

## Entry Visa – F Visa

Business Visa (F Visa)-intended for foreigners invited to China for short-term research or business, may freelancers, entrepreneurs or non-working foreign residents also depend on this visa to live long-term in Shanghai. However, it should be noted here that working under an F visa is illegal in China. to enter China on an F visa, you may apply at a Chinese consulate or embassy abroad or within a private visa or travel agency. Outside of China, F visas require a stamped invitation letter from a company in China. F visas are valid for single, double or multiple entries within a three, six or twelve-month period. Many travelers pick up long-term f visas in Hong Kong , where travel agencies (excluding CITS)don't require an invitation letter-only a passport and the fee. Applying for an F visa in Shanghai requires the original and a copy of the business license of the sponsoring company, a temporary residence permit, and an invitation letter. In addition, the sponsoring company must have more than \$3 million in investment capital (as reported on business license). Also, US citizens now have limits on the duration of consecutive days an F visa holder may stay in China. The standard is 30 days (meaning you have to leave the country every month and come back in) but you may ask for 60 days. Some visa agencies in Shanghai offer Americans no-restriction F visas for an added fee.

■ According to [Rules Governing the Implementation of the Law of the PRC on the Entry and Exit of Aliens](#):

**Article 4** Ordinary visas shall be marked with different Chinese phonetic letters and issued to different aliens according to their stated purposes of visit to China:

(4) Visa F to aliens who are invited to China on a visit or on a study, lecture or business tour, for scientific-technological or cultural exchanges, for short-term refresher course or for job-training, for a period not more than six months;

**Article 6** The supporting papers mentioned in Article 5(3) of these rules refer to the following:

(4) In application for Visa F, a letter or telegram from the authorized organization;

■ More info about VISA:

[http://www.cbize.com/document/biztool\\_detail.php?topicid=12](http://www.cbize.com/document/biztool_detail.php?topicid=12)

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