

Chinese Citizenship & Permanent Residence in China

China does not recognize dual citizenship so taking Chinese citizenship means giving it up in your home country. If a foreigner marries a Chinese citizen, he or she may apply for a one-year L visa. After being married for at least five years, and living in China for that period, the foreign spouse may apply for a D visa (permanent residence). However, it's rarely granted because of other stipulations concerning the foreign spouse's monetary investments in China.

■ According to [Nationality law of the People's Republic of China](#)

Article 7

Foreign nationals or stateless persons who are willing to abide by China's Constitution and laws and who meet one of the following conditions may be naturalized upon approval of their applications:

- (1) they are near relatives of Chinese nationals;
- (2) they have settled in China; or
- (3) they have other legitimate reasons.

Article 8

Any person who applies for naturalization as a Chinese national shall acquire Chinese nationality upon approval of his application; a person whose application for naturalization as a Chinese national has been approved shall not retain foreign nationality.

■ According to [Measures for the Administration of Examination and Approval of Aliens' Permanent Residence in China](#)

Article 6 Aliens who wish to apply for permanent residence in China should abide by Chinese laws, be healthy and have no criminal record, and they must meet at least one of the following requirements:

- 1) having made direct investment in China with stable operation and a good tax paying record for three successive years;
- 2) having been holding the post of deputy general manager, deputy factory director or above, or having the title of associate professor or associate research fellow or above, and other associate senior titles of professional posts or above or enjoying an equal treatment in China for at least four successive years, with a minimum period of residence in China for three cumulative years within four years and with a good tax paying record;
- 3) having made great and outstanding contributions and being specially needed by China;
- 4) being the spouse or unmarried children under 18 years of age of a person referred to in Item (1), (2) or (3) of this paragraph;
- 5) being the spouse of a Chinese citizen or of an alien with permanent residence status in China, in a marriage relationship for at least five years, with at least five successive years of residence in China and at least nine months of residence in China each year, and having stable source of subsistence and a dwelling place;
- 6) being an unmarried child under 18 years of age dependant on his/her parents;
- 7) being a person at the age of 60 years or older with no direct relatives overseas but patronized by direct relatives in China, having stayed in China for at least five successive years with at least nine-month residence in China each year, and having stable source of subsistence and a dwelling place.

All the time periods mentioned in this article mean the successive ones till the application date.

Article 7 In the case of an alien under Item (1) of the first paragraph of Article 6 herein, the registered capital he/she pays as investment in China shall meet any of the following requirements:

- 1) investment of at least US\$500,000 in total in any industry encouraged under the Catalogue for the Guidance of Foreign Investment Industries ;

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2) investment of at least US\$500,000 in total in western China or any key county under National Poverty Relief and Development Program;

3) investment of at least US\$1 million in total in central China;

4) investment of at least US\$2 million in total in China.

Article 8 In the case of an alien under Item (2) of the first paragraph of Article 6 herein, the unit in which he/she holds a post must be any of the following:

1) an institution subordinate to any department of the State Council or the People's Government at the provincial level;

2) a key college or university;

3) an enterprise or government-sponsored institution implementing a key engineering project or major scientific research project of the state;

4) a high-tech enterprise, foreign invested enterprise in encouraged fields, technologically advanced enterprise with foreign investment or export-oriented enterprise with foreign investment.

■ **More info about VISA:**

http://www.cbize.com/document/biztool_detail.php?topicid=12



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