
LIVING IN CHINA

Foreigner Residence Certificates

Persons who have entered China on a Z or X visa must apply for a Foreigner Residence Certificate at the Public Security Bureau within 30 days of arrival. The authorities may issue a provisional certificate in some cases. Temporary residence cards are issued to those who will be staying in China for less than one year. A residence certificate is not required for foreigners holding other types of visas, including the F and the L visas. Foreigners aged 16 or older must carry their residence certificates or passports at all times for possible examination by authorities.

Protocol Tips

Dress

Chinese business people are relatively formal; suits for men and suits or dresses for women are conventional for business meetings. When in doubt about appropriate clothing, it is always best to err on the conservative side and to behave with the same good manners as you would in Canada.

Foreigner Residence Certificates are issued for periods of one to five years, and the cards must be submitted to the local Public Security Bureau for examination once a year.

The application for a residence certificate must be supported by documentation demonstrating the applicant's employment. A registration certificate for a representative office of a foreign company from the Chinese Administration for Industry and Commerce is acceptable for this purpose.

The residence certificate is valid for a specific residence and a specific employment situation. Foreigners who wish to change places of residence or employment must apply to the Public Security Bureau to have their residence certificate changed.

Once you have a permit to reside in China, you can obtain an import permit, valid for six months, to bring in personal belongings duty-free. This process can take several weeks, so be prepared to live in temporary accommodation while you wait for your belongings.

Medical Insurance

Canadians considering work or study in China may be required to possess medical insurance (costing