

China

Business visitors: FAQs



If planning on traveling to China for temporary business, it is important to remain compliant with the immigration laws of China. The purpose of the visitor's intended travel, duration of stay, and citizenship will determine if and what type of visa is required. The information in this document is intended to serve as an informational resource about business visitor requirements in China.

Who needs a business visitor visa for China?

A business visa is required for persons who wish to enter China for the purposes of temporary business for a duration of fewer than six months. Business visitors are not permitted to engage in employment of any kind while in China.

What activities are permitted as a business visitor?

Activities permitted typically include:

- Attending business opportunities exploration meetings or negotiations with potential business partners. Attending business conferences as an audience
- Explore business opportunities on behalf of the overseas employer
- The duration of the business or commerce activities must be less than 90 days within a calendar year

Activities not permitted typically include:

- Work-related activities other than the activities permitted above
- Carrying out work activities for any employers in China or on behalf of an employer overseas

These lists are subject to change and are not all-inclusive.

Who is required to apply for a business visa?

Foreigners are required to submit and obtain approval of a business visa application at a China Consulate abroad prior to business travel to China.

How long can a visitor stay in China on a business visa?

The allowable stay on a business visa in China per entry can be granted up to 180 days, where 30 days per visit is the most common. The business visa may be granted as single, double, or multiple entry.

Is there a limit on the number of times a visitor may travel to China on a business visa in any given period?

For multiple-entry visa holders, there is not a limit on how many visits a person may make to China in any given period.

Can a visitor's spouse and children also come to China?

A business visitor's spouse and children can come to China under tourist visa status. However, they must each apply for their own separate visa.

Penalties related to non-compliance for the business visa category?

Engaging in unlawful employment in China can result in punitive actions for both the employer and the business visitor, including:

- Fines
- Detention
- Traceable record for the business visitors which may have an adverse consequence to future China visa applications

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is provided for general information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any further enquiries regarding the applicability of this information, please contact Crown's Regional Immigration Manager, Asia.