



## U-M International Travel Requirements

Individuals traveling abroad should visit the [Global Michigan](#) website for complete and up-to-date requirements for China.

### 1. Register Travel

For students who apply to a U-M program through M-Compass, your submitted application serves as your registration. All other travelers must register through the [University Travel Registry](#).



### 2. Get U-M Travel Abroad Insurance

All travelers on [UMRT](#) are required to purchase [GeoBlue travel insurance](#) for your travel dates. For U-M managed student programs, check with your department if they enroll you on your behalf. Faculty and staff can download insurance cards upon registration in the University Travel Registry.



### 3. Review U-M Travel Designations

China is a [U-M Travel Warning](#) destination and student travelers must submit an [Individual Safety Plan](#). The safety plan review process is outlined on this [this flowchart](#). Please submit your plan at least 3 weeks before departure.



### 4. For Non-US Citizen Travelers

Verify your ability to re-enter the U.S. See the "Travel outside the U.S." section of the International Center's [Travel Guidance for International Students](#). Contact the [International Center](#) with questions related to your visa or other travel documents.

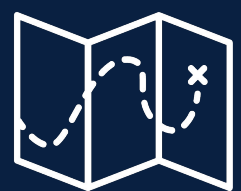
## Planning for your Travel

### China Entry / Exit & Visa Requirements



- Verify Entry / Exit Requirements:** Review the Entry, Exit, and Visa Requirements section of the [U.S. State Department's country page for China](#) or consult the nearest Chinese consulate in the U.S. **Note:** The nearest Chinese consulate to Michigan is the [Chicago consulate](#).
- Visa Application Tips:** Be sure to complete the application correctly and save responses. If you have previously applied for a Chinese visa, be sure to use the same responses from previous applications. The visa application also requires a specifically sized photo, which is differs from the regular passport photo size. Allow time for the visa application.
- Expedited Visa:** Visa processing times can vary based on numerous factors, and it is advisable for travelers to initiate the visa application process promptly upon confirming their travel plans. Travelers seeking expedited passports or requiring tailored guidance for the visa process may find it beneficial to utilize a visa processing company like [CIBT](#).

### Logistical Considerations



- Travel Preparation:** Review Global Michigan's [China risk rating page](#), [Preparing for your Travel](#) resources, such as Safe [housing abroad](#), [safety considerations for independent study & field research abroad](#), and [Plan for the Land](#).
- Communications:** [WeChat](#) is widely used for communication in China. To get WeChat on a US phone number, a verification from an existing WeChat user is required. Alternatively, purchasing a Chinese SIM card for your unlocked phone enables WeChat installation. However, be cautious as WeChat may have [spyware](#); use and delete it judiciously. While internet access is widely available, the Chinese government blocks many websites and mobile apps - such as Gmail. A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is needed to access Gmail and other blocked sites or apps. China's laws for VPN usage are vague and only government-sanctioned VPNs are legal. When using government-sanctioned VPNs, travelers can assume that internet traffic and communications are being monitored by the government. Although commonly used, non-government sanctioned [VPNs are considered illegal in China](#). As a result, research your VPN options, plan ahead, and download any VPNs before departure as you may not have success downloading a VPN after entering China. Travelers may want to forward their Gmail to a non-Google email so that they can access their emails in the event they do not use a VPN or it does not work as intended.
- Finances:** Apple Pay is generally not accepted, and certain non-Chinese credit cards may also not be accepted by businesses. Travelers should primarily use cash, Alipay, or WeChat Pay for most purchases. Travelers can also acquire cash by exchanging currency at a bank or using a debit card at an ATM. [CNN](#) reports that non-Chinese credit cards can be linked to AliPay or WeChat Pay. For a detailed guide on using these apps, visit the [Travel Intern](#).
- Useful Apps and Resources:** For translation, download Google Translate with Simplified Chinese and the [Pleco Chinese Dictionary](#) (or your preferred dictionary) app. For directions, download [maps.me](#) with the map of your destination city, [Baidu](#) (Chinese map app), and [DiDi](#) (rideshare app). For air quality alerts download the [EPA AirNow](#) app. For insights into Chinese culture and contemporary history, refer to the U-M [Global Road Warrior](#) library database for China.

### Planning for Personal Health, Well-Being, and Safe Computing During Travel



- Health & Safety:**
  - Research public health conditions of concern in China through [CDC Traveler's Health](#) page, CDC [Travel Health Notices](#), and the [Crisis24 Health report for China](#) resources.
  - Review the [U-M Travel Health Preparation Guide](#) and [Resilient Traveling](#) modules to reflect on your health and wellness vulnerabilities in the context of your travel plans.
  - Visit the [UHS Travel Health Services](#) to receive healthcare services tailored to China and connect with a CAPS counselor ([Ann Arbor](#), [Dearborn](#), or [Flint](#)) prior to departure, if needed. You can also access virtual health mental health counseling through [GeoBlue's Global Wellness Assist](#), as well as CAPS telehealth option through [UWill](#).
  - Familiarize yourself with your [GeoBlue Travel Abroad Health Insurance](#) benefits. Use your [GeoBlue insurance](#) account via web or app to locate medical facilities, schedule a [predeparture health consultation](#), mental health, and other appointments, and [look up medication access and equivalencies](#). **Note:** some medications may be illegal in China.
  - As described in the [OSAC China Country Security Report](#), "Chinese cities are generally safe when compared to other global cities" though U-M encourages travelers of higher risk of harassment / detention, as described below, to carefully consider travel plans. Make sure to assess potential safety risks by consulting the OSAC report, [Crisis24 China resources](#), and the [US Department of State Country Information Page for China](#), which provide safety, security, and health information.
- Risk of Harassment and Arbitrary Detention:**
  - Though most travelers will not experience safety or security concerns in China, some travelers may be at increased risk of harassment, secondary inspection at immigration, or arbitrary arrest. Travelers at increased risk may be involved with research or activism that is perceived as sensitive by the Chinese government (Pro-Taiwan or Pro-Tibet, Uyghur rights, labor rights, LGBTQ+ rights, etc.) Researchers working with high-value technology or intellectual property (AI, energy, etc, see [China Expands its Counter-Espionage Law](#)) should be aware of [China's espionage laws](#) that legalize arbitrary arrest, and should travel in accordance with [U-M safe computing protocols](#).
- Safe Computing:**
  - Travelers to China are strongly encouraged to follow [ITS' Security Guidelines for International Travelers](#). According to [NSPM-33 guidelines](#), faculty and students receiving federal funding for research in China must follow ITS safe computing guidelines. Additional resources include U-M [Know what you are taking with you](#), [U-M International Travel and Export Controls](#), and the "Mitigation" section of OSAC's [The Effects of China's New Data Security Law and VPN Restrictions on Information Security](#).