



Frequently Asked Questions: Study Tour visa processing arrangements in China

We have specific visa processing arrangements for organised school or university groups from China travelling to Australia for a short period (less than 3 months).

1 What visa type should I select for study tours?

Students should apply for the Tourist stream Visitor (subclass 600) visa. Accompanying teachers, staff and chaperones should apply for the Business Visitor stream Visitor (subclass 600) visa.

The Visitor (subclass 600) visa is NOT suitable for those travelling to Australia to study for a period of more than 3 months, or undertaking specialised activities such as research or lecturing.

2 How should I lodge visa applications for study tours?

Applications should be made online at ImmiAccount.

We encourage tour organisers to lodge all study tour applications (including teachers / staff / chaperones) as a group:

- When lodging the first application, select the Group Processing option and create a new group.
- Choose Group Type as 'School / study'.
- Give the group a clear name such as *Agent name – school name – travel date*.
- When lodging subsequent applications, select the Group Processing option and enter the Group ID to link the applicants together. Include applications from all students and accompanying staff / chaperones as part of the group.
- Do not combine multiple tour groups together.
- Submit and pay for the applications at the same time.

If you do not clearly identify the applications as being part of a group or you do not lodge all applications at the same time, this may delay processing for the entire group.

3 When should I lodge visa applications for study tours?

During busy holiday periods, we recommend that all visa applications are lodged as early as possible, preferably at least 6 weeks prior to the intended travel date.

4 What supporting documents do I need to provide for study tour applications?

We encourage tour organisers to provide all supporting documents at the time of application. Provide coloured scans of original documents where possible. If you do not lodge all supporting documents at time of application, or provide poor quality documents, your application may be delayed or it may be refused without any request to provide further information.

Follow the checklist at the end of the online application form in ImmiAccount to provide required evidence of identity and financial capacity.

In addition, please provide relevant documents with details of the group tour and inviting organisation in Australia with each application. Applicants under 18 years must provide evidence that their parents or legal guardian(s) consent to the grant of the visa. Refer to the table below for more details.

If somebody other than both biological parents has legal guardianship over the child (for example adoptive parents or court-appointed guardian), documentary evidence of the guardianship must be provided.

5 How do I attach documents in ImmiAccount?

You should provide good quality scans of all documents, preferably in colour and in the correct orientation.

Please scan all materials under the same Document Type into a single file (PDF or Word) where possible. If the document exceeds 5MB, please divide it into parts and add 'Part # of N' at the end of file name, e.g. 'Consent documents Part 2 of 3.pdf'.

To help us process your application more efficiently, refer to the table below for specific details of what documents to provide, and how to categorise and name them in ImmiAccount.

What to include	Evidence Type	Document Type
Invitation Letter (<i>scan items into one document</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation letter from school / organisation in Australia • Itinerary and accommodation arrangements 	Group Tour Details, evidence of	Letter/statement Invitation Letter
Group Tour Details (<i>scan items into one document</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of all students and staff / parents / chaperones • Enrolment confirmation for all student applicants • Details of group organiser / travel agent • Dispatch letter of chaperone from employer and relevant business licenses (if applicable) • Evidence of chaperone's valid Australian visa status (if applicable) 	Group Tour Details, evidence of	Letter/statement Group Tour Details
Passport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographical data page • Visa and entry / exit stamp pages (if applicable) 	Travel Document	Passport
National ID card (if applicable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front and back of card 	National Identity Document (other than passport)	National ID Card
Consent documents (<i>scan items into one document</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Form 1229 Consent to grant an Australian visa from each non-accompanying parent • Original birth certificate of minor applicant • Both parents' national ID cards • Parents' Marriage Certificate (if applicable) • Parents' Divorce Certificate (if applicable) 	Consent for Travel of Child under age of 18, Evidence of	Form 1229
Family composition evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family registration (Hukou) Booklet • Form 54 - Family Composition 	Family Composition, Evidence of	Family composition
Form 1257 Completed Form 1257 Undertaking Declaration (<i>if no Chinese citizen chaperon is travelling with the group</i>)	Form 1257, Undertaking Declaration	Form 1257, Undertaking Declaration