



U.S. Consulate General Shanghai

News for U.S. Citizens

Fall 2016

Table of Contents:

[Holiday Schedule](#)

[Passport Mail Back Service Now Available](#)

[Apply Early For Your Passport](#)

[Additional Passport Pages No Longer an Available](#)

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

[Shanghai 144 hours Transit Visa](#)

[Picture Perfect Passport](#)

[Shanghai is NOT hosting the FSOT in October](#)



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.

October 3-5 – Chinese National Day

October 21, afternoon – Administrative Day

October 10 – Columbus Day

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 24 – Thanksgiving Day

December 26 – Christmas

Passport Mail Back Service Now Available

The U.S. Consulate General Shanghai can now send your newly issued U.S. passport or your child's Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) by courier, rather than collecting it personally. Note that this service is entirely optional and is undertaken at an individual's own expense and risk. A new passport typically takes 3-5 weeks to arrive at a designated address through China's EMS delivery service. For more information please visit our website at: http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/u.s.passport_renewals.html.

Apply Early For Your Passport

In 2007, the Department of State experienced an unprecedented surge in passport applications, issuing more than 18 million passports, resulting in extensive wait times for new passports. Nearly ten years later, those passports are beginning to expire, and the Department is experiencing increased demand for passport renewals. To avoid delays, travelers are encouraged to submit passport applications well ahead of their planned travel dates.

Additional Passport Pages No Longer Available

U.S. passport holders are no longer able to add extra 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.

Planning to Vote? Request Your Ballots Now!

To vote absentee, U.S. citizens living outside the United States must be registered to vote and request an absentee ballot. Voting regulations and procedures differ from state to state and can be found on each state's web site. 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.



Shanghai 144 hours Transit Visa

Effective February 2016, U.S. citizens meeting specific requirements can transfer without a Chinese visa through any of the following ports of entry: Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport, Shanghai Port International Cruise Terminal, Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal, Shanghai Railway Station, Nanjing Lukou International Airport and Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport.

All U.S. citizens must meet the following requirements:

1. Show a valid international travel document
2. Show an onward air / vessel / train ticket to a third country (a country other than China or the country the traveler just left)
3. The confirmed departure date must be within 144 hours of a traveler's arrival time
4. The travelers remain within the administrative precincts of Shanghai Municipality, Jiangsu Province or Zhejiang Province.

For more details or questions, please view the public website of the Shanghai General Station of

Immigration Inspection at: <http://sh-immigration.gov.cn/listPageEn.aspx?lx=40&id=4414> or call the following number: 0086-21-51105100.

Picture Perfect Passport

Incorrect photos are the number one reason passport applications are delayed. Submitting a passport application with a photo that doesn't meet requirements will delay your application's processing and could interfere with your planned travel. Save yourself the anxiety of delays and make sure you are not making these common mistakes below.

- Submitting a photo which includes glare from wearing your glasses: Starting November 1, eyeglasses will no longer be allowed in passport photos.
- Submitting a photo that is too light or too dark: Your photo needs to be clear, reflecting your true skin tone. Photos that are too bright or that show shadows on your face will also cause you problems.
- Submitting a photo that is not recent: Your passport photo needs to have been taken within 6 months of submitting your passport photo.
- Submitting a photo that is the wrong image size: Photos that are taken too close or too far away will be rejected. For help, use our [smart photo tool](#).
- Submitting a photo that is a low quality image or a paper version of a photo: Photos should be high resolution and not damaged, blurry, grainy, pixelated, or printed on the wrong type of paper.

Shanghai is NOT Hosting the FSOT in October

The Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) is administered three times per year – usually in February, June, and October, each time for a period or “window” of eight days. Shanghai will NOT host the FSOT this October. The list of overseas posts offering the test in October will be posted on this site <http://careers.state.gov>.

Upcoming Foreign Service Officer Testing Windows: This chart contains relevant dates for the next three Foreign Service Officer Tests. As a reminder, you will be able to register—apply and select a seat—for approximately five weeks before each testing window.

	October 2016	February 2017	June 2017
Testing Window Dates	October 1 to 8	January 28 to February 4	June 3 to 10
Registration opens	August 24	December 15	April 26
Registration closes	September 28	January 25	May 31

List of embassies/consulates* offering the
FSOT available at www.careers.state.gov

August 23

December 14

April 25

*The FSOT is offered at both domestic and overseas locations.

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

Public Appointment Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Passport Pickup: Monday to Friday, 8:15 - 11:30 a.m.

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

Address: 1038 West Nanjing Road, 8th Floor

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