



# U.S. Consulate General Shanghai

## News for U.S. Citizens

Summer 2016

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**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!

**June 29 – Administrative Day**

**July 4 – Independence Day**

**July 29 – Administrative Day**

**September 5 – Labor Day**

**September 15 – Mid-Autumn Festival**

### Passport Mail Back Service Now Available

You now may choose to receive your newly issued U.S. passport by mail. When you apply for a passport or a child's Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) at Shanghai ACS, you can choose our Mail Back Service. It is entirely optional and at your expense and risk. Your new passport should arrive in 3-5 weeks through China EMS. For more details you can check with our websites at following link:

[http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/u.s.passport\\_renewals.html](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 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).

### **Your Passport Safety**

For all the frequent flyers, this is an excellent tip – write your email address in your passport on the address page. The following true airport story illustrates why.

“A passenger with an American passport changed money, and left his passport and boarding pass on my counter. As it was placed out of view, it remained there for over 20 minutes until the next customer brought it to my attention. I went outside to search for him, but to no avail. The passport was well worn, with numerous visas. The page in the passport where one can write home address and third party contact was blank. All there was his email address. I went on line, and emailed him a brief message, including my phone number. He turned up about a half hour later, profoundly grateful. He was blissfully unaware that his passport was missing! He was checking his e mail in the cab when he saw the mail I had sent. So he turned the cab around and came back to the airport to collect it.”

Although writing your permanent address or phone number in the passport may not be useful if you lose your passport while traveling, an email can be sent and accessed anywhere in the world, even when you are travelling! Therefore PLEASE WRITE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IN YOUR PASSPORT; it can really 'save your bacon' someday! Please forward this suggestion to anyone else!

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

The U.S. presidential primary elections kick off February 2016 and run through June 2016. 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](http://www.fvap.gov).



### **Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS)**

Beginning November 2016, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will require Chinese travelers who hold 10-year tourist and business visas to input their information (name, birth date, employment, etc.) in an online platform prior to traveling to the United States. This online platform is called the Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS).

Although EVUS enrollment is not a requirement for U.S. citizens, as a U.S. citizen residing in China, we recognize that you may receive questions from relatives, colleagues, and friends about EVUS, and we want to ensure that you have accurate and complete information to share. Below please find critical information summarizing the EVUS program. For more information, please also visit [www.cbp.gov/EVUS](http://www.cbp.gov/EVUS).

## What is EVUS?

**Background:** In November 2014, the United States and China entered into a historic agreement to issue visitor and business travel visas (B1/B2, B1, and B2) with 10-year validity. That same agreement recognized that travelers would be required to periodically complete an online form updating their personal information. This system, called EVUS, will be launched in November 2016. Until then, there is nothing that Chinese travelers need to do.

**Requirements:** People's Republic of China passport holders who possess 10-year B1/B2, B1, or B2 visas will be required to complete an EVUS enrollment prior to traveling to the United States. Enrollment expires after two years or when the traveler's visa or passport expires, whichever comes first.

## Key Facts:

- **Is the ten year visa going away?** No. The 10-year tourist/business (B) visa is here to stay. EVUS enrollment is separate from the visa application process.
- **EVUS Participation:** Although China is the first participant in this program, the EVUS requirement is similar to requirements that citizens of 38 countries and entities currently must follow before traveling to the United States.
- **Do I need to get a new visa?** Travelers holding People's Republic of China passports containing B1/B2, B1, and B2 10-year visas do not need to obtain a new visa.
- **Why should I enroll?** After November 2016, travelers subject to EVUS requirements who have not enrolled in EVUS will not be able to board an airplane bound for the United States.
- **Enrollment Date:** Enrollment will not begin until November 2016, so right now, there is nothing Chinese travelers need to do. Before November 2016, they may travel to the United States without any further action.
- **EVUS Response Time:** We expect that the vast majority of travelers will be able to enroll in EVUS with a short response time. A very small number of travelers may be given additional instructions after they attempt to enroll.
- **Processing Time:** The majority of travelers will receive an EVUS response very shortly after they submit their enrollment information. However, we recommend travelers enroll at least a week before they depart for the United States.
- **Required Data:** Each EVUS enrollment will require the traveler to provide his or her name, birth date, and passport information as well as other biographical and employment information.
- **Enrollment Validity:** An EVUS enrollment will remain valid for two years or until the traveler's visa or passport expires, whichever comes first. The visa holders will then have to update their information before traveling to the United States again.
- **Fees:** There will be a nominal fee to enroll with EVUS. The fee will be used to cover the cost of running the system. Fee information will be available before EVUS enrollment begins.

- **Third Party Enrollment:** A friend, relative, travel industry professional, or another third party may submit the required information to EVUS on a traveler's behalf. A third party may also pay related fees on behalf of the traveler. However, the traveler is responsible for the truthfulness and accuracy of all information submitted on his or her behalf.
- **For the Latest Information:** The most up to date information can be found on [www.cbp.gov/EVUS](http://www.cbp.gov/EVUS). Please monitor this website for the most current information.

### **Shanghai 144 hours Transit Visa**

Effective February 2016, US citizens can transfer without visa through any of the following ports of entry, if you meet specific requirements: 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, or Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport.

Requirements include:

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 is within 144 hours of arrival,
4. Must remain within the administrative precincts of Shanghai Municipality, Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province.

For more details or questions, please check the public website of Shanghai General Station of Immigration Inspection <http://sh-immigration.gov.cn/listPageEn.aspx?lx=40&id=4414> or call the hotline at 0086-21-51105100.

### **Child traveling with one parent or someone who is not a parent or legal guardian or a group**

If a child (under the age of 18) is traveling with only one parent or someone who is not a parent or legal guardian, what paperwork should the adult have to indicate permission or legal authority for the child in their care?

Due to the increasing incidents of child abductions in disputed custody cases and as possible victims of child pornography, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) strongly recommends that unless the child is accompanied by both parents, the adult have a note from the child's other parent (or, in the case of a child traveling with grandparents, uncles or aunts, sisters or brothers, friends, or in School groups, teen tours, vacation groups, a note signed by both parents) stating "I acknowledge that my wife/husband/etc. is traveling out of the country with my son/daughter/group. He/She/They has/have my permission to do so."

CBP also highly recommends this note be notarized. If there is no second parent with legal custody of the child (e.g., the second parent is deceased, one parent has sole custody, etc.), relevant paperwork such as a court decision, birth certificate naming only one parent, death certificate, etc., would be useful as well. This advice applies to U.S. citizens and non-citizens alike. More information can be found on the Customs and Border Protection website. For questions, please contact: [BeijingCBPINquiry@state.gov](mailto:BeijingCBPINquiry@state.gov)

Adults traveling with children should also be aware that, while the U.S. does not require this documentation, many other countries do; failure to produce notarized permission letters and/or birth certificates could result in travelers being refused entry (Canada has very strict requirements in this regard).

**Shanghai is NOT hosting the FSOT in June**

The Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) is administered three times per year, generally in February, June, and October, each time for a period or “window” of eight days. Shanghai will **NOT / NOT** hosts the FSOT again this June. The list of overseas posts offering the test in June will be posted on this site <http://careers.state.gov> around **April 26, 2016**.

**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.

	<b>February 2016</b>	<b>June 2016</b>	<b>October 2016</b>
Testing Window Dates	January 30 to February 6	June 4 to 11	October 1 to 8
Registration opens	December 16	April 27	August 24
Registration closes	January 27	June 1	September 28
List of embassies/consulates* offering the FSOT available at <a href="http://www.careers.state.gov">www.careers.state.gov</a>	December 15	April 26	August 23

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

**Students Abroad Revamp**

Students traveling abroad have a new website. Check it out before you take off. The revamped, mobile-friendly site promotes streamlined information for students, parents, and institutions at the touch of a smartphone or tablet. Clicking through from the Students Abroad website to our country-specific information pages reveals a clean, eye-appealing look. More importantly, students can access key safety info on their mobile devices. <https://travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en.html?refcode=posts>

## **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>