

Guidelines for applying for a Chinese visa on your own

To participate in the Shanghai program, you must obtain a Student X2 visa from a Chinese consulate or embassy. Getting a Chinese visa involves visiting a consulate in person (either yourself or sending someone on your behalf). You must visit the website of the consulate you choose for info on hours of operation and payment options. The visit involves dropping off your passport and application materials, and picking them up 24-48 hours later (if you choose the expedited option, which we recommend). You will not give the consulate any original documents other than your passport, as no other papers will be returned to you.

These guidelines are based on information found on the NYC consulate website, and past experience. You may find a few differences when you go to apply, but the application process shouldn't vary too much by consulate. One thing that may vary is the number of entries you are granted into China; for example, NYC typically grants one entry, while LA may grant two.

Here's what to bring to the consulate:

- Your valid and actual passport.** The passport must be valid for 6 months after the program end date, and have at least two blank visa pages in it.
- A completed visa application form.** You can find the blank form and a sample on the pre-departure forms hub page. **The Chinese visa application form must be typed on the computer and then printed out and signed.** Please note that you'll have to complete the application in one sitting and print it out right away — you cannot save data typed into the form. You cannot leave any boxes blank either (write "N/A" where applicable).
- One passport-style photo** (colored, front-facing, hatless picture taken against a white background within the last 6 months). Staple the photo to the visa application form.
- The "Admission Notice" and "JW202" letters from Fudan signed by you.** These are issued after you have been accepted by Fudan; you will receive them from your program manager. **Bring the originals with you to the consulate, but make photocopies for your visa packet.**
- Letter of invitation from BU.** Provided to you with your Fudan letters.
- Visa fee.** For the NYC Consulate, you must pay with a money order for \$160 made out to the "Chinese Consulate General" for U.S. citizens, or with Visa or MasterCard. For other citizenships and consulates, please consult their website to see what forms of payment they accept.

For 7-9, please read carefully and submit any additional materials if necessary.

- Proof of residency status.** Non-U.S. passport bearers shall provide documents that entitle them to reside or work for an extended period of time in the U.S. (e.g.: I-20; bring the original and a photocopy).
- Evidence of previous Chinese visa.** If you have received a Chinese visa before, please submit one copy each of the most recent Chinese visa and the picture page of the passport bearing the visa.

If you are a **former Chinese citizen who is applying for a Chinese visa for the first time**, please e-mail me at kaelac@bu.edu see what additional documents you may need to submit.

These instructions are valid as of January 2016 but are subject to change at the discretion of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in New York. Other consulates may have different or additional requirements. For the most up to date instructions, please visit the webpage of the consulate you plan to visit. Please note that although the BU Study Abroad staff in Boston can provide guidance for students, the visa application process is a Chinese government operation. Boston University can do little to help students who submit incorrect or late paperwork, and cannot guarantee that visas will be approved. These instructions are valid as of February 2015 but are subject to change at the discretion of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in New York. Other consulates may have different or additional requirements. For the most up to date instructions, please visit the webpage of the consulate you plan to visit. Please note that although the BU Study Abroad staff in Boston can provide guidance for students, the visa application process is a Chinese government operation. Boston University can do little to help students who submit incorrect or late paperwork, and cannot guarantee that visas will be approved.