

Application Procedures for a Student Visa to Hong Kong

A General Information

1. All non-local students are required to obtain a student visa to study in HKSAR.
2. All applicants for a student visa are required to have a local sponsor. Students coming to HKU* to study (except training or employment) should nominate the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) as your visa sponsor by completing and returning to CEDARS an application form for visa sponsorship with all the required documents and payment.
3. At least 2 months should be allowed for visa processing.
4. It is the responsibility of individual student to make appropriate visa arrangement before they come to Hong Kong.
5. Please read the University Personal Information Collection Statement before signing the 'application form for the sponsorship of a student visa'.

* Mainland students enrolled in taught postgraduate courses, undergraduate courses, exchange and short term programmes should apply to the China Affairs Office at <visaapp@hkucc.hku.hk> for visa sponsorship.

B Visa Application Procedures

1. Nationals other than PRC and Taiwan

1.1 Option 1 : Applying through CEDARS

Step 1

You can mail your student visa application documents to the Centre of Development and Resources for Students, 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Step 2

Once your student visa application documents have reached the CEDARS office, CEDARS will send an acknowledgement email to you.

Step 3

Upon receipt of your complete visa application document set, CEDARS will act as your visa sponsor and forward your official visa application documents to the Hong Kong Immigration Department for consideration. In 6 - 8 weeks, HK Immigration Department will inform CEDARS of your student visa application result. If Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) has approved your student visa application, CEDARS will pick up the visa label and courier it to you. CEDARS will confirm the delivery address with you

via email before arranging courier service.

Step 4

After receiving your student visa label, you can stick it onto your passport page before landing Hong Kong.

1.2 Option 2 : Applying through your local Chinese Embassy

Step 1

Once you have decided to study at HKU, submit your application documents for visa sponsorship to the Centre of Development and Resources for Students, 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Step 2

Upon receipt of your admission letter issued by your Faculty, CEDARS, who act as your visa sponsor will email a copy of supporting letter (in Chinese characters) to you.

Step 3

Upon receipt of the Chinese supporting letter, you can forward your official visa documentation set to your local Chinese Embassy. They will pass your visa documentation to the HK Immigration Department (HKID) for consideration. The HKID will then draw references from CEDARS, HKU and send your visa application result to your local Chinese Embassy. Your local Chinese Embassy is responsible for informing you of the result and passing the student visa label to you. Allow 6 to 8 weeks processing time for this step.

2. PRC Nationals

2.1 Residing in the Mainland (for research postgraduate students only)

Step 1 After receiving your admission letter, you need to mail your student visa application documents to the Centre of Development and Resources for Students, 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Step 2 Once your visa documents have reached the CEDARS office, CEDARS will send an acknowledgement email to you.

Step 3 Upon receipt of your full document set, CEDARS will forward your student visa application set to the HK Immigration Department for further processing. HKID normally takes 6 to 8 weeks processing time.

Step 4 If HKID has approved your student visa application, HKID will issue an 'entry permit' label (進入許可標籤) to the University of Hong Kong for onward dispatch to you. CEDARS will pick up the entry permit label and send it to you by courier. CEDARS will confirm the delivery address with you via email before arranging courier service.

Step 5 After receiving the entry permit label from CEDARS, you can bring along that 'entry permit' label to your Local Police Unit (戶口所在地的公安機關出入境管理部門) for application of 'Private Travel Pass to HKSAR' (往來港澳通行証) and endorsement (相關赴港簽注). Experiences tell your local police unit may take another 2-4 week processing time.

Step 6 Once you have received the 'Private Travel Pass to HKSAR', you can stick the 'entry permit' label onto the Travel Pass.

2.2 Residing in the Mainland (for all programmes other than research postgraduate programmes)

Contact the China Affairs Office at <visaapp@hkucc.hku.hk> for details.

2.3 Residing Overseas

2.31 For those PRC nationals with permanent residency in an overseas country, please follow the application procedures in 1.

2.32 PRC nationals without permanent residency in an overseas country shall follow procedure in 2.1 and 2.2.

3. Taiwan Nationals

Step 1 As the HKSAR government does not recognize the Taiwan passport, you cannot enter HK with your Taiwan passport. You need to mail your official visa application document set to Centre of Development and Resources for Students, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong for onward transmission to the HK Immigration Department.

Step 2 Once your student visa application documents have reached CEDARS, CEDARS will send an acknowledgement email to you.

Step 3 Upon receipt of your full visa application document set, CEDARS will forward your student visa application set to the HK Immigration Department (HKID) for further processing. HKID normally takes 6 to 8 weeks processing time.

Step 4 If HK Immigration has approved your student visa application, they will issue a single-journey entry permit to you. CEDARS will pick up the entry permit and courier it to you. CEDARS will confirm the delivery address with you via email before arranging courier service.

Step 5 When you firstly arrive HK to commence your study, you need to enter HK with that single-journey entry permit. After your initial landing, you have to apply for a multiple-entry permit with HKID in person should you need to extend your student visa or travel elsewhere.

C. FAQ

Information on visa procedures can be updated any time without prior notice.

For further enquiries, please contact :

Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS)
The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
Tel : (852) 2859 2305
Fax : (852) 2546 0184
Email : cedars@hku.hk
Homepage : <<http://cedars.hku.hk>>

OR

Hong Kong Immigration Department
Tower II, 7 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tel Enquiries Hotline : (852) 2824 6111
Fax Enquiries : (852) 2877 7711
Email : enquiry@immd.gov.hk
Homepage : <<http://www.immd.gov.hk/>>