

## Q&A about visa procedures

13 February 2014

<b>Visa</b>									
How many visas do you issue?	<p>In 2013, we issued 20,941 visas in China:</p> <p>8,965 in Beijing 6,574 in Shanghai 5,402 in Guangzhou</p> <p>That is an increase of 3% since the year before and since 2008 we have seen a 75% increase.</p>								
What kind of visas do you issue?	<p>The distribution was as follows:</p> <table border="0"><tr><td>Business:</td><td>54%</td></tr><tr><td>Tourism:</td><td>34%</td></tr><tr><td>Private:</td><td>11%</td></tr><tr><td>Sport/Culture</td><td>1%</td></tr></table>	Business:	54%	Tourism:	34%	Private:	11%	Sport/Culture	1%
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How do you get a visa for Denmark?	<p>You should apply at the Visa Application Centers, or at the Danish mission if you hold an official passport.</p> <p>All procedures are described at the embassy's website in English and Chinese: <a href="http://www.kina.um.dk">www.kina.um.dk</a></p> <p>Furthermore, the Visa Application Centers have their own website: <a href="http://www.denmarkvac.cn/">http://www.denmarkvac.cn/</a></p>								
What is the processing time for a visa?	<p>For visas which the Danish mission can issue without consulting Danish Immigration Service, it normally takes about 3-8 days.</p> <p>For Red Carpet Programme the service level is 3 days.</p> <p>If the case is submitted to the Danish Immigration Service (about 1%) it can take up to 60 days. But most cases are decided faster.</p>								
What is the process when applying for a visa?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. You go to the Visa Application Center website: <a href="http://www.denmarkvac.cn/">http://www.denmarkvac.cn/</a> and find out what documents to bring (requirements change, so it is important to always check the website right before applying).</li><li>2. You complete all the forms and collect the supporting documents. Then you go the Visa Application Center during the office hours (no need for appointment).</li></ol>								

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. All documents will be checked and the case is sent to the relevant Danish mission. You can then follow the status via an individual application number and the VAC tracking system and mobile phone text option.</li> <li>4. The Danish mission registers the case and if complete and, if all conditions for a visa are met, issues the visa. If not, further documentation/information is asked for.</li> <li>5. When a decision has been made in a case, the passport is sent to the Visa Application Center, where the applicant can pick it up, or have it sent to his or her address, if the EMS fee has been paid when applying.</li> </ol>
<p>Will my case be handled faster, if I ask my Danish contacts to call the Danish mission to push my case?</p>	<p>No, it will not be faster because then we spend more time advising many people about the same application instead of processing it</p> <p>It is the experience of the missions that contact involving a third party about a visa application – although we understand the reasoning - actually delays the processing of both the relevant case and also other applications.</p> <p>Firstly, the missions prefer to be in contact with the applicant directly because it is the applicant's application and information regarding the case should be disclosed directly.</p> <p>Secondly, this creates room for misinterpretation as the information is then passed on second hand to the applicant.</p>

<p><b>Visa shopping</b></p>	
<p>What is visa shopping?</p>	<p>The visa procedure is to a high degree focused on a swift handling procedure, but at the same time we have to prevent that applicants apply at a different representation than that of their main destination – also called visa shopping.</p> <p>When applicants visa shop at a Danish missions, we spend time checking their cases and in the end reject them, instead of focusing our resources on those, who actually have a purpose in Denmark.</p> <p>It is also not advisable to visa shop, since the applicant may be rejected by the border police, if – upon arrival to Schengen – the applicant cannot prove that he/she is still</p>

	going to the country, who issued the visa.
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<b>Tourism</b>	
Is it possible to get a visa as an individual tourist?	Yes, individual tourists can apply for visa and they can find more information on <a href="http://www.denmarkvac.cn/">http://www.denmarkvac.cn/</a> or at the websites of the Danish missions: <a href="http://www.kina.um.dk">www.kina.um.dk</a> .
What kind of tourists do you accept?	Denmark has three options for tourists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Free individual tourists</li> <li>2. ADS (Approved Destination Service) for group tourism</li> <li>3. Extended travel agency arrangement (for individual tourists who apply through an accredited Chinese agency).</li> </ol>
How is your relationship with the Danish tourism industry?	The visa departments in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou have a fruitful cooperation with VisitDenmark and Scandinavian Tourism Board where information about the latest development in the tourism area is discussed.  Furthermore, the Danish missions have an ongoing and constructive dialogue with stakeholders such as HORESTA, Copenhagen Airports, Wonderful Copenhagen, Danish tourist agencies etc.
How is your relationship with the Chinese tourism industry?	The visa departments in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou have a very fruitful cooperation with the Chinese travel agents, who are accredited to the ADS-agreement.  Annual meetings are held with a view to plan the peak season for tourists and furthermore, the Danish missions are in regular contact with the ADS-agencies, when they have specific trips.
Do the Danish missions support the effort to attract Chinese tourists to Denmark?	Yes, very much so. Tourism to Denmark has been subject to great attention during the past four years and the procedures for tourists have greatly improved. The effort to attract tourists to Denmark is a joint effort and does not only rely on visa procedures. Branding and developing Denmark as a tourist destination, having Chinese speaking staff in shops, offering Chinese information on websites etc. is also necessary. In 2013, the number of group tourists as well as individual tourists who received a visa to Denmark increased by 18%.

<b>Business</b>	
<p>Is there a special procedure for businesses?</p>	<p>We wish to strengthen the businesses that frequently send a lot of employees to Denmark – both Danish and Chinese companies. Such companies can apply to join the “Red Carpet Scheme” of the Danish missions in China. The companies who are approved can send the visa applications of their employees by messenger, and the processing time for Red Carpet holders is 3 days.</p> <p>These Red Carpet customers have a large number of applicants going to Denmark every year and we are sure that their main destination is Denmark, since it is an exchange between the headquarter and a well-established partner or subsidiary.</p> <p>Furthermore, we regularly distribute news to Red Carpet holders regarding latest regulations and guidelines for application.</p> <p>Further information is available on our <a href="#">website</a>.</p>
<p>Do you offer a special procedure to Chinese companies with subsidiaries in Denmark?</p>	<p>We wish to strengthen the cooperation with big Chinese companies, with subsidiaries in Denmark, who send many employees to Denmark on business trips every year.</p> <p>For these companies we offer the Red Carpet programme.</p> <p>Further information is available on our <a href="#">website</a>.</p>
<p>Do you offer special procedures for smaller companies, who do not send many applicants to Denmark every year?</p>	<p>Companies which only send ie 5 persons to Denmark every year, are, in general, too small to be accredited under the Red Carpet Programme.</p> <p>We can still offer these applicants good conditions, though. You can apply for multiple entry visa, with longer validity, if you can document you need for it. The decision of what is granted is then up to the Danish mission.</p> <p>If you have been to Schengen before, you can get permission to apply via another person (travel agency, company representative etc.)</p> <p>Requests for dispensations must be directed by e-mail to the Visa Department in the city,</p>

	<p>where you wish to apply. For cases which will be handed in at the Visa Center in Chongqing, the request for dispensation must be sent to the Embassy in Beijing. The Visa Center cannot make such dispensations.</p> <p>Beijing: <a href="mailto:bjsambvisa@um.dk">bjsambvisa@um.dk</a>  Shanghai: <a href="mailto:shagklvisa@um.dk">shagklvisa@um.dk</a>  Guangzhou: <a href="mailto:cangklvisa@um.dk">cangklvisa@um.dk</a></p> <p>The e-mail must contain the full name of the applicant, who needs dispensation. This applicant must be able to prove, that he or she has been to Schengen before and followed the length of stay of the previous visa.</p>
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<b>Visa Application Centers</b>	
Why did you choose to outsource the receiving of applications to a Visa Application Center?	It was a central Danish decision, which we supported in China, to outsource the receiving of applications in selected countries.
What are the advantages of the Visa Application Centers?	<p>The most significant advantages for the visa customers in the new Visa Application Centers is the high service level offered. The Danish Visa Application Centers have long opening hours (every day) and there is practically no queuing. They are easily accessible and provide telephone hotlines, online tracking systems, text messaging system, copy facilities and much more, which the Danish missions cannot provide.</p> <p>Most Schengen countries in China have visa centers.</p>
Did the other Danish Visa Application Centers in China open at the same time?	Yes, in June 2010.
Do you plan to open more Visa Application Centers?	<p>So far, Denmark has Visa Centers in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing.</p> <p>The cases from Chongqing are handled by the Embassy in Beijing, as we do not have visa handling staff at the Consulate General in Chongqing.</p> <p>The Chinese regulations today do not allow us to open more visa centers in China, as they can only be set up in cities, where we have a diplomatic representation. If such a permission to open in more places is granted in the future, we will consider opening more visa centers.</p>
How many applicants use the visa center	About 90% of the applicants apply at the Visa

<p>compared to the embassy?</p>	<p>Application Centers and even the Red Carpet customers and ADS-tourist groups benefit from the centers because of their wide range of services.</p>
<p>Can the Visa Application Center reject my application?</p>	<p>The Visa Application Centers are <b>not</b> allowed to reject your application and the staff is probably just trying to advise you that important documents are missing.</p> <p>However, even if documents are missing, they must still accept the application.</p> <p>It is recommended that you find the relevant <a href="#">checklist</a> from our website just before applying. This way you can see what documents are required and will also notice if changes in the checklists have occurred since the last time of application. That will make the case processing easier.</p>

<p><b>Work permit or Visa?</b></p>	
<p>How do I know if I should apply for a work permit or a visa?</p>	<p>A few guidelines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are in Denmark for a company more than 90 days, you need a work permit, as visas are only valid for max 90 days.</li> <li>• If you attend meetings or training for less than 90 days you need a visa.</li> <li>• If your Chinese company has established a subsidiary in Denmark, you need to sure that you are applying for the proper permit/visa. Do not apply for a 90 day, multiple entry visa with long validity as an easy way to go to Denmark to work.</li> <li>• It is illegal to work on a visa and may result in a personal fine as well as a fine for the employer.</li> </ul> <p>If you are in doubt please consult the <a href="#">Danish Immigration Service</a>.</p>