



Visa Situation in China

Due to unprecedented increases in demand for UK visas, it is currently taking 20 working days to process Tier 4 applications in China. It takes longer if there are any irregularities with the supporting documentation. Our usual target is to process applications in 15 working days. We have received many Tier 4 applications where a CAS has been issued within 15 working days of the course start date. Even without the current levels of demand, this does not give an applicant enough time to apply, have their visa processed and get to the UK.

We cannot issue a visa if the start date for the course has already passed. Please ensure that any CAS you issue gives the student sufficient time to make their visa application, taking account of our current turn around times. Please also advise your prospective students to make their applications as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

When we are processing an application and the start date has passed, we will try to contact the institution to see if a later start date is possible, however this causes further delays and we cannot guarantee to do this in all cases. **If you have any outstanding CAS's for applicants from China, please update the sponsor notes section of the CAS stating the latest date that you will accept the student.** In particular many students have start dates for pre-sessionals during the first few weeks of August but have not applied in time and so stand to be refused. We would be grateful if you could make updates to the sponsor notes section as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

If you plan to provide a latest start date in the sponsor notes section, please take account of our current processing times. The latest start date must be at least 20 days from the date the application was submitted. To build in sufficient flexibility we advise 25 days.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and expect to return to our 15 working day target within the next 4 weeks.

Matt Heath
Regional Manager – China, Mongolia, DPRK
UK BORDER AGENCY