



Chengdu Tribune

Cool News from the Land of Hotpot



April 2015

Inside this issue:

Consular Open House	1
Chinese Visa Q&A	1
Recent News	2
Meilingguan Mail	3
Upcoming Events	3
Cheng-Du's & Don'ts	4
Consulate Contact Info	5

Upcoming holidays closures for Consulate Services:

May 1 - International Labor Day

May 25 - Memorial Day

For a complete list of holiday closures, please visit our website: <http://chengdu.usembassy-china.org.cn>



Deputy Consular Chief Matthew Whitton opens the event.

from the Chengdu Exit and Entry Bureau. Afterwards the Chinese officials were joined by three lawyers from local law firms for a question and answer session during which attendees were able to ask questions about working in China, Chinese visas, and residence permits. Excerpts from the Q&A session follow on page 2.

We want to get to know the American citizens in our consular district. That's why we plan to hold open house events in Chengdu once every two months on a variety of topics of interest to Americans in China. We welcome your suggestions, comments and feedback on these and all other events. Based on requests from those of you in Yunnan, we have already begun planning to hold a second Chinese visa-themed open house in Kunming in June. Look for details in your e-mail and in the next issue of the Chengdu Tribune!

Consular Open House: China Visa Questions Answered!

On Wednesday, April 1 we held an open house at QSI in Chengdu featuring a presentation on Chinese visa and residency regulations

Recent News

ACS Service Trips to Kunming

Consular officers went to the Kunming International Academy in Kunming, Yunnan on March 14th to offer routine consular services. We are happy to have met with the residents of Kunming and hope that we provided excellent service. We look forward to our next visit, which is scheduled for this coming June.

Superbowl Viewing Party

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Superbowl. We had some technical issues, but in the end we pulled it off (just like the Patriots).

Chinese Visa Q&A from Consulate Open House, April 1



During our April 1 Open House in Chengdu we invited representatives of the Chengdu Entry and Exit Bureau and local law firms to answer questions on Chinese visas and residency from our audience. Here is a selection of questions asked and answers given by the panel of experts.

Can I get a 10-year visa for China? Yes, 10-year visas are issued to Americans, but they must be applied for outside mainland China. One can also apply in Hong Kong. These visas may allow entry for 30, 60, or 180 days or so depending on the decision of the official at the time of the visa issuance. Once in China, the duration of stay of the visa may be extended through an application made to the Entry and Exit Bureau (EEB).

Can I renew my visa in China? It depends. You can apply for a visa extension, apply for a new visa in a different category, or renew your visa in China for most cases. However in some instances, a new visa must be applied for outside of mainland China. It is best to plan ahead and contact the EEB early.

I am told when I turn 60 I will no longer be allowed to work in China. Is that true? If so, is there another basis on which I could apply for residency if I don't want to leave? Generally, foreigners with an alien work permit can work until the age of 60, but a foreigner with a Foreign Expert Certification can work until the age of 65. There are four categories of people that can receive permanent residency status in China: investors (must invest a given amount over time in China with the amount depending on the location), employees holding high-level management positions, special personnel, accompanying family members, spouses of Chinese citizens or permanent residents. For additional information, please contact the EEB.

Can students work in China while studying? No, unless they get a special internship visa, which involves a different application process. **What about tutoring for cash?** Tutoring for cash is still considered working. You must have a work permit if you are working in China. If you work without a work permit, you may be in violation of Chinese labor law.

If I am in China on a student visa, can I open a business? We suggest you contact a local attorney as the process to start a business may take a while and involve multiple factors specific to your circumstances.

I am married to a Chinese citizen and have a residence permit. My spouse and I will go abroad for one year. Will this year away affect my residence in China? Chinese law does not mandate any specific period of stay in China for foreigners who hold a residence visa. However, foreigners with permanent residence status must reside in China for a total of at least three months every year, and at least for a total of one year every five years to maintain one's permanent residence. The time calculated in China does not have to be continuous.

I am an American citizen and my husband has a Hong Kong passport but lives in Chengdu. Can I apply for a residence permit to live in Chengdu through him? You may apply for a family reunion visa, which will allow you to live in Chengdu, but you will need to show certification of your husband's long term residence (at least six months) in Chengdu and a kinship certificate proving your relationship.

Do you still have a question for the EEB? They can be reached at (28) 8640-7074 or (28) 8640-7067.

Meilingguan Mail

“The form I need notarized requires me to have witnesses sign as well. Do they have to be American?”

Nope! They can be anyone you want of any nationality, but they must be present at the time of the notarization. Unfortunately, Consulate employees are not allowed to be your witnesses, so you have to bring your witnesses along with you. If you do bring non-U.S. citizens as your witnesses, please add them to your appointment as “accompanying persons,” otherwise they may have difficulty entering the Consulate without an appointment.

“I recently got married here in China. Do I need to do anything to register my marriage in the U.S.?”

No, the U.S. recognizes foreign marriages and marriage certificates. So you don't need to register your marriage in the U.S., but you will need to keep your original Chinese marriage certificate for tax and legal purposes even when you are back in the States.

Have a question for the Consulate? Email us at AmcitChengdu@state.gov.

Protests? Natural Disasters?
Health Concerns? All can
ruin a vacation or travel
plans.

[Travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) is your
friend when it comes to re-
searching vacation desti-
nations and that next busi-
ness conference. Whether
it's information on visa re-
quirements, safety and se-
curity, local laws, or health
concerns, travel.state.gov
provides information useful
to any traveler.

STEP the smart way to travel

What is STEP?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Benefits of Enrolling in STEP

- ✓ Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- ✓ Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- ✓ Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Enroll today at travel.state.gov!

Upcoming Events

ACS Service Trip to Chongqing

Our second ACS service trip to Chongqing will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel on **April 25th**. We have sent out a separate e-mail with information on how to sign up for an appointment. If you have any questions or don't receive an e-mail, write us at AmcitChengdu@state.gov.

Cheng-Du's & Don'ts

Don't wait until the last minute to renew your passport!

According to Chinese law, a valid passport is the only legal identification for foreigners accepted by Chinese authorities, so don't let your passport expire and leave you without an ID! After you apply to renew your passport it usually takes about ten business days to receive the new one. Also the Consulate may not have appointments available right away, so plan ahead to make sure you can renew your passport on time. Here are some tips on how to ensure you never have to worry about trying to get your passport renewed at the last minute.



"Du" regularly check your passport expiration dates.

When was the last time you checked when your passport expires? What about the rest of your family? Adult passports are typically valid for ten years, but minor passports are valid for only five years, so make sure you know when everyone's passport expires.

"Du" check your Chinese visa or residence permit expiration dates.



If you are applying for or renewing your Chinese visa, make sure your passport has enough validity left. When applying for most Chinese visas, Chinese law requires that passports have at least 6 months of remaining validity. If you need to renew your visa or Chinese residence permit, make sure your passport doesn't need to be renewed first. Remember, failing to renew your Chinese visa on time can result in fines or other legal problems, so don't get in trouble for overstaying your visa because you didn't keep your passport up to date!

"Du" make sure you have enough empty visa pages in your passport.

Traveling internationally can eat up the visa pages in your passport quickly. Make sure you have enough pages for all of the visas and stamps you will need while traveling. Not having enough pages for visas or stamps can cause you to be turned away at a country's port of entry, so don't put your self in that situation. If you are planning on traveling, check how many empty pages you still have well before your trip. That way, if you don't have enough, you still have time to add pages or renew your passport before your trip.

Checked everything?

Enrolled in STEP at

Travel.state.gov?

Ok, looks like you're all set.

Safe travels!



Give us Feedback!

Routine Service Hours

We are considering changes to our routine service hours. Our current hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1PM to 4PM. Do you have suggestions for better hours or different days that work better for you? Keep in mind that we share service windows with the Non-immigrant Visa Unit, so we are limited to afternoons. Send us an e-mail at AmcitChengdu@state.gov with your ideas and suggestions.

Guiyang Service Trips?

Are you in Guiyang? Do you need your passport renewed, pages added to your passport or a document notarized? We are considering coming to Guiyang to offer limited routine services, but first we need to make sure that there are enough people in Guiyang that need services to justify the trip. So if you're in Guiyang and you need our services, e-mail us at AmcitChengdu@state.gov. If enough of you express interest, we'll come!

Open House Suggestions

We hope to have regular open house events in Chengdu to get to know our local American citizens and to provide information on topics that interest them. Do you have suggestions for an event? Want us to host one where you are? Let us know!

Contact Us

U.S. Consulate Chengdu
4 Lingshiguan Lu
Chengdu, Sichuan

Appointment Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and
Fridays from 13:00—16:00

Please make an appointment on our

Website:

<http://chengdu.usembassy-china.org.cn>

Phone: (86 28) 8558-3992

Fax: (86 28) 8554-6229

Email: AmcitChengdu@state.gov

We welcome your feedback!

You're not in Kansas anymore!

Remember whenever and wherever you go overseas, you should maintain heightened vigilance at all times. Pay attention to your surroundings and obey warnings and instructions from the local police and other authorities. If you feel scared, threatened or otherwise in need of immediate assistance, **call 110 for help.**

Chinese emergency numbers:

Police	110
Fire Department	119
Ambulance	120
To report a traffic accident	122
Information	114