



## Step-By-Step Visa Guide China

The information below is correct as of May 2026. For the most up-to-date information, please visit [Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ireland](#)

### Student Visa Requirements

To study abroad in China, a student visa is required.

### Step 1: Confirm Your Visa Type

**X1 Visa** for **more than** 180 days (2 semesters or full academic year)

**OR**

**X2 Visa** for study abroad **less than** 180 days (1 semester)

### Step 2: Wait for Your Official Admission Documents

You must have the following to apply for a student visa:

- **Admission Notice** from your Chinese host university
- JW201 or JW202 form (required for X1 visas) (sometimes optional for X2)

### Step 3: Complete the Online Visa Application (COVA)

- Fill out the **China Online Visa Application (COVA)** form: [Cova Application Form](#)
- Print the **Confirmation Page** and **Visa Application Form**.
- Sign them by hand.



## Step 4: Book Your Visa Appointment

All Irish applicants must book their appointment through the Chinese Visa Application Service Center (CVASC)

Location: **CVASC Dublin** 1st Floor, 118 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, D02 TD60

How to book:

- Use the official booking system:  
[Making appointments-Chinese Visa Application Service Center](#)
- Select Ireland – Dublin
- Choose Visa Application
- Pick your date and time
- Save and print your confirmation
- Book your visa appointment as soon as you receive your **Admission Notice and JW201/JW202**
- Aim to book an appointment at least 4-6 weeks before departure.

## Step 5: Prepare Your Required Documents

The following are required to bring to your visa appointment:

- Passport (valid for at least 6 months, 2 blank pages)
- Printed COVA forms (must be signed)
- JW201/JW202
- Passport-sized photo (recent, white background)
- Flight Itinerary (if requested)
- Accommodation details (if requested)
- Proof of insurance
- Any additional documents requested by host university

## Step 6: Attend Your Visa Appointment

At your appointment:

- Submit all documents
- Provide biometrics (fingerprints)



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- Pay the visa fee (varies by visa type)

### **Step 7: After You Receive Your Visa**

- Check all details on the visa for accuracy.
- Prepare your arrival documents (passport, admission notice, host university contact information)

### **Step 8: After Arrival in China**

#### **For X1 Visa Holders (180 days or more):**

Within 30 days of arrival, you must:

- Register your address at the local police station.
- Apply for a Residence Permit at the local Exit-Entry Administration Bureau (your host university will assist with this)

#### **For X2 Visa Holders (under 180 days):**

- Must still complete police registration within 24-48 hours of arrival.

If you have any questions, please email [lisa.folan@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:lisa.folan@universityofgalway.ie)