

400,000 RMB). This requirement should be verified with the employer or school before arrival.

Retirement

Chinese law does not explicitly recognize retirement as a reason for immigration. Nonetheless, Canadian retirees wishing to emigrate to China and live there full-time, but who do not intend to work, study or invest, may consider applying for a D visa. This is most easily obtained if you have relatives in China who can sponsor you and handle your application. People in this category should be aware that they may be considered Chinese nationals, so research the implications carefully before making a decision.

To obtain a D visa, you must first obtain a permanent residence confirmation form from the local Public Security Bureau in the municipality or county where you intend to live. You will also require a health certificate.

Protocol Tips

Punctuality

Arrive for meetings and social events on time. Arriving late for a meal is considered an insult to the host. Banquets last no longer than two hours and usually end promptly after the fruit course.

Real Estate

Until recently, the People's Republic of China prohibited the private ownership of land. With economic reforms starting in 1978, the need to introduce market principles to land use became apparent, but it was not until 1987 that China allowed private ownership of land, which is still very restricted.

Real estate reforms were implemented on an experimental basis in a few cities at first, and then extended to the nation as a whole in 1990. The current regulations allow for "land use rights" over state property to be assigned to private interests, including foreign enterprises. This is done in the form of leases of varying duration, generally awarded through public bidding or auction. Lease terms, which depend on location, can provide for 70-year tenure, but generally they are not longer than 50 years and often they are less.

Grantees are required to substantially develop the land before they acquire the right to resell their land use rights. It is always advisable to check whether land use rights are "designated land use rights" or "granted land use rights," as the former can be cancelled at any time.