Apply for Your Chinese Visa

Document Checklist to Get a Visa (Shanghai)

ALL STUDENTS attending NYU Shanghai must have a Student Visa in order to study in China (unless you are a Chinese citizen traveling on a valid Chinese passport OR hold a valid Tai Bao Zheng or Hui Xiang Zheng). Students studying at NYU Shanghai for one semester will apply for the X2 visa. Students studying at NYU Shanghai for the academic year will for the X1 visa. The process and documentation remains the same for both.

Many students will also need to apply for a residence permit, or additional visa entries, after they arrive in China. A recommended list of documents to bring follows the Document Checklist.

A

Valid passport AND a copy of signature and bio page
- Must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the end of your stay in China;
- Must contain at least 2 blank visa pages;
- Must have been issued within the past 10 years;
  - If your passport was issued after January 2014, you MUST also provide any previously issued passports.
- You must surrender your passport for the duration of the application process (generally 1-2 weeks).

B

Proof of legal status
- Only required if you are not applying from your country of citizenship:
  - Original and copy of visa or residence permit for the country in which you are applying.
  - i.e. I-20 and F-1 visa or US permanent resident card for non-US citizens applying from the US; Spanish student visa for any student applying in Spain, etc.

C

Copy of student ID or State ID
- Should show proof of residence in the consulate’s jurisdiction. NYU students can use their NYU student ID at the consulate in New York.

D

One fully completed application form (filled out in capital letters)
- If applying in New York, use this [application form](#)[PDF: 279 KB]. Otherwise, please visit the consulate’s website for the application.
- Please follow the [sample application guide](#)[PDF: 315 KB] to help you complete the form.

E

One recent passport-size photo
- Can be taken by [StudentLink Staff at 383 Lafayette Street](#) (2 photos for $10) or at places such as Walgreens.
- Do not attempt to take/print your own “passport-style photo.” It never works. This photo does NOT need to match the photo in your passport.
- Make sure your photo meets the photo requirements listed on the [Chinese government’s website](#)[JPG: 3,386 KB].
- Applications with incorrect photos will not be accepted by the Consulate!
Photocopy of previous Chinese passports OR previous Chinese visas held

- If applicable.

OGS Support Letter Packet AND a copy of it

You will receive an alert from OGS when your packet is ready. We MUST have a copy of your passport and information from the Shanghai Immigration Form before we can obtain these documents. This packet contains:

- Official acceptance letter from NYU Shanghai in English and Chinese.
- Visa Application for Study in China Form JW202
  - You will not usually need to submit this with your application, however, you will need to bring this with you to Shanghai for the semester.

Visa Fee

- Visa fees will vary based on your citizenship and the consulate where you submit your application. Please refer to the consulate for an updated list of fees.
  - The Chinese Consulate in New York posts their fees to their website.
  - Visa fees can be paid by Credit Card (Visa or MasterCard) or money order to the consulate. Payment by cash or personal check is NOT accepted.
  - If you are paying by money order, please make it payable to “Chinese Embassy” (for applications submitted to an Embassy) or “Chinese Consulate in [city]” (for applications submitted to a Chinese Consulate). Example: Chinese Consulate in New York; Chinese Consulate in Houston.

Any additional documents specified by the consulate’s website

- All consulates operate autonomously and reserve the right to request any materials they deem necessary to evaluate your visa application.
- Check the consulate’s website. If you show up to your appointment without all of the required materials, you may be turned away and forced to make a new appointment.

NOTE: Students entering China on the X1 visa may not arrive more than 1 week prior to the move-in date.

*There is an in-country process for both X1 and X2 visa holders that NYU Shanghai will help you through. X1 visa holders must convert to the residence permit within 30 days of arrival or they will be considered in ‘overstay’ status and will have to pay a fine. X2 visa holders may apply for one additional entry to China.

To apply for an additional entry or residence permit, it is STRONGLY encouraged that you bring the following documentation to Shanghai with you as the Shanghai Entry-Exit Bureau has been known to request it:

- Birth Certificate
- PHOTOCOPY of parents’ passport bio pages
- PHOTOCOPY of your previous passport(s) bio pages if applicable
- High School graduation certificate/diploma
- If you or your parents are naturalized citizens, provide a PHOTOCOPY of the certificate
- If your parents are/were Chinese Citizens, provide a PHOTOCOPY of their Chinese National ID, US Green Card, or Permanent Residence Card
- If you were adopted from China and your parents are not Chinese Citizens, please provide the adoption letter from Chinese authorities