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, undergraduate, exchange, short term programmes, and overseas students enrolled in summer 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

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

Step 1

You can send your completed set of student visa application to CEDARS by email for checking.
Exchange/Visiting programme: visa-exchange@cedars.hku.hk
Full-degree programme: visa-fulldegree@cedars.hku.hk
Elective/short term programme: visa-elective@cedars.hku.hk

Step 2

After receiving suggested revisions to your forms and documents from CEDARS, you can send your completed set of student visa application by courier to the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS), 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Step 3

Once your student visa application set has reached CEDARS, we will send you an email acknowledgment.
Step 4

Upon receipt of a photocopy of your admission letter and the complete set of student visa application, CEDARS will act as your visa sponsor and forward your visa application document to the Hong Kong Immigration Department. Normally, the Hong Kong Immigration Department will inform CEDARS of your student visa application result in around 8 - 10 weeks. If the Hong Kong Immigration Department approves your student visa application, CEDARS will pick up the visa label and send it to you by courier. CEDARS will confirm the delivery address with you via email before arranging courier service.

Subject to the decision of the Hong Kong Immigration Department, the processing time may be longer for individual cases.

Step 5

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

1.2 Option 2 : Applying through your local Chinese Embassy

Step 1

Once you have received your official letter of admission, you have to request CEDARS to be your visa sponsor. The application should be sent to CEDARS at 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Step 2

If CEDARS agrees to be your visa sponsor, CEDARS will email you a copy of the supporting letter in Chinese.

Step 3

Along with CEDARS’s supporting letter, you can forward your official visa application set to your local Chinese Embassy. They will pass your visa application to the Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) in accordance to their schedule. 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 you the student visa label. The processing time for the Hong Kong Immigration Department is around 8 – 10 weeks. You also need to take into account additional processing time by the Chinese Embassy, which varies with Embassy.

As it usually takes longer to apply for student visa through your local Chinese Embassy, please allow more time for your application. You are responsible to monitor the progress and result of your student visa application.

1.3 Nationals other than PRC and Taiwan (for summer programme)

Please contact the China Affairs Office at <visaapp@hku.hk> for details.
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 (including the conditional offer letter), you can submit your visa documentation to CEDARS by email (visa-PRCresearch@cedars.hku.hk). CEDARS will check the documents for you. CEDARS will send an acknowledgement email to you as soon as possible.

Step 2  If your visa document set is complete, CEDARS will ask you to send documents by post/courier to CEDARS at 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Step 3  Once your visa documents have reached the CEDARS office, we will send an acknowledgement email to you as soon as possible and will forward your student visa application documents to the Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) for further processing. HKID normally takes 8 - 10 weeks of 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 will then have to approach your local police unit for endorsement (逗留簽注) of your student visa. You are also required to apply for an “Exit-entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macau” (EEP) (往來港澳通行証). Experiences tell that your local police unit may take another 2-4 weeks of processing time.

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

Please 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 offer of admission (including the conditional offer letter), you may submit your visa application set to CEDARS by email. CEDARS will check the documents for you. CEDARS will send an acknowledgement email to you as soon as possible.

Step 2  If your visa document set is complete, CEDARS will ask you to send documents by post/courier to CEDARS at 3/F Meng Wah Complex, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.

Step 3  Once your visa documents have reached the CEDARS office, we will send an acknowledgement email to you as soon as possible and will forward your student visa application documents to the Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) for further processing. HKID normally takes 8 - 10 weeks of processing time.

Step 4  If HKID approves your visa application, CEDARS will pick up the Entry Permit (入境許可證) and send it to you by courier. CEDARS will confirm the delivery address with you before arranging for a courier service.

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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Tel : (852) 2859 2305  
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  
Tel Enquiries Hotline : (852) 2824 6111  
Fax Enquiries : (852) 2877 7711  
Email : enquiry@immd.gov.hk  
Homepage : <http://www.immd.gov.hk/>