

Information about United States Visas for Visitors from China

We have been made aware of reports of delayed visa applications for our colleagues traveling under Chinese passports.

We are strongly urging our colleagues in China to start their U.S. visa process application at least four months in advance.

For example, a prominent Chinese colleague began applying for a visa in about 2 months in advance of a meeting in the U.S. year. His interview at the Nonimmigrant Visa Unit, U.S. Embassy in Beijing took place about 1 month before the planned travel to the U.S., but his visa was not issued in time to board his plane, which meant he missed the meeting in the United States.

So it is important for you to begin the process very early, so we can enjoy having you with us.

The U.S. Visa Web Site listed below is the official visa information website of the U.S. Mission in China: <http://ustraveldocs.com/cn/index.html?firstTime=No>

Another web site (<http://ustraveldocs.com/cn/cn-niv-typeb1b2.asp>) includes a step-by step process for obtaining a U.S. B-1 visa, which applies to travelers consulting with business associates; attending scientific, educational, professional, or business conventions/conferences; settling an estate; or negotiating contracts. The B-2 visa applies to travel that is recreational in nature, including tourism; visits with friends or relatives; medical treatment; and activities of a fraternal, social, or service nature. Often, the B-1 and B-2 visas are combined and issued as one visa: the B-1/B-2.

The website whose address is listed below provides information about a system called Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS). A Chinese visitor who currently holds a 10-year B1/B2 visa (travel visa) will need to enroll in this system to update the information. It's a simple step that can be completed online but can be required for applying for a visa.

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/electronic-visa-update-system-evus/frequently-asked-questions>

To enroll in EVUS, visit this website: <http://www.evus.gov>

The website of the United States Embassy in Beijing (http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/niv_howtoapply.html) also describes the process for applying for a non-immigrant visa (Business and Tourism B1/B2).

Information about wait times required to obtain a U.S. visa can be found at this website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/wait-times.html> Currently most applications appear to require about 60 days to approve.

As described on one of the informational web sites dealing with U.S. visa application process, most failed applications can be linked to problems with the interview step in the application process. In many cases, the applicants have failed to present sufficient evidence that: (1) they will return to China; and (2) they are able to support their stay in the U.S. Please review the U.S. visa application web sites to become familiar with the application process and what documents are needed for successful applications. It is also helpful to have a contact in the U.S. who can "vouch" for the person in question (and who the government can turn to if the applicant overstays their visa). Although this is not a necessity, it generally helps the process move along more smoothly. You can use the following personal contact information to help facilitate your application: Professor Carolyn A. Koh, Colorado School of Mines, Phone: 303.279.5563, Email: icgh9@csmspace.com