



Global Immigration alert

November 2024

China Mainland

China Mainland announces updates to its visa-free policies for certain jurisdictions

Executive summary

Effective 30 November 2024, the Chinese authorities will implement several changes to streamline their visa-free policies for certain jurisdictions and simplify the entry and stay processes for qualifying individuals.

Key developments

The Chinese authorities will implement the following changes on 30 November 2024, impacting their current regulations governing jurisdictions with which the Chinese mainland has unilateral visa-free policies (i.e., "unilateral-policy jurisdictions"):

- ▶ **Visa-free jurisdictions:** The Chinese authorities will add the following nine jurisdictions to their list of unilateral-policy jurisdictions: Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Japan, Latvia, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Romania. This will bring the number of unilateral-policy jurisdictions to 38 (which include [Australia](#), [Belgium](#), [Brunei](#), [Cyprus](#), [Denmark](#), etc.). Qualifying holders of ordinary passports issued by these jurisdictions can travel to the Chinese mainland for eligible purposes (e.g., business, tourism, family visits), or transit through the jurisdiction, without a visa.
- ▶ **Purpose of stay:** Qualifying nationals of unilateral-policy jurisdictions will be able to enter the Chinese mainland without a visa for the purpose of exchange visits (e.g., academic exchanges, cultural exchanges) too, in addition to business, tourism and family visit purposes.
- ▶ **Period of stay:** The authorized period of visa-free stay for nationals of unilateral-policy jurisdictions will be increased to 30 days (up from 15 days currently).

The visa-free policy for all unilateral-policy jurisdictions, except Brunei, will remain in effect until 31 December 2025. As of the time of publication, the authorities have not announced an expiry date for the visa-free policy for Brunei.

Nationals of unilateral-policy jurisdictions who do not meet the conditions for visa-free entry or intend to stay in the Chinese mainland for more than 30 days will still be required to obtain a visa prior to entering entry.

The aforementioned changes will not impact nationals of jurisdictions with which the Chinese mainland has bilateral visa-free arrangements.

Impact on employers

These changes are expected to benefit employers that send impacted individuals to the Chinese Mainland for business or other qualifying purposes by reducing the time and expenses associated with admission and increasing the authorized stay period.

Key steps

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

Ben Fan

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 8621 2228 2257
Email: ben.fan@cn.ey.com

Sally Yu

Director - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 8621 2228 5805
Email: sally.m.yu@cn.ey.com

Michelle Teng

Senior Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 8610 5815 3082
Email: michelle.teng@cn.ey.com

Mia Liu

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 86 15729801961
Email: mia.gxy.liu@cn.ey.com

Carrie Yu

Senior Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 8621 2228 2354
Email: carrie.yu@cn.ey.com

Carey Yan

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +8621 2228 3901
Email: carey.yan@cn.ey.com

Daisy Tang

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +86137 6448 3019
Email: daisy.j.tang@cn.ey.com

Michelle Zhang

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +8621 2228 6825
Email: michelle.y.zhang@cn.ey.com

Miya Li

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: +86 137 6189 6286
Email: miya.qy.li@cn.ey.com

Scott Li

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration
Tel: + 86755 2591 4760
Email: scott.xf.li@cn.ey.com

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