

Washington-to-China Visa Checklist

A concise planning sheet for Washington residents - verified August 26, 2026

WASHINGTON RESIDENTS APPLY THROUGH THE SAN FRANCISCO CONSULAR DISTRICT

Start online. Submit the original passport only after the system instructs you to do so.

CURRENT PROCESS IN ONE MINUTE

Create the application in the official online system and choose **San Francisco**. Upload the requested documents and monitor preliminary review. When the status says the passport should be submitted, prepare the original passport, barcode page, and any requested originals. Current San Francisco instructions say the applicant, another person, or an agency may submit and collect; the consulate does not provide mail service.

1 Before starting the form

- ☐ Confirm that a new visa is actually needed. A valid visa in an old U.S. passport may remain usable when key identity details are unchanged.
- ☐ Choose the category that matches the real trip: tourism, family visit, commercial activity, study, work, or another purpose.
- ☐ Check passport validity and blank pages. Current guidance calls for more than six months remaining and at least two blank visa pages.
- ☐ Prepare a compliant digital photo, passport bio page, proof of Washington residence, and lawful-stay evidence if you are not a U.S. citizen.
- ☐ Collect category-specific evidence: invitations, inviter status, relationship records, school documents, or work authorization materials.

2 Check consistency before submission

- ☐ Names, birth dates, passport numbers, employers, schools, and family relationships match across every document.
- ☐ Trip dates, cities, host details, payer details, and invitation wording tell one coherent story.
- ☐ Prior Chinese citizenship, passports, visas, residence permits, refusals, and name changes are disclosed accurately.
- ☐ No passport number, application ID, or document image is placed in an ordinary website inquiry form.

CASES THAT NEED INDIVIDUAL REVIEW

Minors; non-U.S. citizens; former Chinese citizens or passport holders; applicants with prior visas, permits, refusals, or lost passports; and family, business, study, work, media, or long-stay cases.

3 After preliminary review

- ☐ Respond to every correction or supplemental-document request in the online system before arranging passport delivery.
- ☐ Wait for the system instruction that the passport should be submitted; do not send the original passport too early.
- ☐ Prepare the original passport, printed barcode page, and any original documents specifically requested.
- ☐ Verify current submission hours, holidays, fees, and payment methods before travel or courier handoff.
- ☐ After issuance, check the name, passport number, validity, entries, and permitted stay before leaving the visa office or forwarding the passport.

4 Official sources

Online application: consular.mfa.gov.cn/VISA/

San Francisco procedure:

sanfrancisco.china-consulate.gov.cn/eng/lsw/lsw/zgqz/202509/t20250926_11717536.htm

U.S. jurisdiction map:

us.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/lsw/lqht/202407/t20240708_11450067.htm

Current fees:

sanfrancisco.china-consulate.gov.cn/eng/lsw/lsw/zgqz/200902/t20090205_9536892.htm



Need the expanded guide?

Scan for the maintained Washington application guide, including category links, common mistakes, fee notes, and Seattle-area FAQs.

seattlechinesevisa.com/china-visa-application/

IF YOU HIRE HELP, PROTECT THE HANDOFF

- ☐ Get a written breakdown of service charges, government fees, courier costs, and what is excluded.
- ☐ Ask who will handle the original passport, how it will travel, and how tracking will be shared.
- ☐ Do not accept a guarantee of approval, validity, entries, or an exact issuance date.
- ☐ Keep the submitted form, barcode page, document set, receipts, tracking numbers, and messages.
- ☐ Verify how corrections and supplemental-document requests will be handled before paying.
- ☐ On return, inspect every visa detail immediately and save a scan separately from the passport.

Community organizations may share this checklist unmodified with attribution. Use the QR code for the current guide.

Independent service disclosure

Seattle Chinese Visa LLC is a private document-preparation and process-support service, not a government agency, consulate, or official visa center. Requirements can change, and the relevant authority alone decides issuance, validity, entries, stay, and timing. Verify official sources before acting.

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