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@hku.hk> for visa sponsorship.

B Visa Application Procedures

1. Nationals other than PRC and Taiwan

   Option 1 : Applying through the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS), The University of Hong Kong

   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 as soon as possible.

   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 (HKID) for consideration. In 6 - 8 weeks, HKID will inform CEDARS of your student visa application result. If 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 at Hong Kong.

Option 2 : Applying through your local Chinese Embassy

Step 1

Once you have received your official letter of admission, you can submit your application documents for visa sponsorship to the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (Campus Life), 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Step 2

Upon receipt of your admission letter and application documents, CEDARS will email a copy of supporting letter (in Chinese) 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 Hong Kong 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.

Note: You are responsible to monitor the progress and result of your visa application. Processing time can be varied in different Chinese Embassies.

2. PRC Nationals

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

Step 1  Once you have received your official letter of admission, you can submit your visa application documents to the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (Campus Life), 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 as soon as possible.

Step 3  If your visa document sets is completed, CEDARS will forward your student visa application documents to the Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) for further processing. HKID normally takes 6 - 8 weeks processing time.

Step 4  If HKID has approved your visa application, CEDARS will pick up the visa label and courier it to you. CEDARS will confirm the delivery address with you before arranging courier service.
Step 5  After receiving the visa label issued by the Hong Kong Immigration Department, you then need to approach your local police unit to seek their endorsement (逗留簽注) of your student visa application. You are also required to apply for a private travel pass to HKSAR (往來港澳通行證). Experiences tell your local police unit may take another 2-4 weeks processing time.

Step 6  Once you have received the 'Private Travel Pass to HKSAR', you can stick the visa 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@hku.hk> for details.

2.3 Residing Overseas

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

2.3.2 PRC nationals without permanent residency in an overseas country shall follow the application procedures in 2.1 and 2.2.

3. Taiwan Nationals

Step 1  As the HKSAR government does not recognize the Taiwan passport, you cannot enter Hong Kong with your Taiwan passport. Once you have received your notice of admission, you can mail your student visa application documents to the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (Campus Life), 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong for onward transmission to the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

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

Step 3  Upon receipt of your official admission letter, CEDARS will acts as your visa sponsor and forward your complete visa application document set to the Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) for processing. HKID normally takes 6 - 8 weeks processing time.

Step 4  If the Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) 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 Hong Kong to commence your study, you need to enter Hong Kong with that single-journey entry permit. After your initial landing, you have to apply for a multiple-entry permit with HKID in person if you need to extend your student visa or travel elsewhere.
C. FAQ

Disclaimer:

The information of ‘Application Procedures for a Student Visa to Hong Kong’ serves as reference only. It will be updated at any time without prior notice.

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For further enquiries, please contact:

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Fax : (852) 2546 0184
Email : cedars@hku.hk
Homepage : <http://cedars.hku.hk>

OR

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