Update from the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in China: Routine Visa Services Suspended or Canceled

December 19, 2022

Due to the surge of COVID-19 infections across China, U.S. Embassy in Beijing and U.S. Consulate General Shanghai are providing only emergency services to U.S. citizens, and the U.S. Consulates General Wuhan, Shenyang, and Guangzhou will only be providing emergency consular services until further notice. The recent alert [1] indicates that “All routine Visa Services, with the exception of some previously scheduled for Consulate General Shanghai — are temporarily suspended; all regularly scheduled appointments at Embassy Beijing and the other Consulates General have been canceled.” If you were in the process of applying for a new visa or were going to renew your expired visa, you should reschedule your appointment now for a later date by following the instructions here [2].

At this time, it is not possible to predict how long this suspension will remain in place. You should monitor the website of the U.S. embassy and consulates in China [3] for information about when routine visa services may resume. If your current visa had expired and you were planning to travel to China, be aware that this suspension of visa services will significantly reduce the availability of appointments for visa renewals and might delay your return. You might reconsider traveling to China if you need a new U.S. visa to return.

If you already have a valid F-1, J-1, or H-1B visa that will remain valid through the date of your return to the U.S. then you do not need to be concerned about this temporary suspension of visa services by the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in China, but local restrictions due to the spread of COVID-19 in the country might still impact your travel plans, so please plan accordingly.

Please be in touch with your school (for students) or department (for scholars) and reach out to your designated OISS adviser [4] if your arrival or return to Yale will be impacted or if you have questions about your situation.
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