



# U.S. Consulate General Shanghai

## News for U.S. Citizens

Spring 2016

### Table of Contents:

[Holiday Schedule](#)

[Apply Early For Your Passport Renewal](#)

[Planning to Vote? Request Your Ballots Now!](#)

[6-Day Visa-Free Transits For Shanghai and Neighboring Cities](#)

[Scammers: Fake Social Security Email](#)

[962288 - Shanghai Call Center](#)

[Important Tip Before Leaving China](#)

[Work Opportunities for American Citizens with Chinese \(or a few other\) language skills](#)



**TRAVEL SAFE**

Enroll in [STEP](#) to receive security and emergency messages from the U.S. Consulate.

### Holiday Schedule

The American Citizen Services Unit will be closed on the following days. Please plan ahead and make an appointment for your services now!

**April 1 – Administrative Day**

**April 4 – Tomb Sweeping Day**

**April 20 – Administrative Day**

**May 1-2 – International Labor Day**

**May 30 – Memorial Day**

**June 9 – Dragon Boat Festival**

### Apply Early For Your Passport Renewal

In 2007, the Department of State experienced an unprecedented surge in passport applications, issuing more than 18 million passports as a result of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). Nearly ten years later, those passports are beginning to expire, and the Department is experiencing increased demand for passport renewals. Travelers are encouraged to submit passport applications well ahead of their planned travel dates in order to avoid delays.

U.S. passport holders are no longer able to add extra visa pages to their passports. This worldwide policy, which went into effect on January 1, 2016, was made to enhance passport security and comply with international passport standards. Applicants in need of additional pages in their valid passports must obtain a new passport. To make an appointment for a new passport, please visit [http://shanghai.usembassychina.org.cn/appointment\\_system011309.html](http://shanghai.usembassychina.org.cn/appointment_system011309.html)

## **Planning to Vote? Request Your Ballots Now!**

The U.S. presidential primary elections kicked off February 2016 and will run through June 2016. To vote absentee, U.S. citizens living outside the United States must be registered to vote and also request an absentee ballot. Voting regulations and procedures differ from state to state and can be found on each state's website or on [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). U.S. citizens living overseas can also complete a federally-issued combination voter registration application and absentee ballot request form known as the [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). This form, along with key state-by-state instructions, is available on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). You can bring completed, sealed, and postmarked ballots or voter registration cards to the U.S. Consulate General Shanghai's ACS section for mailing (Monday to Friday between 8:30 and 11:30, except for holidays).

## **6-Day Visa-Free Transits For Shanghai and Neighboring Cities**

China's Ministry of Public Security confirmed visa relaxation plans for foreigners flying to China. Non-residents transiting through the following airports are now eligible for 144 hours of visa free travel: Shanghai Pudong and Hongqiao airports, Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, and Nanjing Lukou International Airport. Transiting U.S. citizens (and citizens of 50 other countries) may travel visa free within the provinces of Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing. Full details are available at (in Chinese): <http://www.mps.gov.cn/n16/n1237/n1342/n803715/4990310.html>

## **Scammers: Fake Social Security Email**

The subject line says "Get Protected," and the email talks about new features from the Social Security Administration (SSA) that can help taxpayers monitor their credit reports and unauthorized use of their Social Security number. It even cites the IRS and the official-sounding "S.A.F.E. Act 2015." It sounds real, but it's all made up. It's a phishing email to get you to click on a scammer's link. If you do, a scammer can install malware — like viruses and spyware — on your computer. Or, the link might send you to a spoof site — a lookalike website set up by a scammer to trick you into entering your personal information.

Not sure if an email is really from the government? Here are a couple of clues. Did the email end up in your junk folder? Email providers use filters to help catch phishing scams and prevent spam from getting into your inbox. And when you hover your cursor over the link, is the web address really a trusted website? In this fake SSA email, when you hover over the URL you're invited to click on, you see the link goes to an unrelated ".com" — instead of the Social Security Administration's [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or another ".gov" site.

If you get a questionable email, don't click on any links, or open any attachments. Report it to the Federal Trade Commission by forwarding the email to [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov) — and to the real organization impersonated in the email. You also can report it to your email provider. Some email providers let you mark messages as phishing scams. Your report is most effective when you include the full email header, although most email programs hide this information. To find out the full header, type the name of your email service with "full email header" into your favorite search engine, and include this information in your report. When you're done, delete the email. If you're unsure about an email that looks like it's from the government, find the contact information yourself using a search engine or other information, and contact the agency directly.

## 962288 - Shanghai Call Center

Shanghai municipal government and Shanghai FAO now have a free 24-hour hotline 962288 to help foreigners residing in Shanghai. It offers a variety of services in 10 languages, including information on entry and exit, education, investment, foreign trade, transportation, judicial system, and public health in Shanghai. It also provides free emergency translation service over the phone.

For more information, please check out the website: <http://www.962288.com>

## Important Tip Before Leaving China

Farewells are said, bags are packed, flight is waiting, but are you sure you haven't forgotten something? If you plan to leave China or move to another Chinese city, first obtain a non-criminal record. Go to the local police station and ask for a non-criminal record for the whole time you were in China or that city, with no gaps in the dates. If you registered at several police stations during your time of stay, you will need to go to each one to get a report. You may need the report when applying for jobs, and obtaining one after you leave China is nearly impossible. After getting your non-criminal record from the Public Security Bureau office, take it to the Notary Public Office for a notarized translation. For more information on how to obtain a non-criminal record, please check at the following link <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/security/police-cert/asia-pacific/china.asp>

## Work Opportunities for American Citizens with Chinese (or a few other) language skills

If you are looking for an exciting chance to work for the U.S. State Department; if you want to work in exotic locales amongst diverse, innovative colleagues; if you happen to have Chinese Mandarin, Arabic, Spanish, or Portuguese language abilities, then you might be just the person we're looking for! The U.S. State Department is currently offering Limited Non-Career Appointment (LNA) positions, ranging from 15 to 27 months depending on the specific program. These positions supplement the work of career Foreign Service employees serving abroad. The programs below are available now, and may even be expanded depending on service need:

Consular Adjudicators (CA)

PEPFAR Country Coordinators (PEPFAR)

Registered Nurses (RN)

Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW)

If you are interested in any of these programs, please check out the following link for more information.

<http://careers.state.gov/work/foreign-service/lna>

## U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai China Opening Hours and Location

**Public Appointment Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**Passport Pickup:** Monday to Friday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**U.S. Citizen Visa Hour:** Tuesday, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Address:** 1038 West Nanjing Road, 8th Floor

**Web site:** <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn>