

## **For travel visa application to China - two options:**

1. Apply for a tourist (L) visa through the Chinese Embassy abroad;  
Please send copy of the applicant's passport, entry and departure date to school, and they can then send an invitation letter to applicant.
2. 72-hour Visa-free Transit visa - Please refer to below document.

### **72-hour Visa-free Transit Policy in Beijing**

Foreign visitors, who hold passports issued by the countries on the 72-hour Visa-free Transit Policy List and stay in Beijing for transit for up to 72 hours, could apply for a visa-free transit stay in China at the immigration inspection authority at Beijing Capital International Airport. This policy is only applicable for foreign visitors who enter, stay in and leave from Beijing.

According to the regulations of Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China, foreign visitors who meet ALL the following requirements could apply for the visa-free transit:

- 1) Holding Foreign passports issued by the following listed 51 countries (see notice 1);
- 2) Foreign nationals with valid international traveling documents and air ticket for a connecting flight with confirmed date of flight and seat for a third country (region) traveling within 72 hours;
- 3) Foreign nationals' international traveling documents must have at least two blank pages for the transit stamp and entry and exit stamp on it;
- 4) Transit passengers making transit through Beijing Capital International Airport to the third country(region).

#### **Notice:**

1. 72-hour Visa-free Transit Policy is valid for passport holders from the following countries:
  - 1) **Schengen countries in Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,
  - 2) **Other European countries:** Russia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania,
  - 3) **American countries:** the United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile,
  - 4) **Oceanian countries:** Australia, New Zealand,
  - 5) **Asian countries:** South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Brunei, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar. The above 51 countries are chosen on the basis of the figures of foreign travelers' entry, stopover and accommodations in Beijing and Shanghai in recent years.
2. During the 72 hours, you can only stay in the administrative districts of Beijing.
3. If you already have valid Chinese visa but want to apply for the 72-hour visa-free transit for this time, please inform the police officer in advance during the immigration inspection. Or the police officer will process as you are using your Chinese visa.

4. The 72-hour visa-free transit can apply from the airport only. If you travel by train, you cannot have the visa-free transit.
5. The 72 hours will be timing starting from the time you arrived in Beijing till your next flight take off.

### **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions Concerning 72-hour Transit Visa Exemption for Foreign Nationals**

1. How can a foreign national that meets the requirements for the 72-hour transit visa exemption apply for it?

**Answer:** A foreign national that meets the requirements may submit his/her request to the airline company that carries him/her to Beijing, which shall make the application to the border control authorities of the Beijing airports that shall grant a temporary entry of a passenger meeting the requirements for transit visa exemption upon verification.

2. Can a traveler apply for the 72-hour transit visa exemption when no exit air ticket is bought at the time of entry but he or she plans to purchase the air ticket for a third country leaving within 72 hours after entry?

**Answer:** According to the requirements, a foreign national applying for the 72-hour transit visa exemption must hold the air ticket for a connecting flight with confirmed date of flight and seat, i.e., the exit air ticket is already in place before entry. Therefore, this facilitation measure does not apply to a foreign national that does not have a confirmed air ticket for a connecting flight leaving within 72 hours.

3. Does this measure apply to a foreign national coming to Beijing from a certain country (region) with a confirmed air ticket for flying back to the same country (region) where he or she comes from within 72 hours with confirmed date of flight and seat?

**Answer:** According to the requirements, the 72-hour transit visa exemption measure is for a foreign national passing through Beijing for a third country or region. Therefore, this measure does not apply to a passenger traveling from New York, USA, and stopping over at Beijing on his/her way to Los Angeles, USA.

4. Can a foreign national leave Beijing or Shanghai for another Chinese city after getting the 72-hour transit visa exemption? What should be done in case a foreign national who has the 72-hour transit visa exemption cannot leave China within 72 hours due to some special reason after entry?

**Answer:** A foreign national with the 72-hour transit visa exemption may not leave the administrative precincts of Beijing. In case of need to leave the precinct for some special reason, the passenger must apply for a visa to the exit-entry administration department of the municipal public security authorities of Beijing as required by the law.

5. foreign national having the 72-hour transit visa exemption should leave China within the permitted time. In case of special need to stay longer than 72 hours, the passenger should apply for the relevant visa to the exit-entry administration department of the municipal public security authorities of Beijing before leaving China as required by the law.

**Answer:** In case a foreign national fails to apply for the required visa, he or she shall be dealt with in accordance with the law for illegal residence in China by the exit-entry administration department of the public security authorities or border control station of the location where such an act is found. The border control authorities are entitled to deny his or her application for the 72-hour transit visa exemption via an airline company the next time because of such a breach.

6. In case a foreign national has entered China with the 72-hour transit visa exemption issued by the Capital Airport of Beijing, can he or she apply to leave China from an airport in Shanghai

**Answer:** A foreign national with the 72-hour transit visa exemption is not allowed to leave the city where the stopover is permitted. Therefore, a foreign national obtaining the 72-hour transit visa exemption at the Capital Airport of Beijing shall leave China from the same airport in Beijing within the permitted time of stay and may not leave China from an airport in Shanghai.

7. Can a passenger enter China at the Beijing West Train Station and then leave by air within 72 hours?

**Answer:** This measure is currently available only at the airports of Beijing and Shanghai, which means the 72-hour transit visa exemption in Beijing is only applicable to a passenger obtaining it at the Beijing Capital Airport.

8. In case I have more questions concerning this measure, how can I ask for an answer?

**Answer:** You may make an inquiry with the border control authorities of the ports of entry in Beijing or leave a message under the column of Asking Questions to the Police on the website of the Ministry of Public Security. Contact phone of the Beijing General Station of Immigration Inspection: 010-56095400 Website of the Ministry of Public Security: [www.mps.gov.cn](http://www.mps.gov.cn).