



Global Immigration alert

September 2024

China Mainland

Simplified visa application processes introduced

Executive summary

Chinese embassies recently introduced simplified visa application processes for qualifying foreign nationals entering China Mainland.

Key developments

- ▶ **New online portal:** Effective 26 August 2024, individuals who file visa applications at Chinese embassies located in the following jurisdictions can do so via a new online portal: Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Serbia, Spain, Suriname and Thailand. They can upload relevant documents and track the status of their application online. However, they are still required to visit the embassy during the application process to submit physical copies of relevant documents. Chinese embassies in other jurisdictions are also expected to launch online application submission portals in the upcoming months.
- ▶ **Fingerprinting requirements:** Effective 2 September 2024 until 31 December 2025, all individuals who apply for short-term single- or double-entry visas (that allow holders to stay in China Mainland for up to 180 days) will be exempt from the requirement to submit their fingerprints during the application process.

Impact on employers

These measures are expected to streamline the immigration process and reduce the time required for eligible business travelers and short-term assignees to enter China Mainland.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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