back page, offer letter and current RP/Z visa.

Can I travel to Hong Kong and Taiwan with my RP/visa?

HK and Taiwan have different visa jurisdictions so check directly the rules for these territories. If you go to Hong Kong or Taiwan you will receive an exit stamp from mainland China so make sure that you have a multiple entry visa or a valid RP.

Filling in the application form

The form asks about my 'Education (options are postgrad, college or other)'. I am an exchange student and not yet finished my degree -do I select other and describe that I'm an undergraduate?

If you have just graduated high-school simply write high school or college. If you are an exchange students and studying at another university, write studying for UG degree at X university

Number of entries - what should I write?

The visa you will be issued initially will be for thirty days and it allows you to enter once. Once you arrive we change the visa into a residence permit valid for one year which is multi entry and you can go in and out as much as you want. Suggestion is to leave that blank as X1 visa doesn't give you a choice anyway -this section is relevant only to tourist visa categories.

What should I write for 'Information on the Inviter' – it asks for name, address, number, and relationship?

Use XJTLU name and details as below:-

Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University
111 Ren'ai Road
Suzhou Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District
Suzhou Industrial Park
Suzhou
P.R. China
215123

Tel: +86 (0)512 8816 1369