

## COUNTRY REPORT

### **Aspiring migrants' behaviour in mobility policies: the case of Hong Kong and mainland China**

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**AspirE** – Asian prospects in (re)migration to/within the EU – is a three-year research project (2023-2025) that examines the decision making of aspiring (re)migrants from selected Southeast and East Asian countries (China, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) to and within selected EU member countries (Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy and Portugal).

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## **Executive summary**

This is the Hong Kong and China country report within the framework of WP2-Work Package 2 in the AspirE project. The report analyses the population and emigration situations of Hong Kong and China. It looks at the emigration situation to the six selected European countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy and Portugal. It examines the (im)mobility policies of Hong Kong and China within their socio-historical context. The report also looks into the relationship between Hong Kong and China and the six selected EU countries regarding the six policies of interest to the AspirE project, namely, labour migration, family reunification, tourism, investment based-migration, student migration, and Schengen policies. It highlights differences in treatment between citizens of Hong Kong and China with regard to short-term migration and tourism, which is the result of the historical and political evolution of the two territories. Regarding long-term migration (e.g. for labour, study, and family reunification), there is no discernible difference in treatment of the two territories by the six selected European countries.

## **Keywords**

Hong Kong, China, European Union, migration policy, (im)mobilities

## Abbreviations:

- Apostille - Hague Additional Certificate
- ALTE - Association of Language Testers in Europe
- ADS - Approved Destination Status
- AFAM - Alta formazione artistica, musicale e coreutica
- APS - The Academic Evaluation Center
- ATV – Airport Transit Visa
- BA - Bundesagentur für Arbeit
- BC - British Citizen
- BDTC - British Dependent Territories Citizens
- BN(O) - British National (Overseas) Passport
- CDTA - Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation
- CEPA – Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement
- CI - Certificate of Identification
- CIMEA - Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence
- CNCC - Certificate of No Criminal Conviction
- EEA - European Economic Area
- ENIC-NARI - European Network of Information Centres in the European Region
- ETO - Economic and Trade Office
- ETIAS - European Travel and Authorisation System
- ETP - Exchange Traded Products
- eID - Electronic Identity Card
- ELY (elinkeino-, liikenne ja ympäristökeskus) - Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
- EU - European Union
- EU/EEE - Certificado de Registo para cidadão da UE/EEE/Suíça
- FAO - Foreign Affairs Office
- FPS - Federal Public Service Finance
- HKSAR - Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
- HKDI - Hong Kong Documents of Identity
- HKHCR - Hong Kong High Court Registry
- HKID - Hong Kong Identity Card
- ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization
- IPPA - Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement
- IVS - Individual Visit Scheme
- LTV – Visa with Limited Territorial Validity
- MEV – Multiple Entry Visa
- MJA - Mutual Juridical Assistance
- MLA - Mutual Legal Assistance
- MIUR - Italian Ministry of University and Research
- MOE - Ministry of Education
- MOI - Ministry of Interior
- NARIC - National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union
- NSL - National Security Law
- PR - Permanent Resident
- PRC - People’s Republic of China
- SAR - Special Administrative Region

- SCMP - South China Morning Post
- SEF - Immigration and Border Services
- SFOA - Surrender of Fugitive Offenders Agreements
- SPW - Surrender of Persons Wanted
- TCNs - Third Country Nationals
- TSP - Transfer of Sentenced Persons
- ULB - Université Libre de Bruxelles
- VFS - Visa Facilitation Services Global
- WHSA - Working Holiday Scheme Agreement
- WTO - World Trade Organization
- WWII - World War Two

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## **Introduction**

### **Hong Kong's general migration situation**

Hong Kong is a city located in Southern China; its character as a migrant town and a transit spot stretches “a long way into the past” (Skeldon, 2016, p.133). Hong Kong's migrant history has always been inextricably linked to China. Since ancient times, Hong Kong has been a transitory stop for migrants, services and goods (Skeldon, 2016; Wong, 1992) and it continuously to plays a critical role in the out-migration of Chinese and the (re)in-migration of Chinese and people of other countries.

While there have always been internal movements by labourers between the southern province of Guangdong and Hong Kong, and movement of goods and services in and out due to the entrepôt status of the territory, Hong Kong benefitted particularly from two major migration waves from China in the middle of the 20th century, when it was a British crown colony. The first migration wave occurred during the Chinese Communist took over in 1949, when over a million refugees fled China and arrived in Hong Kong. This first wave of immigrants from China brought with them their capital and labourers (So, 2016), leading Wong (1988) to term this the migration of the “elites”. The second wave occurred during the late 1970s due to Cultural Revolution in China, when almost half a million entered Hong Kong from China, bringing in a young labour force and providing human resources for Hong Kong's development. With the radical changes in China's geopolitical situation between the 1950s and the late 1970s, Hong Kong's economy shifted from one “first from entrepôt to manufacturing during the period from 1951 to the late 1970s, and then from manufacturing to producer services since the late 1970s.” (Tao and Wong, 2017 p.248). The generations that have settled in Hong Kong identify themselves as Hong Kongers due to the denationalization policy of Britain (Faure, 1997; Ku, 2004; So, 2016). Even though people still use Hong Kong as a gateway to and from China and the rest of the world, there is a growing population in Hong Kong who call the migrant city home.

Once a haven for migrants, and thriving on its immigrants' capital and labour resources, Hong Kong underwent a major shift from being an immigrant hub to being a source of population exodus with the impending handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997. Hong Kong migrants mainly emigrated to English-speaking countries such as Canada, the UK (United Kingdom), the US (United States) and Australia, with some moving to European countries including France, Italy and others (Goldammer, 1995, p.269; Sung, 1997, p.714). However, a new wave of exodus from Hong Kong began amidst the political turmoil in 2019.

Hong Kong's current population stands at 7,498,100 2023, a 0.4% increase from a population of 7,346,100 in mid-2022. While the population of Hong Kong has generally been growing, there were two years in which its population showed a very unusual downturn. In 2021, a 0.09% decline was recorded compared to the previous year, and in 2022 there was a further 0.08% decline, compared to 2021 (see Table 1 and Figure 2). The decline in population in these two years may be attributable to the reported out-migration because of the fear of the National Security law, which was implemented in 2020 in the aftermath of the 2019 anti-extradition bill protests. At the same time, several significant moves from other countries in response to the nascent National Security Law in Hong Kong also contributed to the outflow of Hong Kongers:



- the UK government introduced the new BN(O) – British National (Overseas) – passport visa policy in 2020, allowing BN(O) holders to apply for a visa which potentially leads to citizenship in the UK;
- the Canadian government announced a new policy in 2021 which allows eligible Hong Kong residents to apply for a three-year open work permit leading to citizenship;
- Australia announced a change of policy for Hong Kong SAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or BN(O) passport holders to be able to apply for a five-year temporary graduate visa.

These recent migration policies have triggered an outflow of Hong Kong people to the UK, Canada and Australia. The number of BN(O) passport visas reached 75,579 in 2021, with a further 53,836 issued in 2022. As of 30 April 2023, Canada had welcomed 3,122 individuals under the permanent residence pathways for Hong Kong residents (2,358 for Stream A and 764 for Stream B). In 2022, a total of 4,312 visas were granted to Hong Kong immigrants by Australian government, three times the number of visas granted in 2019–2020 (1,391 visas) and in 2021–2022, a total of 4,237 visas were granted by the Australian government.

To briefly summarize the size of overseas Hong Kong populations, data from various traditional migration destinations for Hong Kong people are referenced. The migration policy institute in the US estimated that there were over 248,000 Hong Kong-born people in the US by 2021 (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/chinese-immigrants-united-states>). In Canada, 213,855 Hong Kong immigrants were recorded in the 2021 census. The UK census of 2021 showed that there were 117,714 Hong Kong-born residents living in the UK; and the 2021 census in Australia showed 104,990 Hong Kong-born residents living in Australia.

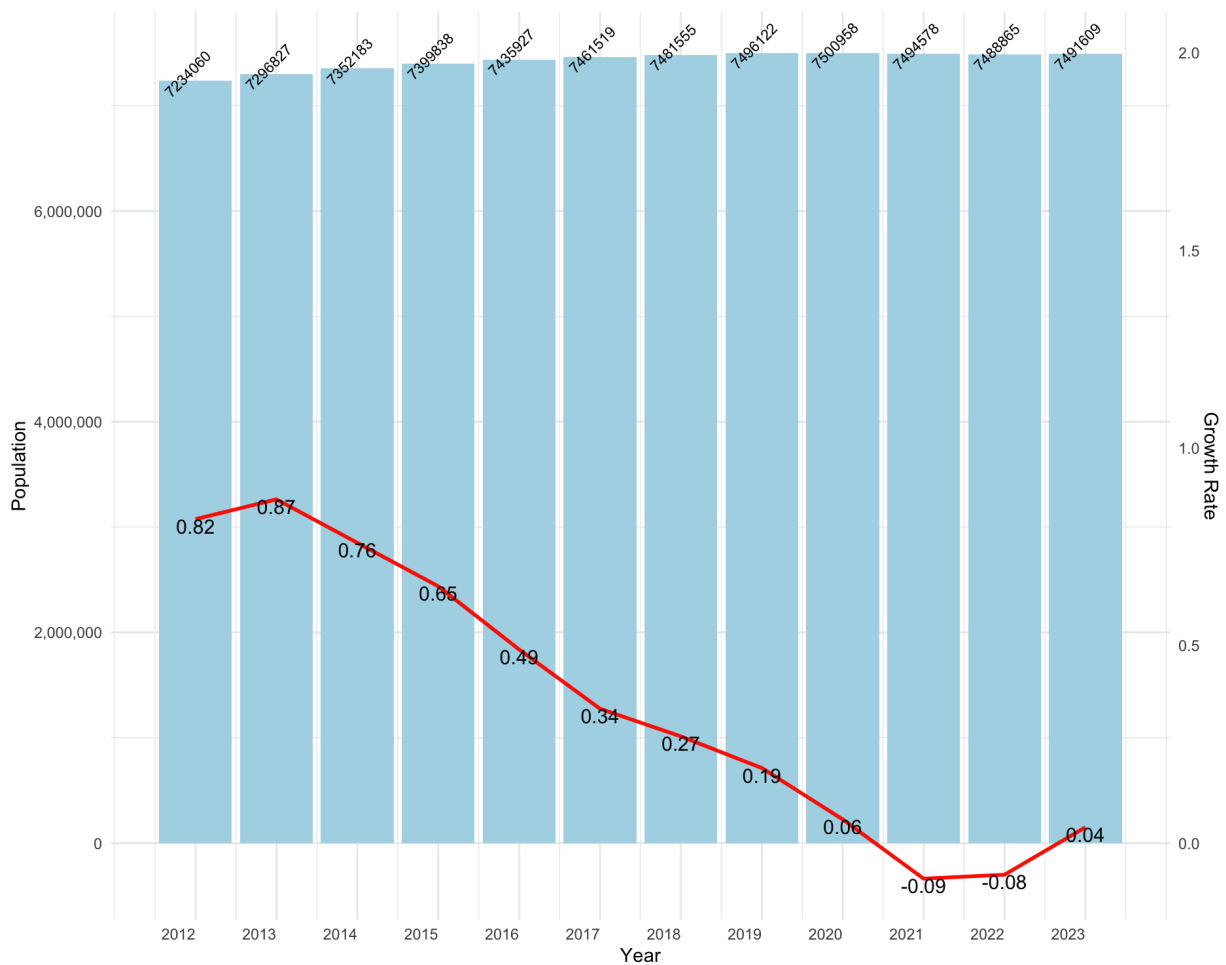
Table 1: Hong Kong population and growth rate, 2012–2023

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Growth Rate</b>
2012	7,234,060	0.82%
2013	7,296,827	0.87%
2014	7,352,183	0.76%
2015	7,399,838	0.65%
2016	7,435,927	0.49%
2017	7,461,519	0.34%
2018	7,481,555	0.27%
2019	7,496,122	0.19%
2020	7,500,958	0.06%

2021	7,494,578	-0.09%
2022	7,488,865	-0.08%
2023	7,491,609	0.04%

Source: Own representation based on Macrotrends: <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/HKG/hong-kong/population>

Figure 2: Hong Kong population and growth rate, 2012–2023



Source: Own representation based on Macrotrends: <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/HKG/hong-kong/population>

It is important to highlight that Hong Kong citizens are not required to report their intended destination when they leave the country, hence, there are no official figures from the Hong Kong government for the whereabouts of departing Hong Kong citizens. The migration pattern of Hong Kongers can best be discerned indirectly, through the following indicators:

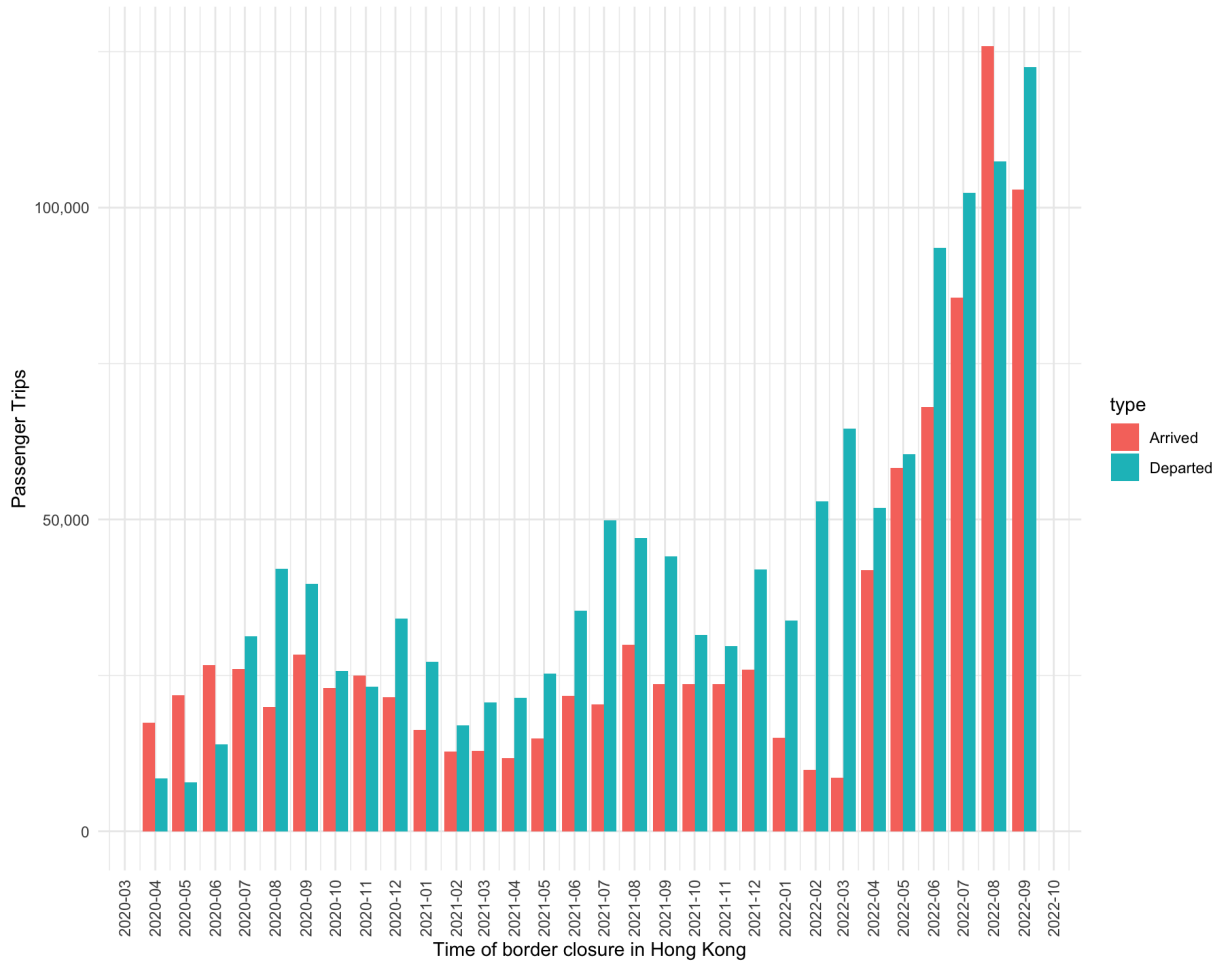
1. the number of people withdrawing their Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF: a pension-like scheme) early;

2. the number of people paying off any taxes that are due;
3. migrant numbers obtained from third countries.

The early withdrawal of MPF, as well as the clearance of taxes, might indicate “early retirement, permanent departure from Hong Kong. But it could also mean total incapacity, terminal illness, small balance or death” (MPFA, 2020) ; furthermore, not all migrants are eligible and/or willing to apply for the early withdrawal. Another potentially useful indicator is the number of people departing Hong Kong as recorded by the airport during the Covid-19 pandemic (2020–2022). In normal circumstances, this international hub sees a high volume of departures and arrivals simultaneously. Under the Hong Kong government’s strict quarantine policies during the pandemic, tourism and short business trips were severely restricted, if not suspended. Nevertheless, a significant volume of net outward movement was still recorded during the pandemic. It is believed that these net outward movements were associated with migrations.

Therefore, in this report, we will mainly adopt the number of people departing from Hong Kong during the pandemic (2020–2022), as recorded by the airport, as a reference point. In 2021 and 2022, the net migration figures are **-153,448 and -304,050**, respectively, with the number of departures exceeding the number of arrivals (see Figure 3 and Table 2), suggesting a “new wave of migration” (Chan et al., 2022). The numbers correspond to the new measures initiated by countries like the UK, Canada and Australia, described above, that attracted an outflow of migration from the territory. We will also consider the numbers given by third countries in the following sections. However, it is important to reiterate that these are all estimates since each country may also have different ways to calculate people’s movement.

Figure 3: Arrivals and departures via Hong Kong International Airport during the pandemic



Source: Own representation based on Passenger traffic of Hong Kong airport 2020–2023 and “Webb-site Reports”: <https://webb-site.com/dbpub/hkpax.asp?t=1&p=1&f=0<sup>3</sup>>.

Table 4: Passenger traffic: Hong Kong residents, International Airport

Year	Arrived	Departed	Net in /out
2020	1,253,623	1,109,740	143,883
2021	237,304	390,752	<b>-153,448</b>
2022	1,461,016	1,765,066	<b>-304,050</b>
2023	7,402,501	7,338,249	64,252

Note: Own representation based on 2020 data recorded from 24 January 2020; 2023 data updated to 31 October 2023

## China’s general migration situation

Throughout its history, Hong Kong has been closely connected with mainland China, as a part of different Chinese dynastic empires through its history. The territory was separated from mainland China when it was ceded to the then-British Empire after the Opium War in 1841. Colonial Hong Kong did not sever its ties with China; rather, it was the policy of the British colonial government to allow the Chinese free cross-border movement, because of Hong Kong’s cultural and economic links with China (Ku, 2004). However, with tensions mounting over the influx of refugees since 1950 because of the Chinese Communist Party took control of mainland China in 1949, the British colonial government began to impose policies to restrict the flow of refugees from China. Meanwhile, China’s migration policy also took a sharp turn, restricting movement and monitoring people leaving the country.

With a population of 1.4 billion in 2022, China’s population saw its first decline in over 60 years because of the dwindling birth rate and outmigration of the Chinese (SCMP, 2023). Chinese people continue to move around for study, work or pleasure. From 2007 to 2009, the National Immigration Administration recorded tens of millions of departures and arrivals; this figure surged to hundreds of millions from 2010 until 2019. We should point out that the data on departures/arrivals on the Chinese government website are incomplete: there are no available data for 2020, and some numbers are missing for 2012, 2017 and 2018 (see Table 5).

Table 5: Mainland China: Citizens’ departures/arrivals 2007–2023

Year	Mainland citizens departures/arrivals	Remarks
2007	81,328,500	
2008	91,000,000	
2009	94,915,000	
2010	<b>114,000,000</b>	
2011	<b>140,000,000</b>	
2012	38,564,000	No figures for 3rd and 4th quarters
2013	<b>196,000,000</b>	
2014	<b>232,534,169</b>	
2015	<b>255,397,269</b>	
2016	<b>273,174,283</b>	
2017	<b>215,990,631</b>	No figures for 4th quarter

2018	<b>246,917,766</b>	No figures for 4th quarter
2019	<b>350,000,000</b>	
2020	N/A	No data for 2020
2021	74,234,000	
2022	64,635,000	
2023	8,0276,000	Figures for 1st and 2nd quarters only

Source: Own representation based on National Immigration Administration:  
<https://www.nia.gov.cn/n794014/n1050181/n1050498/index.html>

To throw light on the number of departures from Hong Kong and mainland China to Europe, data were gathered on the number of Schengen visas issued through embassies (and consulates in Hong Kong) of the six selected countries of the EU (European Union) – Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, and Portugal. These data from Eurostat show that applications from China and Hong Kong for Schengen visas were still being submitted in 2020, while Covid was ravaging the world and travel was severely restricted, although the number was drastically reduced (see Table 6 and Figure 7). The figures show that the number of Schengen visas issued surged between 2017 and 2019, reaching over 1.2 million visas issued in 2019. With the outbreak of Covid in 2020, the number of visas dropped to 87,094 in total, falling again in 2021, when Covid was rampant, to just 9,082. The figure started to bounce back in 2022, when Europe opened up and the situation in China and Hong Kong improved, reaching 31,244 visas issued.

Visa-application figures reveal that the most popular destinations for Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese tourists among the six selected EU countries were Italy and Germany, followed by the Czech Republic, Belgium, Finland and Portugal. While we see an accelerated growth in the number of Schengen visa applications for all six selected EU countries between 2014 and 2017, some countries have witnessed a slight decrease in terms of visa applications since then (e.g. Belgium in 2018 and 2019; Germany in 2019), with countries like the Czech Republic and Italy picking up steam.

A breakdown of the number of visas issued to China and to Hong Kong can be found in Figure 8, and highlights an interesting phenomenon. There are relatively few Schengen visa applications submitted from Hong Kong because neither HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passport holders nor BN(O) passport holders are required to apply for Schengen visas. The small number of Schengen visa applications that are submitted in Hong Kong come from applicants who are foreign nationals – holding foreign passports – but who are HKID (Hong Kong Identity) cardholders. They may be permanent residents or visa holders (both categories possess the Hong Kong Identity Card) holding foreign passports which require Schengen visas. Alternatively, they may be from mainland China, living in Hong Kong as permanent residents but not as citizens, or holding a valid student, dependant or talent scheme visa in Hong Kong, which entitles them to be Hong Kong Identity Card holders. Yet, with Chinese passports, they will also be required to apply for Schengen visas.

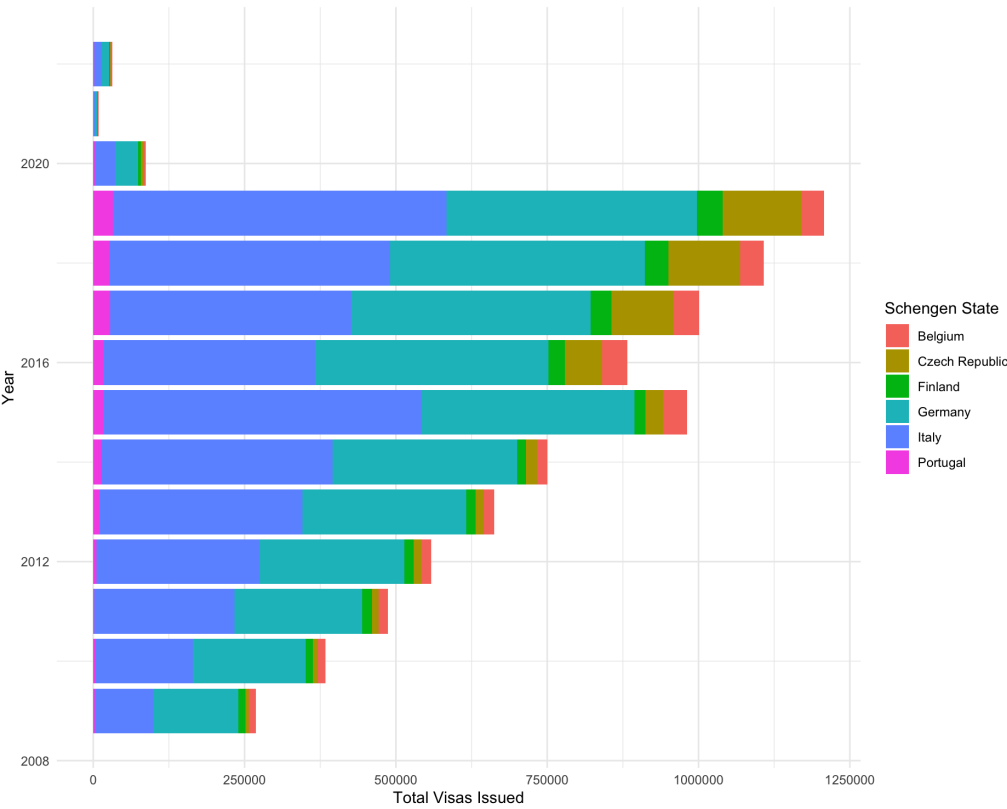
Table 6: Number of Schengen visas issued by six EU countries' embassies in mainland China and Hong Kong, 2009–2022

<b>Year</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>Total * Visas Issued</b>
<b>2009</b>	11,124	6,109	11,259	140,155	97,512	2,292	<b>268,451</b>
<b>2010</b>	12,199	7,866	12,162	186,204	161,392	3,493	<b>383,316</b>
<b>2011</b>	15,608	11,381	16,301	210,267	231,717	2,003	<b>487,277</b>
<b>2012</b>	16,395	12,846	15,340	238,415	270,122	5,055	<b>558,173</b>
<b>2013</b>	16,444	14,175	15,255	270,679	335,444	10,088	<b>662,085</b>
<b>2014</b>	16,821	18,214	15,017	304,815	380,678	14,582	<b>750,127</b>
<b>2015</b>	40,264	28,967	18,413	351,585	526,426	15,715	<b>981,370</b>
<b>2016</b>	41,422	61,287	27,901	385,476	350,239	15,980	<b>882,305</b>
<b>2017</b>	42,270	102,166	34,243	395,622	398,143	28,325	<b>1,000,769</b>
<b>2018</b>	38,708	119,363	38,375	420,877	463,622	26,951	<b>1,107,896</b>
<b>2019</b>	38,404	128,798	43,256	413,321	551,268	32,450	<b>1,207,497</b>
<b>2020</b>	2,646	5,845	4,728	38,016	33,519	2,340	<b>87,094</b>
<b>2021</b>	1,844	270	526	4,122	1,796	524	<b>9,082</b>
<b>2022</b>	2,899	855	1,539	12,436	11,485	2,030	<b>31,244</b>

Note: \* includes ADS group, MEVs and LTVs, excludes ATVs

Source: Own representation based on Eurostat data: [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/visa-policy\\_en#paragraph\\_1903](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/visa-policy_en#paragraph_1903)

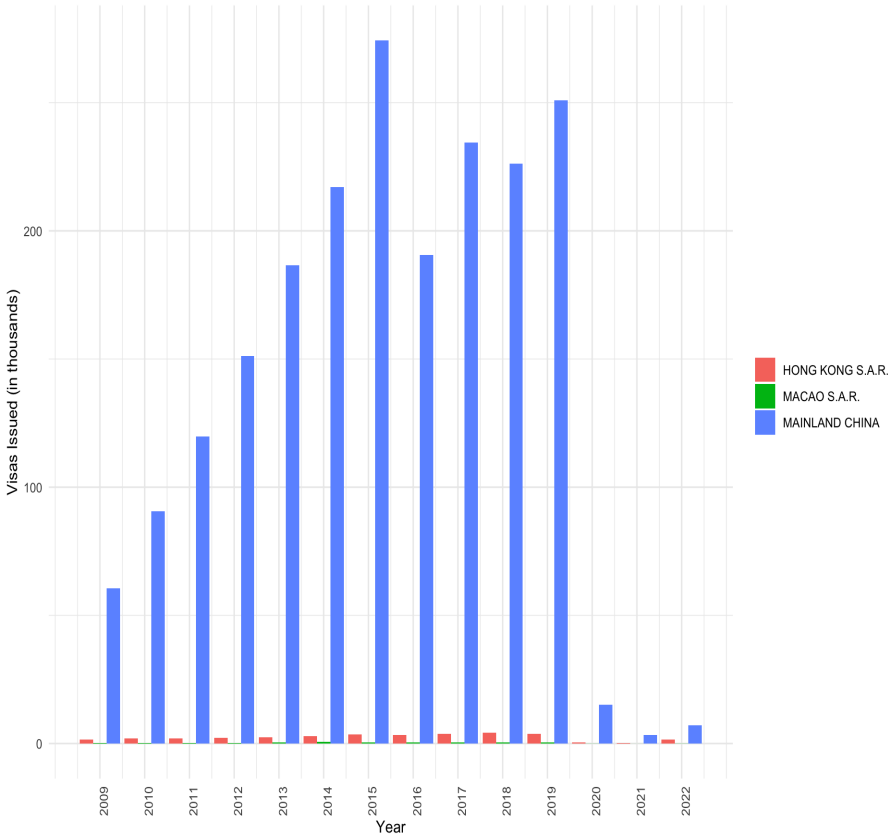
Figure 7: Trend of Schengen visas issued by the six selected EU countries



Source: Own representation based on Eurostat: [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/visa-policy\\_en#paragraph\\_1903](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/visa-policy_en#paragraph_1903).



Figure 8: Schengen visas issued in mainland China, Macau and Hong Kong SAR



Note: for visas for Portugal, Hong Kong residents need to go to the Portuguese Embassy in Macau  
 Source: Own representation based on Eurostat data

There were no figures regarding main destinations for departing Chinese passengers prior to 2022. However, the Chinese government released information on the major destinations for mainland Chinese departing in mid-2023, as tourism resumed after the pandemic. A report compiled by the Data Centre of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (China Tourism Academy) shows that the top destinations remain in Asia, with the US as the top destination for Western countries. Germany, which ranks 12th on the list, and Spain (20th), are the only European countries (excluding the UK) that feature in the top 20 destinations of mainland Chinese departing directly from Chinese airports (Table 9).

Table 9: The top 20 destinations of mainland Chinese departing directly from mainland China in first half 2023

Ranking	Destination	Percentage (%)
1	Thailand	16.24
2	Japan	12.05
3	Singapore	8.69
4	Korea	7.60
5	Myanmar	4.99
6	USA	4.91
7	Australia	4.07
8	Malaysia	3.32
9	Vietnam	3.28
10	Brazil	2.91
11	United Kingdom	2.67
12	Germany	2.38
13	Indonesia	2.16
14	UAE	2.08
15	Canada	1.54
16	Laos	1.42
17	Philippines	1.39
18	Russia	1.30
19	Cambodia	1.21
20	Spain	0.95

Source: “2023 First Half Year Travel Statistic Report”: Own representation based on China Tourism Academy <https://shorturl.at/lrERY>

These departure figures can only tell a partial picture of mainland Chinese migrants, whether their movements are temporary (short-term) or permanent (long-term). This is because mainland Chinese could also leave through Hong Kong or Macau. The destination data shown in Table 9 suggest more short-term migratory movements, such as travel for vacation, study, or short business trips.

In addition, it remains unclear whether the number of Chinese tourists visiting Western countries, including the US, UK and European countries, will recover to reach or surpass pre-Covid levels. Many social, economic and political factors have significantly changed since the pandemic. As demonstrated by trends in international student mobility, the pandemic has “re-ordered the factors that students are considering [to] study abroad”, including health and safety concerns, geographic and cultural proximity, etc. (Mok et al., 2021). Chinese state media has also reported that “deteriorating US-China relations” affect Chinese students’ plans to continue their academic journey abroad (Zhang, 2023).

Table 10 and Figure 11 show the number of tourists to the six selected EU countries from 2005 to 2022. There was a steady increase from 2005 onwards, with a more marked surge in the numbers visiting the six selected EU countries between 2015 and 2019. There have been several developments between the individual countries and China, which appear to have influenced the numbers. While we see a progressive increase in all countries, numbers soared in Portugal after 2012, the Czech Republic after 2016, and Finland after 2015. In Portugal, the Golden Visa started in 2012, which may have attracted certain Chinese visitors – Chinese who want to invest in Portugal often visit the country first as tourists. In 2015, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the government of the Czech Republic signed a series of Memoranda of Understanding on Financial Strategic Cooperation and issued a joint statement on tourism exchanges and cooperation. For Finland, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding establishing cultural centres and a Memorandum of Cooperation on education, in 2015, there were also a number of Sino-Finnish projects on arts and innovation. At the same time, China was experiencing exponential economic growth. China’s GDP per capita rose year by year from US\$1,753.4 in 2005 to US\$6,003.6 in 2012. It then grew more slowly from US\$8,016.4 in 2015 to US\$8,094.4 in 2016 before rising steadily again to US\$10,143.9 in 2019. The opening up of China and the increasing wealth of many Chinese have both helped trigger the sudden surge of tourists to European countries.

Table 10: Chinese arrivals at tourist accommodation of six selected EU countries

<b>Year</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2005</b>	108,702	17,806	37,435	418,235	727,590	16,971	<b>1,326,739</b>
<b>2006</b>	107,376	29,710	49,418	441,495	816,940	22,102	<b>1,467,041</b>
<b>2007</b>	98,150	38,421	53,299	462,099	806,129	23,529	<b>1,481,627</b>
<b>2008</b>	74,959	53,108	39,866	421,270	716,545	23,152	<b>1,328,900</b>
<b>2009</b>	75,216	61,798	32,603	383,324	727,570	21,929	<b>1,302,440</b>
<b>2010</b>	79,908	79,186	39,217	509,388	965,857	29,424	<b>1,702,980</b>
<b>2011</b>	101,448	108,629	50,280	635,660	1,342,518	37,587	<b>2,276,122</b>
<b>2012</b>	122,054	152,866	67,693	755,485	1,583,479	51,932	<b>2,733,509</b>
<b>2013</b>	149,399	174,263	89,670	867,995	1,850,206	81,382	<b>3,212,915</b>

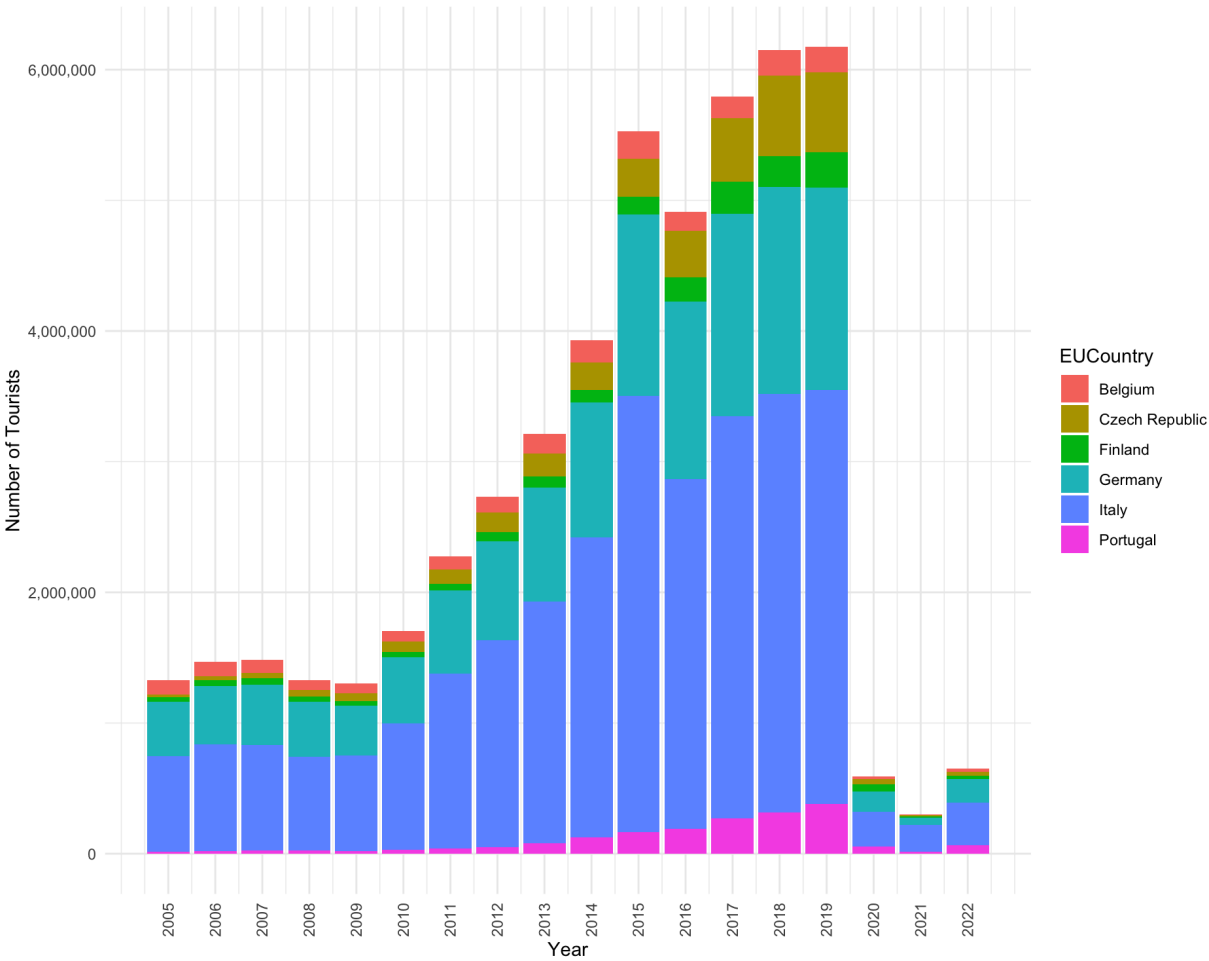
<b>2014</b>	169,075	211,014	97,815	1,030,245	2,297,699	124,797	<b>3,930,645</b>
<b>2015</b>	209,045	288,630	138,857	1,383,953	3,338,155	167,567	<b>5,526,207</b>
<b>2016</b>	147,654	355,847	184,859	1,357,647	2,678,626	189,212	<b>4,913,845</b>
<b>2017</b>	165,425	489,845	241,046	1,550,911	3,077,279	271,064	<b>5,795,570</b>
<b>2018</b>	193,143	617,935	237,074	1,583,352	3,200,847	317,697	<b>6,150,048</b>
<b>2019</b>	194,583	609,727	272,595	1,550,172	3,167,960	378,981	<b>6,174,018</b>
<b>2020</b>	19,370	38,855	54,953	157,630	264,993	54,981	<b>590,782</b>
<b>2021</b>	9,553	7,109	9,592	54,762	204,874	16,726	<b>302,616</b>
<b>2022</b>	23,944	34,123	25,479	178,483	323,918	66,392	<b>652,339</b>

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Source: Own representation based on Eurostat:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tour\\_occ\\_arnraw\\_custom\\_8747589/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tour_occ_arnraw_custom_8747589/default/table?lang=en)

Figure 11: Chinese tourists by year to six selected EU countries



Source: Own representation based on Eurostat

While the Chinese diaspora is known to be everywhere, the major destinations are Asian countries and English-speaking countries, with the US being the top destination for mainland Chinese immigrants. In general, Chinese migrants were estimated to number 2.4 million as of 2021 (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/chinese-immigrants-united-states>). Canada was the second most popular destination for mainland Chinese immigrants (1.7 million, 2021<sup>i</sup>) with Australia third (1.4 million as of 2021<sup>ii</sup>). The biggest group of Chinese in Europe (excluding 445,646 Chinese immigrants in the UK<sup>iii</sup>) is Italy (291,185 in 2021).

The statistics on the number of Chinese (including Hong Kong) migrants in the six selected EU countries show that Italy has the largest Chinese population, followed by Germany, Portugal,

Belgium and Finland, with the Czech Republic having the smallest Chinese population (see Table 12). While the numbers of Hong Kong and mainland Chinese arriving and departing in the short-term may fluctuate, the overall trend in number of Chinese migrants is rising.

Table 12: Number of Chinese migrants (including Hong Kong) in the six selected EU countries, 2020–2022

Country	2020	2021	2022
Belgium	13,479	13,037	13,544
Czech Republic	7,992	7,879	7,962
Finland	10,458	11,405	12,297
Germany <sup>a</sup>	145,610	146,450	149,550
Italy	279,728	291,185	300,216
Portugal	26,138 <sup>b</sup>	22,976 <sup>c</sup>	22,227 <sup>d</sup>

Notes:

a) Chinese ethnic:

[https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Society-Environment/Population/Migration/\\_node.html](https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Society-Environment/Population/Migration/_node.html)

b) SEF Report 2020: <https://sefstat.sef.pt/Docs/Rifa2020.pdf>

c) SEF Report 2021: <https://sefstat.sef.pt/Docs/Rifa2021.pdf>

d) [https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/system/files/2023-07/RIFA2022\\_SEF%20Annual%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/system/files/2023-07/RIFA2022_SEF%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf)

Source: Own representation based on Data based on the respective EU countries' population statistics; Chinese population in Portugal is calculated based on Sefstat and Eurostat data.

The data obtained on various types of residence permits in the six selected countries also reflect a generally increasing trend (see Table 13 and Figure 14). For the year 2020, there is a sudden drop in the number of education residence permits and employment residence permits, which is likely to be due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With regard to family permits, the numbers show no dramatic change.

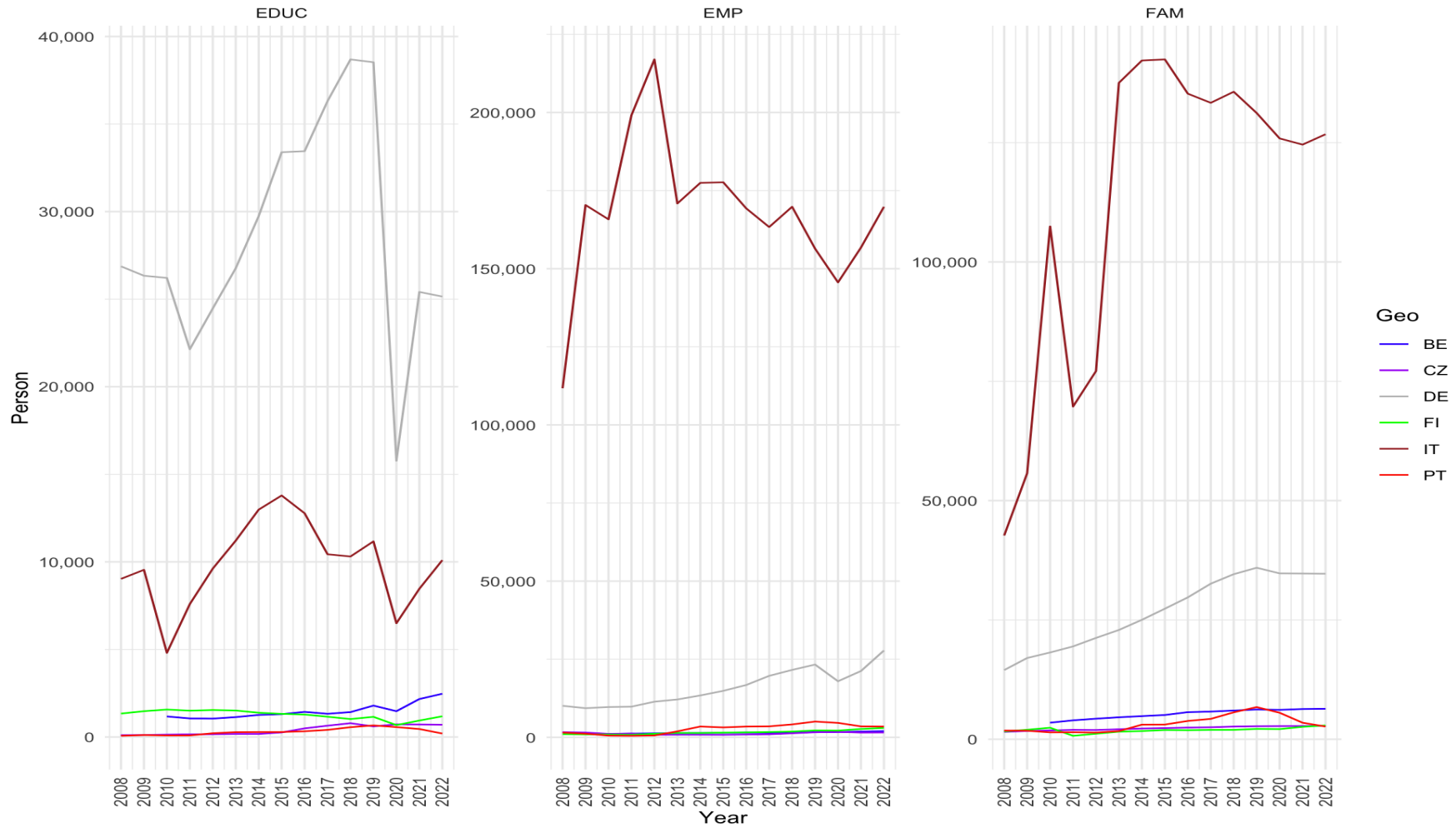
Table 13: Residence permits for Chinese for employment, education and family reasons in the six selected EU countries

<b>Employment reasons</b>															
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>BE</b>	N/A	N/A	1,075	1,201	1,273	1,374	1,388	1,453	1,558	1,509	1,571	1,681	1,726	1,852	1,990
<b>CZ</b>	1,655	1,537	1,122	1,207	820	851	843	811	917	982	1,298	1,623	1,763	1,522	1,550
<b>DE</b>	10,098	9,331	9,706	9,818	11,412	12,120	13,411	14,880	16,751	19,677	215,84	23,292	17952	21,229	27,797
<b>IT</b>	111,730	170,378	165,796	199,111	216,985	170,886	177,469	177,660	169,307	163,332	169,824	156,417	145,615	156,771	169,812
<b>PT</b>	1,514	1,177	540	483	591	1,924	3,466	3,182	3,453	3,517	4,132	5,055	4,625	3,510	3,460
<b>FI</b>	1,014	957	896	815	1,146	1,406	1,385	1,513	1,580	1,703	1,851	2,214	2,169	2,672	3,012
<b>Education reasons</b>															
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>BE</b>	N/A	N/A	1,172	1,059	1,048	1,134	1,258	1,302	1,433	1,324	1,419	1,792	1,471	2,166	2,468
<b>CZ</b>	104	108	133	150	158	173	172	259	491	645	785	604	719	713	700
<b>DE</b>	26,875	26,338	26,212	22,140	24,472	26,767	29,742	33,389	33,450	36,310	38,690	38,528	15,771	25,412	25,149
<b>IT</b>	9,027	9,544	4,802	7,590	9,615	11,211	12,981	13,789	12,774	10,432	10,306	11,169	6,493	8,462	10,096
<b>PT</b>	65	110	86	87	212	275	283	284	325	405	558	660	564	454	196
<b>FI</b>	1,335	1,472	1,566	1,502	1,539	1,511	1,384	1,320	1,281	1,156	1,023	1,150	677	938	1,182
<b>Family reasons</b>															
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>BE</b>	N/A	N/A	3,473	3,963	4,308	4,605	4,848	5,084	5,678	5,801	6,015	6,237	6,159	6,329	6,380
<b>CZ</b>	1,540	1,751	1,847	1,961	1,934	2,095	2,249	2,332	2,445	2,516	2,661	2,734	2,758	2,774	2,800
<b>DE</b>	14,495	17,023	18,180	19,453	21,231	22,982	25,027	27,353	29,724	32,595	34,582	35,934	34,755	34,724	34,681
<b>IT</b>	42,689	55,730	107,445	69,699	77,142	137,538	142,207	142,435	135,258	133,342	135,660	131,202	125,881	124,584	126,754
<b>PT</b>	1,830	1,786	1,446	1,473	1,397	1,712	3,061	3,076	3,839	4,268	5,641	6,739	5,552	3,462	2,663
<b>FI</b>	1,648	1,990	2,414	718	1,158	1,588	1,718	1,935	1,897	1,960	1,966	2,166	2,128	2,604	2,894

Source: Own representation based on data from Eurostat:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr\\_resvalid\\_\\_custom\\_8626998/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_resvalid__custom_8626998/default/table?lang=en)

Figure 14: Trends of three types of residence permit in the six selected EU countries





Source: Own representation based on data from Eurostat:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr\\_resvalid\\_\\_custom\\_8626998/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_resvalid__custom_8626998/default/table?lang=en)

Of the six selected EU countries, Italy and Germany are the top destinations for employment, education and family residence permits. Italy tops in residence permits for family and employment reasons. Germany is a popular destination for study, with the highest number of education residence permits. While Finland and Belgium show a steady increase in all categories, Portugal is particularly notable in granting residence permits to Chinese for employment and family reasons. However, the numbers in Portugal, Finland and Belgium remain less significant when compared with Italy and Germany. The Czech Republic data show a relatively steady increase in terms of family and employment residence permits, but the number of education residence permits fluctuates (Table 13 and Figure 14).

In some ways, the figures relating to residence permits share similarities with the figures for Schengen visa applications. Italy and Germany are the two top destinations in almost all visa and permit categories, whether short-term or long-term. The increasing number of student residence permits in all six selected EU countries suggests that there is a group of well-educated Chinese living in these countries. The situation that has evolved in recent decades is very different from the phenomenon of the early Chinese settlers in Europe, who were generally less educated and engaged in a very narrow range of work, such as sailors or cooks.

### **Demographics and characteristics of Hong Kong and mainland Chinese migrants: Then and now**

Overseas Chinese have a long history of interaction with Europe that can be dated to the ancient dynasty of Ming (1368–1644). In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Chinese migrants – whether from Hong Kong or mainland China – were generally poor, low-skilled and male, and looking for better economic conditions (Pang, 1998, quoting Pang 1996; Skeldon, 1994, 2016; Xiang, 2016). In Belgium, as in other European countries, the first groups of Chinese who arrived mainly consisted of single male sailors who jumped ship in search of a better life. They began working as cooks, chefs and kitchen staff; eventually, some would start their own Chinese restaurant or takeaway business (Skeldon, 2016; Watson, 1977).

The socio-demographic patterns of the Hong Kong and mainland Chinese migrants have changed over time. In the six selected European countries, the socio-demographic patterns of the Hong Kong and Chinese migrants have undergone a dramatic transformation in terms of diversity of socio-economic background, gender and sectors/professions in which migrants are engaged. For mainland Chinese migrants, there is a widening divergence between wealthy, high-skilled professionals and low-skilled, low-income migrants (Xiang, 2016). There are also other reasons for mainland Chinese to migrate to Europe, including studying (e.g. through student exchange programmes in the six selected countries), family reunification, tourism, migration through certain European countries' investment policies, self-employment and entrepreneurship. There are also Chinese migrant workers who use agencies to arrange their migration to Europe for work (Plewa & Stermsek, 2017). Migrants are a mix of young and middle-aged, single and married, while some bring their parents with them. Traditionally, the coastal provinces of Zhejiang, Wenzhou and Fujian were the source of most mainland Chinese who migrated to Europe (Li, 2001), especially to Italy (Pedone, 2013). Now, however, increasing numbers of Chinese citizens from different parts of China are migrating to Europe.

Hong Kong migrants mainly fall into the following categories: student migrants, migrants for family reunification, professional migrants whose companies deploy them for work, and those who migrate through the investment policies of particular European countries, especially the Golden Visa policy offered by the Portuguese government. A few migrants are political refugees who had to flee Hong Kong because of the 2019 social movement and some are currently residing in Germany. The Hong Kong migrants in the six selected European countries are mixed in terms of gender, and are relatively young. Those deployed by their companies and those migrating through investment channels since 2019 are usually middle to upper-class professionals. They see the acquisition of a European passport as a “potential escape” from Hong Kong’s political crisis (Montezuma & McGarrigle, 2019, p.3).

This introduction has outlined the migration situation of Hong Kong and mainland China, especially relating to the six selected European countries. Based on the statistics on the Schengen visas granted to mainland Chinese citizens and the population statistics of the six selected countries, we have also identified where the major Chinese clusters are situated. In the coming sections, we will analyse the mobility policies of the six selected EU countries, and examine the behaviour of the Hong Kong and mainland Chinese aspiring (re-)migrants in the six countries. Here, we define (re)migrants as those who migrate out of their home countries and if they remigrate, they may return to their home countries or migrate to other countries; for aspiring (re)migrants, it is defined as those who wish to be involved in the process of migration or remigration. The analysis aims to facilitate a global understanding of Hong Kong and mainland China as places, of aspiring migrants’ views concerning their movements to and within the EU, and of the impact of the EU’s existing mobility policies. Through this report, we address the question of how the migration and mobility policies of the six selected EU countries impact on the behaviour of aspiring re-migrants.

The next section focuses on the key mobility policies that regulate or control the emigration of Hong Kong and mainland Chinese citizens to the six selected EU countries and examines how such emigration policies have evolved in both places since World War Two (WWII). After a brief note on methodology, the following section will then look at policies in six areas of specific interest to the AspirE project: labour migration, family reunification, tourism, investment-based migration, student migration and Schengen. The report will show how mainland China and Hong Kong, while connected politically, have been treated differently by the EU in the context of certain migration policies.

## **The (im)mobility regime in Hong Kong and mainland China**

### **History of Hong Kong’s mobility policies**

Hong Kong has never changed the fundamental principle of its exit policies: it has always adopted freedom of movement as the basis for its policies, in line with its position as an entrepôt and transshipment port. However, the details of its exit policies have undergone several changes because of its unique position as a former colony. Prior to the handover to China in 1997, official travel documents included the Hong Kong Certificate of Identity (CI), as well as different categories of passport: British Dependent Territories Citizen (BDTC), BN(O) and British Citizen (BC) passports.

The CI was issued to Hong Kong permanent residents who did not hold and could not obtain any other valid travel documents for overseas travel. For example, permanent Hong Kong residents

who were citizens of the PRC (People's Republic of China) could not obtain a Chinese passport because they had already left China and were not part of the system of *hukou* (registered household system); nor were they eligible for a British passport unless they naturalized as a BC, BDTC, or BN(O) tied to Hong Kong. Most (but not all) former CI holders were PRC citizens without *hukou* who had acquired the right of abode in Hong Kong. Before the handover, the PRC only issued Home Return Permits for them to enter mainland China. If they did not choose to acquire British nationality through naturalization, they could apply for the CI as a travel document from the colonial Hong Kong Government. Travelling abroad was very difficult for CI holders because CI was not a proof of nationality, in contrast with a passport, thus rendering CI holders effectively “stateless”, even though most of them were Chinese nationals. Most countries and territories required CI holders to obtain visas before travelling.

British Dependent Territories Citizenship is a category of British nationality granted to people connected with one or more of the British Overseas Territories, e.g. the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands. They are connected to the former British Empire but do not have the right of abode in the UK. The British National (Overseas) passport was introduced in 1987 after the enactment of the Hong Kong Act in 1985. BN(O) citizens are permanent residents of Hong Kong who were British Territories Overseas citizens (formerly BDTC) until the handover on 30 June 1997, and who chose to remain British by registering for BN(O) citizenship when Hong Kong was still a British overseas territory. BN(O) citizens do not have the automatic right of abode in the UK unless they are also British Citizens.

Several things changed with the handover in 1997. BN(O) and BC passports remained valid, but travel documents such as CIs and BDTC passports were withdrawn from use. Before 1997, Hong Kong citizens who held Hong Kong citizenship were eligible to apply for BN(O) passports, and BN(O) passport holders who wanted to travel to the Schengen area were required to apply for Schengen visas. With the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty, the UK government, together with the nascent HKSAR government, lobbied other states, including EU countries, to provide visa-free entry to Hong Kong citizens who held BN(O) passports or the HKSAR passports. As a result, from 1997 onwards, holders of HKSAR or BN(O) passports were granted visa-free (short-term) travel in the Schengen area.

Since 31 January 2021, BN(O) holders have been able to apply for limited leave to remain in the UK to work or study, under a new visa scheme. After five years of qualifying residence, they become eligible for settled status (indefinite leave to remain). BN(O) citizens with settled status can register as British citizens after 12 months. The settlement scheme was launched after the Chinese central government imposed the controversial National Security Law on Hong Kong in 2020. While the UK considers the enactment of the National Security Law a violation of the “one country, two systems” principle guaranteed in the Sino-British Joint Declaration, an internationally binding treaty signed in 1984, the Hong Kong government responded to the British government's new initiative by declaring that BN(O) passports are no longer a valid travel document. However, many countries, including the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and European countries, still recognize the validity of the BN(O) document and grant it the same status as the HKSAR passport. Hong Kong citizens can thus use their HKSAR passport or BN(O) passport to arrive in the EU countries in the Schengen area without a visa, even though the Hong Kong government no longer recognises the BN(O) passport.

## History of mainland China's mobility policies

In mainland China, after the Chinese Communist Party took control in 1949, all passports were issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC. In 1956 the State Council declared that provinces with many overseas Chinese must set up special offices within the Ministry of Public Security to regulate exit and entry, and on 1 January 1957, the Ministry of Public Security took over processing passport applications for private purposes. There is another possible way of leaving the country – using seamen's exit papers. According to investigations by Xiang (2003, p.26), however, there were “no reports suggesting this type of paper was widely used for illegal exit”.

Compared to Hong Kong's freedom of movement policies, mainland China maintained a tight grip on exit policies, as the national border was always “highly politicised” (ibid.). At the height of the Cold War, the border of China was considered the “frontline between the ‘socialist’ and ‘capitalist’ worlds” (ibid.). Even the border between the PRC and the USSR was closely controlled, as relations between the two communist regimes turned sour not long after the PRC was established. Between the 1950s and the end of the 1970s, China restricted international student exchange programmes, with the Soviet Union being the most important destination country. Studying overseas was almost impossible for most Chinese citizens during the Cultural Revolution (ibid.). Chinese who emigrated spontaneously were seen as “betraying the socialist ideology” (ibid.).

As the Chinese Communist Party took over, there was an influx of refugees from China to Hong Kong, with the British government initially still granting freedom of movement to mainland Chinese to enter the territory, despite increasing tension and suspicion about political developments in China. The Immigration Control Bill of 1949, known as the Immigration Control Ordinance of the British colonial government in Hong Kong, together with the introduction of a quota system in 1950, brought about “the first turning point in immigration policy” between Hong Kong and mainland China (Ku, 2004, p.334). From that point on, the colonial government made changes to its immigration policies from time to time to halt the influx of mainland Chinese people fleeing into Hong Kong. Notably, the British colonial government introduced the so-called “touch base policy” in 1972, stating that illegal immigrants from China could only stay in Hong Kong if they had already successfully crossed the border and had settled accommodation. The policy was further tightened in 1980, with the declaration that illegal migrants would be repatriated immediately. A formal quota of 75 per day was agreed in 1982 between the colonial government and the central government of China, allowing limited numbers of mainland Chinese residents to leave the mainland permanently to settle in Hong Kong. The quota was increased to 150 per day in 1995 and remains in place today.

Since the 1997 handover, the relationship between Hong Kong and mainland China has been consolidated. For instance, in 2003, the mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) was signed between the central and SAR governments to foster economic exchange, and the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) was introduced. Prior to the signing of the CEPA, mainland travellers could only visit Hong Kong on group tours. Since the introduction of the IVS, millions of travellers from mainland China have visited Hong Kong every year.

Over the decades, mainland Chinese have not only left for Hong Kong; those who were living in the southern coastal areas like Zhejiang and Fujian provinces, which are close to Taiwan and subject to less vigilance from the Chinese government, emigrated on a large scale to other parts of the world. In the late 19th century, people were leaving China because of the coolie trade and

moving to places in North America and Southeast Asia (Benton & Pieke, 1998). Those arriving in Europe included sailors who left Hong Kong and seized the opportunity to look for better lives (Pang 1998, quoting Pang 1996). They went to Europe as temporary contract labourers; while they waited for new employment in Europe's seaports (e.g. London, Liverpool, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Antwerp and Barcelona), some of these Cantonese seamen were hired by European shipping companies in an effort to break the power of the European Sailors Union. There were also a small number of mainland Chinese, mainly from Guangdong and Zhejiang, who came to Western Europe and then set up migration chains for their family and friends to join them (Benton & Pieke, 1998). They thus formed a bridgehead – someone settled as a migrant in the destination country for others to follow.

China's emigration policies dramatically changed with the onset of the reforms in 1978. At the beginning of the reform period, then-premier Deng Xiaoping urged universities and the Ministry of Education (MoE) to send more students overseas to learn advanced technologies. In 1981, the State Council approved the Temporary Regulations on Self-financed Overseas Education; this was the first time that the Chinese government had formally recognised self-financed overseas study (Xiang, 2003). In February 1986, the Chinese government announced its "Control of the Exit and the Entry of the Citizens" measures to safeguard "the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens with respect to their exit from and entry into China's territory and to promoting international exchange" (Art. 1, February 1986). The 1990s saw further developments. In the first half of the 1990s, the PRC formulated its "twelve-word approach" involving *zhichi liuxue*, *guli huiguo*, *laiqu ziyou* (support study overseas, encouraging return to China, freedom of movement). As part of this approach, the government established the China Scholarship Council under the MoE to sponsor qualified individuals to study overseas, and also initiated policies to attract returnees. In 1992, the State Council issued a special circular stressing that all returned overseas students shall be welcomed regardless of political attitudes (Xiang, 2003).

The current exit policies of the Chinese are governed by Order No. 57, "Exit and Entry Administration Law" promulgated in 2012. The law seeks "to regulate exit/entry administration, safeguard the sovereignty, security and social order of the People's Republic of China, and promote foreign exchanges and opening to the outside world" (Art. 1). The exit/entry law states that "(t)he State protects Chinese citizens' legitimate rights and interests of exiting and entering the country" (Art. 3). It further stipulates that "Chinese citizens who exit or enter China shall, in accordance with the law, apply for passports or other travel documents. Chinese citizens bound for other countries or regions shall obtain visas or other entry permits from destination countries unless the Chinese government has signed visa exemption agreements with the governments of those countries or otherwise stipulated by the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Chinese citizens that for those who exit or enter China as seamen or work on foreign ships shall apply for seamen's certificates in accordance with the law" (Art. 9). The exit and entry policies introduced in 2012 remain in use today.

Mainland Chinese who leave the country must be ready to present their passports and divulge their destinations. Even if they are travelling to a destination with a "visa on arrival" policy, they will be asked about their destination by an officer when passing through immigration control. While passport control has become more relaxed than in the early days of the PRC, the Chinese government can still monitor the arrival/departure of its people through immigration control in the mainland. As for SAR passports, they are used only in the two Special Administrative Regions (Hong Kong and Macau). The SARs have different immigration relations with other

countries, and their immigration and emigration using the passport are subject to the SARs' control under "one country, two systems".

### **Hong Kong and mainland China's bilateral agreements with the six selected European countries**

According to the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, which came into force upon the handover in 1997, Hong Kong may "on its own, using the name 'Hong Kong, China', maintain and develop relations and conclude and implement agreements with foreign states and regions and relevant international organizations" (Art. 151). Hong Kong thus has the authority to establish bilateral agreements with the selected European countries individually. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO), under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, is responsible for forging economic and trade ties with overseas countries. There are three ETO offices which oversee Hong Kong's foreign relations with the UK and the European countries studied here. The ETO in Brussels is responsible for trade matters between Hong Kong and Belgium, Italy and Portugal; the Berlin ETO is responsible for Germany and the Czech Republic; London's ETP (Exchange Traded Products) is responsible for Finland, as well as the UK.

Apart from bilateral trade agreements, there are also mobility-related agreements between Hong Kong and the six selected European countries, covering issues such as working holiday schemes, mutual juridical assistance, and various criminal matters. These include agreements on mutual juridical assistance (MJA), surrender of persons wanted for criminal proceedings (SPW), transfer of sentenced persons (TSP), and agreements on the avoidance of double taxation (CDTA). Details of some bilateral agreements between Hong Kong and the selected EU countries are presented in Table 15.

Table 15: Hong Kong's bilateral agreements with the six selected European countries

Country	Date	Agreement
Belgium	June 2001	Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA)
	2003	Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters
	October 2004	Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (CDTA)
	April 2009	Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreements (TSP)
Germany	February 1998	Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA)
	January 2005	Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (CDTA)
	April 2009	Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal matters (MLA)
	April 2009	Surrender of Fugitive Offenders Agreements (SFO)
	July 2009	Working Holiday Scheme Agreement
Finland	March 2009	Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA)
	August 2013	Surrender of Fugitive Offenders Agreements
	December 2018	Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (CDTA)
Italy	February 1998	Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA)
	December 2002	Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreements (TSP)
	August 2015	Comprehensive Avoidance Double Taxation Agreement (CDTA)
	July 2019	Working Holiday Scheme Agreement
Czech	June 2011	Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation (CTDA)

	March 2013	Mutual Juridical Assistance in criminal matters (MLA)
	February 2015	Surrender of Fugitive Offenders Agreements
	November 2014	Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreements (TSP)
Portugal	July 2004	Surrender of Fugitive Offenders Agreements
	November 2004	Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreements (TSP)
	June 2012	Comprehensive Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (CDTA)

Sources: Own representation based on:

For Finland: <https://www.hketolondon.gov.hk/hk-finland.php>

For Italy: <https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/international-investment-agreements/treaties/bit/1864/hong-kong-china-sar---italy-bit-1995->

All the bilateral agreements of Hong Kong can be found at:

[https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/external/international\\_agreements.html](https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/external/international_agreements.html)

Mainland China has also signed a wide range of bilateral agreements with the six selected EU countries on different forms of cooperation. Among these countries, the Czech Republic (formerly the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic) and Finland were the first to establish formal diplomatic relations with the PRC in 1949 and 1950, respectively. While most of these bilateral agreements are related to economic cooperation and agreements on culture, art, science and technology, there are also bilateral diplomatic agreements on mobility. For instance, as early as 1973, the PRC and Finland signed an agreement on a student exchange programme. China has entered into tourism agreements with the Czech Republic and Germany, which hosted 600,000<sup>iv</sup> and 1.5 million annual trips<sup>v</sup>, respectively, in the two years prior to the pandemic. Meanwhile, extradition treaties were signed with Portugal and Italy to enhance mutual juridical assistance in criminal matters. Table 16 and the Appendix provide details of the bilateral diplomatic agreements between China and the selected EU countries.

Table 16: Selected bilateral diplomatic agreements on mobility between China and the six selected EU countries

Country	Date	Agreement
Belgium	2012	An agreement on educational exchanges between the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Government of the Flemish Region
Germany	2022	Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of Tourism for Groups of Chinese Citizens to Germany
Finland	1973	An agreement on student exchange between the two countries
Italy	2015	China-Italy Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and China-Italy Extradition Treaty
Czech Republic	2009	Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income
Portugal	1993	Convention between Portugal and China to avoid double taxation and prevent tax evasion, along with the relevant protocol

Source: Own representation based on

## Methodology

The analysis of the six policy areas in the six selected European countries was carried out as part of AspirE's Work Package 2. In addition to mobilising the relevant literature for the China and Hong Kong cases, the research team followed a **common blueprint** and a **standardised project guide** for content analysis of labour migration, family reunification, tourism, investment-based immigration, student migration and Schengen policies (see Annex 7). AspirE's **common blueprint** was constructed to address some specific questions outlined in the project: what is the place of aspiring (re)migrant behaviour in spatial mobility policies? Are there specific articles, rules, or clauses that deal with the change of mind of a labour migrant under contract, an investor, a tourist, or a student who decides to overstay his/her visa rather than to return to his/her country of origin? Who is exempted and who is not? What temporalities are reinforced or produced in the process?

AspirE's **standardised guide** for policy content analysis was designed by the project coordinator (ULB – Université Libre de Bruxelles) after undertaking a pilot analysis on Belgium's family reunification policy, in collaboration with the Work Package 2 coordinator (University of Milan). The standardised guide for the policy content analysis identified five salient **themes** and three important **dimensions** of mobility policies, which guided the content analysis of the six policies in the six European countries as well as in the other contexts.

The five **themes** are the following: guarantees, benefits, penalties, forgiveness and referrals. Guarantees refer to the requirements that a migrant-receiving state expects individuals to fulfil when applying to enter its territory. Benefits are the privileges and advantages that people obtain when entering the receiving country. Penalties refer to the punishments that a receiving state imposes on individuals who violate the law or who can no longer satisfy the requirements for them to stay. Forgiveness implies giving a chance to individuals who violated the law to stay in the receiving state. Referrals point to the links between different laws on mobilities.

The three **dimensions** are the actors (i.e., individuals mentioned in the policy), characteristics (i.e., features or qualities of the individuals mentioned in the policy), and temporality (i.e., the time given to individuals to stay in a given country and move within the EU Schengen area, as well as the number of years required before a certain legal status can be attained).

The above themes and dimensions are organised in a table in the standardised guide. To facilitate the analysis, the standardised guide also provides ten key questions for AspirE researchers: one per theme and dimension, as well as two concluding questions. These questions are aimed at identifying the suppositions of a State which underlie specific information stated in each policy, and determining whether or not the State takes into account an individual's changing or unpredictable behaviour when it draws up its mobility policies. Hence, following the standardised guide, AspirE researchers have carried out the following steps: identification of the themes and dimensions in each of the mobility policies analysed, completing the table, and answering the ten key questions in the guide.

The analysis of the six policies in the six European case studies is mainly based on information provided by the relevant embassies (and consulates-general) in China and Hong Kong. Meanwhile, population and migration data are sourced from government statistics (National Immigration Administration of the PRC and the Immigration Department of the HKSAR government).



## **Human behaviour in mobility policies of selected EU countries: Key results**

This section provides the results of the policy content analysis for the six policies in the six selected EU countries of interest in the AspirE project in the context of mainland China and Hong Kong. Both long- and short-term migration policies are included, namely labour migration policy, family reunification policy, tourism policy, investment-based immigration policy, student mobility policy and Schengen policy. We show how citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China receive the same treatment from the selected EU countries on long-term migration policies but are treated differently in short-term migration measures such as tourism and Schengen policies, as a result of different agreements drawn up between Hong Kong and mainland China and the six countries.

The six selected countries have detailed categorisations of different mobility policies and the kind of visas that are required for those categories. In all six countries, visas that are granted for more than 90 days, whether they are for work, for family reunification or for study, are known as Visa D. In contrast, visas that are granted for less than 90 days for tourism, study, work or family visits are called Visa C. Portugal is the only one of the six countries that has a Visa E. Visa E is for a temporary stay of more than 90 days but less than one year.

In the following sections, we refer to information provided by the consulates/embassies in mainland China and Hong Kong of the six selected European countries. Our analysis of the migration policies is based on this information. And through examining the information, we can understand aspiring migrants' possible trajectories in moving to the six selected EU countries.

### **Labour migration policy**

For Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese citizens who wish to migrate to the six selected EU countries through labour migration trajectory, they are required to have work visa in one form or another. Several types of labour migration are considered by the six selected countries: (1) employment longer than 90 days but less than a year; (2) self-employment longer than 90 days but less than a year; (3) seasonal work; (4) long-term (more than one year) employment, hired by a company in one of the six selected countries (whether it is a local company or a company which has an office in the EU country); and (5) the Blue Card (for high-skilled professionals).

All labour migrants from mainland China and Hong Kong need to process their work visa through either Visa Facilitation Services (VFS) Global, the service provider appointed by the EU countries, or the respective country's embassies or consulates. As noted above, citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China have to follow the same process regarding long-stay visas that could lead to permanent residency or citizenship. While the work visa application procedures among the six EU countries are based on similar principles, different countries have different specific requirements for processing work visa applications, and the timelines can differ.

Generally, to obtain a work visa, a letter or contract from the employer is required (unless the visa is for self-employment), along with financial proof of the applicant's ability to support themselves during their stay. In some countries, language requirements must also be met. The self-employed will need to provide proof of their financial situation, which may differ depending on the country. All applicants must also provide proof of accommodation, although in some countries this is not required until a later stage of the application, for instance, the residence permit application.

Work visa applications are not only considered based on the duration of work but also in terms of the type of occupation. Here, requirements differ according to the destination country and type of occupation. In Germany, for example, as well as providing proof of a job offer and proof that they have sufficient income or financial means to remain in Germany, applicants must fulfil additional criteria. IT professionals, for example, also need to have recognised qualifications and Germany language proficiency; there are also visas for professions such as drivers, artists, language teachers, professional athletes and coaches, who require recognised qualifications and approval from the Federal Employment Agency (BA - Bundesagentur für Arbeit). Again, they need to show they have sufficient income and a certain level of language skills.

**Belgium** - The Consulate General of Belgium in Hong Kong handles long-stay visa applications to Belgium. As of 3 January 2019, an applicant from Hong Kong or mainland China would need to apply to the competent Region, through their employer, for a single application for a work permit and a request for a residence permit. Proof of payment of the administrative fee also has to be submitted. The Embassy/Consulate of Belgium has no role in this process. Citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China who wish to settle in Belgium on a self-employed basis must be in possession of a professional card (carte professionnelle/beroepskaart) before they can apply for the Visa D. Family members accompanying the person who is going to work in Belgium have to apply for the appropriate visa for “Family Reunification”.

**Germany** - As noted above, visa requirements vary for different types of work. There are work visas for IT professionals; different regulations for professional drivers, artists, language teachers, and professional athletes and coaches, who need recognition of their qualification and approval from the BA. Germany also has language proficiency requirements. For foreigners with non-recognised professional qualifications in Germany, it is possible to study or undertake skills training in order to make their professional qualifications compatible with the German requirements. For Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese nationals, there appears to be a difference in terms of bringing their family members. There is a statement in the website of German embassy in China that job seekers are not allowed to bring family members with them. However, there is no such statement in the German consulate in Hong Kong. Working holiday visa only issues to Hong Kong citizens eligible to apply, but there is no working holiday visa information in the website of Germany embassy in China.

An interesting development regarding types of visas issued to Mainland Chinese citizens. The German Embassy has updated their website regarding types of visas issued to Mainland Chinese citizens. Mainland Chinese citizens could acquire a visa if he or she is a chef or nurse. A Mainland Chinese citizen who would like to apply for a job as a chef must have confirmation of professional qualifications from Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou in order to apply for a visa to work as a chef in Germany. For those who apply to be nurses, they need to have their professional qualification certificates attested by Germany.

**Italy** - Several requirements are listed on Italian Embassy websites. Italy, like Finland, grants visas according to a quota system for each type of job. Third country nationals (TCNs) – which includes Hong Kong and mainland China – need to apply for a salaried work visa (“Lavoro subordinato”). A mandatory first step is to obtain a no-impediment (“nulla osta”) declaration, issued by Italy’s Sportello Unico per L’Immigrazione. Freelance work in regulated professions, or professions registered in a professional order, or unregulated professions represented at the national level by associations recognised by the Italian Public Administration, must provide documents showing financial support, the activities/work of the applicant while in Italy, and

certification from relevant authorities, dated no more than three months earlier, declaring that there are no reasons to prevent the issuance of the necessary authorisations or licences.

A short-stay (less than 90 days) visa is required for self-employment, such as for professional artists and performers. These visas are issued outside of the quotas established on a yearly basis by the “Decreto flussi” law. During their stay, such performers are not allowed to perform in a production or for a client other than the one indicated in the contract provided for the visa application.

**Finland** - As a rule, if a Hong Kong or Mainland Chinese citizen has no specific residence permit application for work, he or she must apply for a residence permit for an employed person. However, under certain situations, he or she will not need to obtain a residence permit for work, if the prospective worker’s residence in Finland is legal and he or she has a valid visa or holds a Schengen residence permit granted by another country or has a visa to Finland due to citizenship. In that case, the prospective worker has been invited to work in Finland or signed a contract to work in Finland for a maximum of 90 days or only work.

Working for more than 90 days requires a residence permit. Individuals must apply for a residence permit if they are going to Finland to work for a Finnish employer or another employer operating in Finland: they must have confirmed employment before applying. A residence permit is granted for the relevant professional field. As in Italy, a residence permit for an employed person may be subject to labour market testing, which means that the employer must establish whether there is an available labour force for the work in question, within a reasonable time, in Finland or the EU/EEA. If the employer has obtained employer certification, the applicant can apply for a Visa D at the same time that they apply for a residence permit.

Citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China who intend to work in Finland but have not yet arrived in the country must apply for a residence permit through their employer at the Employment Service in Finland by submitting a written document (form TEM054) on the basic conditions of employment; the applicant then submits the application for a residence permit to the Consulate of Finland in China. Alternatively, the Employment Service in Finland may make a preliminary decision on whether to accept or reject the application submitted by the prospective employer, taking into account, for example, the needs of the labour market and the applicant’s source of livelihood. The Finnish Immigration Service will then examine the application to check whether it meets the requirements.

**The Czech Republic** - The Czech authorities will issue a visa for a stay for more than 90 days upon the request of a foreign national – in this case both Hong Kong and mainland Chinese – who intends to stay in the Czech Republic for study, employment, business or family unification. The processing time is approximately 90 days (60 days for student visas) from when the Consulate General receives a complete application file.

For short-stay and seasonal work, an application can be submitted for a short-stay visa for a maximum of three months, or a long-stay visa for a maximum of six months. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic determines a list of eligible employment sectors, including seasonal activities. However, it is not possible to submit an application for a long-term stay for seasonal work.

For longer stays, citizens from Hong Kong or mainland China can apply for a long-term residence permit for the purpose of employment (a so-called employee card). This requires a completed application form, along with a number of specific requirements related to the purpose of the stay. Applicants must submit the originals of the documents; all documents must be in the Czech language or officially translated into Czech. Furthermore, Hong Kong public documents must be apostilled, while public documents from mainland China must have a higher verification ([superlegalisation](#)) by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Beijing, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Shanghai or the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chengdu. Applications from Hong Kong needs to include proof of the purpose of stay – the Employment Permit (or at least the file reference number of the Employment Permit Application) issued by the local Employment Administration Office (Úřad práce, in Czech) confirming that the Office has been notified and agrees with the applicant’s employment. This certificate should be obtained by or through the employer. In order to work in the Czech Republic, citizens from both Hong Kong and mainland China are required to obtain a visa, even if the period of stay will not exceed 90 days.

**Portugal** - All TCNs (including Hong Kong and mainland Chinese) who wish to stay in Portugal for more than 90 days in any six-month period need to apply for a national visa. Unlike the other countries in this study, Portugal has two types of visas, namely Visa E and Visa D. Applicants for the two types need to provide almost the same information, the difference being that Visa E is for less than one year and Visa D is for a stay of more than one year.

Within these two main categories, there are different types of visas for different purposes: national Visa E2 is issued in the framework of the transfer of nationals among state parties to the World Trade Organization (WTO), for service provision or professional training purposes; national Visa E3 is a temporary stay visa for independent work purposes; national Visa E4 is for purposes of scientific research, academic teaching, or highly qualified activities for less than a year; national Visa E5 covers amateur sports purposes; national Visa E6 is for exceptional and well-founded circumstances, mainly used for programmes of study in a certified institution, student exchange, unpaid professional internship, volunteer work, or work pursuant to WTO obligations or those arising from conventions and international agreements to which Portugal is a state party; national Visa E8 is for seasonal work with a duration of between 90 and 270 days. For jobs that last for more than one year, national Visa D1 is for subordinated work activity; national Visa D2 is for independent work activity, such as migrant entrepreneurs and start-ups; national Visa D3 is for purposes of teaching, highly qualified or cultural activities, or highly qualified subordinated activities.

### ***Concluding remarks on human behaviour in labour migration policies***

The migration policies of the six selected countries ensure that labour migrants entering their countries are regulated. The long, complicated procedures and the bureaucracy involved in determining who can enter the countries lawfully to work and under what conditions are particular to each country, while sharing general guidelines on the procedures and documents needed; they include meticulous descriptions and requirements to prevent unlawful and irregular migration from taking advantage of any loopholes to enter the countries for work. The labour migration policies of the six selected countries make assumptions about migrants’ behaviour in moving across different borders. Countries in the Schengen area have therefore designed policies to regulate the possibility of such movement. The respective labour migration policies within the Schengen area demonstrate that labour migrants working in one of the Schengen area countries are not necessarily entitled to work in another, although they can travel to other Schengen

countries for short visits. There are no special privileges for citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China who intend to work in the six selected countries: they are treated as TCNs. A labour migrant visa (Visa D) may allow a labour migrant to travel within the Schengen area. However, it does not necessarily mean they can move from the country which granted their visa and residence permit applications to another country for work within the Schengen area. That would depend on the specific labour migration policy of the new country towards the prospective labour migrants.

Some of the six countries, especially Italy and Finland, are taking a more protectionist approach to avoid the possible impact of an influx of foreign labour migrants to the local labour force. Italian and Finnish migrant policies have specific quotas on certain professions, with periodic reviews of their labour markets to determine those quotas.

The labour migration policies of the six selected EU countries suggest that these countries feel vulnerable to the influx of irregular migration. Thus, they are imposing checks and examinations on labour migrant applicants, leaving the impression that foreign labour migrants are not particularly welcome.

### **Family reunification policy**

As with the labour migration policy, general requirements for TNC applications for entry through family reunification are consistent throughout the six selected EU countries. They all require proof of relationships (marriage certificates, birth certificates for minors, proof of regular and secure financial income from the sponsors, health insurance support, and so on). They all make exceptions for those seeking protection in their countries regarding the requirements of financial support from the sponsors. However, we see some interesting discrepancies among the six selected EU countries. Belgium has a special policy on admitting Chinese for family reunification. The website of the China Consular Affairs states that family members of Belgian nationals and Chinese nationals with permanent residence in Belgium can apply for the purpose of family reunification on the basis of kinship, including spouses and children under 21 years of age, when previously this applied only to under 18s. This higher age limit is a policy exclusively for Belgian and Chinese nationals. In terms of marital status, most of the countries only recognise registered marriages, and require documentary proof of marital status. In Finland couples who have lived together for more than two years are eligible to apply for family reunification (except those involved in custody battles). The other countries do not specify the form of union, but only mention marriage certificates, although Portugal clearly states that other forms of registered partnership would also be accepted should the issuing countries recognise that form of partnership. All applicants from mainland China and Hong Kong need to process their visa applications either through VFS Global, the service provider authorised by the EU countries, or their respective embassies and consulates.

**Belgium** - Belgium's criteria for family reunification are similar to those of the other five selected EU countries. Some are authorised to work and reside in Belgium and may be accompanied or joined by their spouse, registered partner and children. Family members of Belgian or foreign nationals legally residing in Belgium may have the right to come and live with their families in Belgium under certain conditions. This right must be recognised if the applicants prove, with documents, that the conditions for family reunification are met.

For Hong Kong citizens applying for visas on the basis of kinship, the age limit for the children of applicants is set at 18. On the Chinese consular website, family members of Belgian nationals and Chinese nationals with permanent residence in Belgium can apply for this type of visa, including spouses, children and parents. For Chinese nationals with permanent residence, the age limit for their children is 18; for Belgian-Chinese nationals, it is 21.

The conditions for family reunification are determined by nationality, age, family relationship (marriage, partnership or lineage) and the residence status of the person entitled to family reunification (limited residence, unrestricted residence, beneficiary of international protection, etc.). Under certain conditions, it may be possible to come to Belgium for a short stay to make concrete plans for a marriage or legal partnership and to then apply for residency in the context of family reunification.

According to the Belgian consulate, the time period for processing a visa or residence application is determined by the nationality of the person residing in Belgium. The immigration office makes the decision, and if the right of family reunification is rejected, the applicant may lodge an appeal to the Council for Alien Law Litigation or ask the Immigration Office to review the case. They can also submit a new application.

**Czech Republic** - Those who wish to apply for a visa for family reunification purposes must submit the documents to the jurisdictional consulate. Submissions to the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Hong Kong must be made on specific days (Wednesday and Thursday for long-term visas and residence permits). In mainland China, applications for long-term visas and residence permits are accepted from Monday to Thursday. The Czech Embassy in mainland China is the only competent body for receiving an application for a long-term visa; the competent body for processing it is the Ministry of the Interior (MOI). During the procedure, the Czech Embassy communicates with the applicant, invites him/her for a hearing or calls on him/her to pick up the visa. All documents submitted must be in the Czech language or officially translated into Czech.

Furthermore, Hong Kong or Macau public documents must be apostilled, while public documents from mainland China must have a higher verification ([superlegalisation](#)) by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Beijing or the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Shanghai. As in the other five selected EU countries, applicants need to provide proof of their relationship with the family members who are EU citizens, permanent residents (PRs) or foreign nationals who have work or study visas allowing them to remain in the Czech Republic, as well as proof of accommodation and proof of financial means. Foreign nationals who have resided as family members of holders of EU Blue Cards in other EU member States are obliged to submit documents or residence permits granted to them as family members of EU Blue Card holders by those other EU States. Applicants from Hong Kong need to provide a Certificate of No Criminal Conviction (CNCC) from the Hong Kong Police (a request letter from the consulate is needed in order to apply for the Certificate from the Hong Kong Police); similar certificates are required from any other country where the applicants have stayed for more than six months during the past three years (duly apostilled or superlegalised and with verified translation into Czech language), and from the home country if it is not Hong Kong. Once a positive processing of an application is filed at an embassy, the applicant is obliged to submit a document of travel medical insurance, which must be valid from entering the Czech Republic until the applicant is covered by Czech public health insurance.

**Germany** - Hong Kong and mainland Chinese citizens must apply for visas for the purpose of family reunification through their respective German embassies or consulates in Hong Kong, Beijing or Shanghai. The application can be submitted no more than six months before the planned entry. The birth certificates of joint children (if any) must be apostilled if the children were born in Hong Kong or if legalisation is applicable. Divorced applicants must provide divorce certificates/decrees with legal notice. Unlike the Czech Republic, Germany does not allow documents in English to be translated into the local language. Criteria for other documents, such as proof of residence, proof of relationship and proof of financial means of the applicant's spouse or parents, are the same as in other countries.

One requirement that sets Germany apart is that it requires evidence of a basic command of German – Goethe-Institut Level A1 or any language certificate based on the standards of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) that lasts at a maximum of 12 months.

The website of German consulate in Hong Kong states that those who hold “tourist visas” could not convert them into “Marriage visas” or “Family reunion visas”. This is an interesting statement to be put on the website as Hong Kong citizens are allowed to stay visa free for 90 days in EU. However, such statement cannot be found in the German embassy in China.

For children of German citizens, they could obtain residence permits if they are under 18 and single; whereas those of EU/EEA citizens, the age limit for their children is under 21. These statements can be found in the website of Germany embassy in China, but not the German consulate of Hong Kong.

**Finland** - Authorities in Finland state very clearly that in accordance with section 37 of the Aliens Act (Ulkomaalaislaki 301/2004), a Finnish citizen's foreign family members are: 1) the spouse of a Finnish citizen; 2) a person in a registered partnership with a Finnish citizen; 3) an unmarried child under 18 years of age, whose guardian or the spouse of the guardian resides in Finland; 4) if the person residing in Finland is a minor, his or her guardian is the family member.

What sets Finland apart from the other five selected EU countries is that it makes it clear that: “Persons living in a marriage-like relationship and sharing the same household are comparable to a married couple regardless of their sex, provided that they have lived together for at least two years. The two-year requirement does not apply if the persons have a child in their joint custody or if there are other weighty reasons”. So, even without a registered certificate, Finland recognises such a cohabitation relationship of at least two years as a legal basis for obtaining the right to family reunification.

As in other countries, the sponsor needs to prove they have enough money to support themselves. Finland provides a detailed calculation for this based on the number of members in the household, starting with €1,000 (euros) per month for the first adult, €700 per month for the second adult, €500 for the first child under 18, and so on (see: <https://migri.fi/en/income-requirement-for-family-members-of-a-person-who-has-been-granted-a-residence-permit-in-finland>).

For children of Finnish citizens, they could obtain residence permits if they are under 18 and single; whereas those of EU/EEA citizens, the age limit for their children is under 21. These statements can be found on the website of the Finnish consulate of Hong Kong but not Finnish embassy in China.

**Italy** - According to Italian law, citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China who have the right to be reunited with relatives who are regularly resident in Italy can apply after being issued with the non-impediment (“nulla osta”) document by relevant Italian authorities. They need proof of family relations, e.g., a notary certificate proving a family relationship with the non-EU citizen living in Italy (marriage certificate, birth certificate, etc.) according to Art. 29 of Legislative Decree 286/1998, to be translated into Italian and legalised both by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Embassy of Italy in Beijing. Hong Kong citizens need to translate their documents (issued in Hong Kong or Macau) into Italian and have them apostilled. Certificates of Italian citizens (birth, marriage, death) which are required by Italian municipalities for registration are translated by the Consulate General free of charge.

**Portugal** - Nuclear family members of Portuguese citizens and citizens of the EU/EEE/Switzerland are automatically entitled to enter and reside in Portugal, regardless of nationality. TCNs who are family members of EU citizens are only required to hold an entry visa in compliance with Regulation (CE) n 539/2001. Article 2 of the Directive (EC) 38/2004 defines as nuclear family members: the partner with whom the EU citizen has a registered partnership equivalent to marriage and in accordance with the conditions laid down in the relevant legislation of the host member State (the spouse); descendants who are under the age of 21 or are dependants and those of the spouse or partner as defined above; dependent direct relatives in the ascending line and those of the spouse or partners as defined above.

### ***Concluding remarks on human behaviour in family reunification policies***

The family reunification policies of the six selected countries show a vigilant approach to the authenticity of relationships. All countries require applicants to produce certificates with notaries, and in the case of Italy, the copies need to be apostilled. We also see some modifications to cater to the changing environment of marital relationships. For example, Finland allows those who cohabit for two years to be eligible for family reunification. Portugal allows those with registered partnerships recognised by their country of origin to apply for family reunification.

However, Germany is much more restrictive than other countries in terms of letting aspiring migrants to convert one form of visas to family reunification. While we are not sure how other selected EU countries are handling conversion as they are not stated in the official embassy or consulate websites, the website of German consulate in Hong Kong has made it very clear that no tourism visas could be converted into marriage or into family reunion visas. Since Hong Kong citizens do not require to hold tourist visas to enter EU, the statement could be used to remind the TCNs living in Hong Kong who require tourist visas to enter Germany.

There are some discrepancies in the eligible age limit to apply for citizenship between Hong Kong and China. For Belgium, the eligibility limit for children of Belgian Chinese is 21 years of age, whereas for Hong Kong, it is 18. The eligibility limit for TCNs (including Hong Kong and mainland Chinese citizens) for Portugal is 21. Overall, while the policies show a cautious attitude towards family reunification, there is some flexibility and willingness to accommodate new forms of marital union, to keep pace with the changing concept of marriage.



## Policy on tourism

Hong Kong citizens who hold the HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passport can enter the six selected countries visa-free for 90 days; this is also true for Macau citizens who hold the “Região Administrativa Especial de Macau” (Macau SAR – Special Administrative Region) passport. However, mainland Chinese citizens who wish to travel as tourists will be required to obtain a Schengen visa (Visa C), in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1806](#). For the visa application, mainland Chinese citizens must provide:

1. A return ticket (or booking) or evidence that the applicant has their own means of transport;
2. Proof of sufficient financial means, according to the length of the stay;
3. Proof of accommodation – a confirmed reservation for a hotel or other accommodation, including the address, or an invitation letter from the host;
4. Supporting documentation in relation to the applicant’s “social and professional status”;
5. Travel insurance;
6. A passport with at least six months’ validity.

These are general terms laid out for mainland Chinese applying for tourist or Schengen visas. The six selected countries normally advise TCNs (in this case, mainland Chinese visitors) to apply for their visa a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of three months before the date of departure. If travelling to more than one Schengen area country in the course of the trip, the application should be made to the country with the longest duration of stay; in case of equal duration of stay, the application should be made to the first country to which the applicant will be travelling, using the visa application form of that country.

To give an example: Belgium requires proof of accommodation such as a confirmed reservation for a hotel or other accommodation, including the address, or an invitation letter from the host in Belgium stating their name, the TCN’s name, the address and period of stay, as well as a copy of their residence permit in Belgium (eID) or resident permit for foreigners in Belgium. It also requires recent attestation from the applicant’s employer/school/university in China, stating (where applicable) the applicant’s current position, employment date and annual salary. An application to the Belgian authorities for Visa C also requires an original copy of a pledge of financial support called Annexe 3b, issued no more than six months ago. This must be completed, signed by the guarantor and legalised by the municipality in which the guarantor resides in Belgium. When travelling to other Schengen States, a full itinerary with confirmed bookings is also required.

The Belgian authorities also list the possible penalties for travellers on a tourist visa (see <https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/faq/administrative-fines>):

The Immigration Office may impose a fine of 200 euros (€) on a foreign national who fails to comply with the obligations set out in Articles 4bis, 41, 41bis, 42, 42quinquies and 42octies of the Law of December 15 1980, on access to the territory, residence, settlement and removal of foreign nationals. If the foreign national is a minor, the fine is issued to their legal representative or the natural or legal person responsible for their education and/or subsistence. Fines may be accumulated in the event of multiple offences or if the foreign national remains in breach after a first fine.

In the case of Italy, travellers from mainland China who wish to visit Italy and Schengen as part of an ADS (Approved Destination Status) group must contact a travel agency registered with the

China National Tourism Authority and authorised by Schengen Embassies in China. China itself is attempting to relax its own entry policy by allowing more visa-free entry from other countries. By 1 December 2023, China will allow 15 days of visa-free entry to citizens holding ordinary passports of the Netherlands, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and Malaysia (two of which are among the six selected EU countries in the AspirE project). This is being seen as an attempt to boost China's sluggish post-Covid economy.

### ***Concluding remarks on human behaviour in tourism policies***

In the context of the policies being discussed here, tourism is arguably one of the least-regulated areas for citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China. However, there are discrepancies between these two groups in regulating their entry as tourists. Mainland Chinese require visas and must submit many documents to prove that they are visiting Europe for tourist or family visits only, while those who hold a HKSAR passport are able to enjoy visa-free travel for short periods. The stricter controls on mainland Chinese, which include proof of return and proof of employment status, are intended to avoid the risk that people entering with tourist visas will become irregular migrants. In general, it is not permissible for those who enter to change their visa status after arrival.

### **Investment-based immigration policy**

Investment-based immigration occurs in two ways in the six selected EU countries: either through investments in properties, funds or deposits, or by setting up companies that employ locals. Different countries have different criteria for how related policies are implemented. For example, Portugal's policy on investment through property purchase or investment funds in order to obtain a visa (also known as the Golden Visa) has a relatively relaxed residency requirement: applicants are required to reside in the country for only 14 days in two years and will obtain permanent residency after five years as long as they also pass a language test. In contrast, the Czech Republic requires an investor to live for five years continuously to obtain permanent residency. For all six selected countries, all applicants from mainland China and Hong Kong need to process their visa either through VFS Global or through their respective embassies and consulates.

**Portugal** - Portugal's Golden Visa is recognised as the most flexible way to immigrate to the EU, with a minimum of just 14 days of residency in Portugal required every two years. Additionally, Portugal has a start-up visa for entrepreneurs and immigrants. Both visas are for the first year of a two-year residency permit, renewable for three years if the applicant meets the criteria, i.e., sufficient means of subsistence, accommodation, and no criminal record. The company is responsible for providing documentation to the tax authority. If applicable, a written statement issued by a relevant professional association, or a statement confirming that the applicant has the necessary qualifications to practice a certain profession (if the profession is subject to specific qualifications in Portugal) may be required.

A recent change in the conditions for acquiring a Golden Visa shows a tightening of the rules on immigrant investment: as of October 2023, investors could no longer apply for a Golden Visa through purchasing a property. This change was a result of the "Mais Habitação" (More Housing) Bill, which aims to increase Portugal's supply of rental housing, combat real estate speculation, and restrict rent increases.

**Italy** - Residence permits based on investment visas are available for periods of two and three years. There are three types of qualifying investments in Italy: investment in government bonds, investment in a company incorporated and operating in Italy, which includes innovative start-ups, and donations. The requirements for obtaining an initial residence permit and the requirements for obtaining renewed residence permits for each type of investment are clearly stated in the guidelines issued by the government. In short, these criteria are the maintenance of the investment (in bonds, or in a company incorporated and operating in Italy), or a certificate of the deposit of shares in a bank or financial institution domiciled in Italy.

**The Czech Republic** - Long-term residence permits for investment purposes are available for entrepreneurs who plan to make a “significant investment” in the Czech Republic, and foreign nationals who are managing commercial corporations with a similar plan who intend to stay in the Czech Republic for over 90 days. According to the website of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, supporting documents – including proof that the applicant is actually operating a business and that the business is in a good state, and a description of the commercial corporation or the business plan – must be valid for the 180 days prior to submission. Application approval takes between 30 and 60 days from time of submission.

**Germany** - The German government encourages high-level foreign professionals and investors to work and invest in Germany. Foreign investors who operate independently can obtain a residence permit if they invest €250,000 euros in Germany and create at least five jobs. Interestingly, this information appears on the Chinese Consular Service website, but not on the corresponding official German website. A residence permit for the purpose of self-employment in Germany will only be granted if there is a superior economic interest or a special regional need or if an economic benefit is expected from the activity. The maximum duration of a residence permit for self-employment is three years. The applicant can then apply for a permanent settlement permit. The criteria for the self-employed residence permit are that the applicant has sufficient financial resources not to become a burden on public funds, sufficient resources for old age benefits if the applicant is older than 45 years of age, proof of having sufficient capital or credit to undertake the self-employed activity, and proof of the sustainability of their business idea and of their professional experience.

**Finland** - In Finland, there are two types of residence permit that are similar to the investment-based visa: the entrepreneur permit and the start-up entrepreneur permit. To be eligible for an entrepreneur visa, applicants must fulfil three criteria. First, they must be either: a self-employed person or a private entrepreneur, a partner in a general partnership, a general partner (not a silent partner) in a limited partnership, a member of a cooperative with unlimited liability for refinancing, or an entrepreneur in a limited liability company. Second, the company must be profitable, meeting the requirements issued by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre) in Finland. Third, the company must be listed in the Trade Register of the Finnish Patent and Registration Office. The Finnish Immigration Service website does not explicitly mention the first duration of the entrepreneur residence permit.

The residence permit for start-up entrepreneurs has tighter criteria than the entrepreneur permit.

1. The applicant must own a recently established start-up company that aims to grow, or be in the process of establishing a start-up company, details of which can be found on the Business Finland website.
2. The start-up company must have a positive Eligibility Statement from Business Finland.

3. The applicant must have sufficient financial resources for the entire duration of the residence permit.

If the applicant otherwise meets the general requirements for obtaining a residence permit, the initial duration of the start-up entrepreneur residence permit is two years.

**Belgium** - Belgium does not have a specific investment-based policy, but the self-employment policy is regarded in other selected EU countries as a kind of investment immigration policy. A TCN who wishes to settle in Belgium as a self-employed person must hold a professional card (carte professionnelle/beroepskaart). This professional card serves as the necessary authorisation for the applicant to set up their own business in Belgium as an independent professional. Legal residents in Hong Kong can apply for a professional card through the Consulate General of Belgium in Hong Kong. Mainland Chinese can apply for a visa on the VFS Global website. Once the professional card is approved, the Consulate will inform the applicant to apply for a long-stay visa. As a general rule, the required documents are proof of payment of the fee (where applicable), the decision of the Region to grant the professional card, a medical certificate attesting that the applicant does not suffer from any of the illnesses listed in the appendix to the law of 15 December 1980, and an extract from the criminal record or equivalent document. The three regional administrations of Belgium publish the details on their websites.

### *Concluding remarks on human behaviour in investment-based policy*

The investment-based policies of the six selected EU countries show similarities in terms of the target group they would like to attract as investors, potentially leading to permanent residency and/or citizenship. The preference is for high-level and high-tech professionals to bring sustainable investment to their countries; however, they also understand the need for medium and small-size enterprise investors. The investment-based policies of the six countries vary in terms of the length of stay and extra requirements for permanent residency or citizenship. There are different histories behind these policies. For example, Portugal launched the Golden Visa policy in an effort to save its crumbling economy; the investment-based migration policy also gives the Portuguese government opportunity to develop some of its less-populated cities.

Investors from Hong Kong and mainland China need to meet the requirements set by the selected countries: there are no discriminatory or discretionary measures that treat Hong Kong and mainland Chinese investors differently.

### **Student mobility policy**

Students from mainland China and Hong Kong who choose to study in the six selected EU countries have to apply for student visas, just like other TCNs from non-EU countries. The main documents required by the six countries are broadly similar. However, there is quite a stark contrast between the treatment of Hong Kong and mainland Chinese in applying for student visas. Although schooling for younger students in Hong Kong is sometimes arranged through education agencies, university students can submit their documents directly to the consulates of the chosen EU countries. In Portugal, the Czech Republic and Belgium, applications from mainland China are handled by special service providers that connect China with the respective EU countries. Italy has different programmes catering to mainland Chinese students but not to Hong Kong students. Despite the discrepancies in student mobility policies and treatments between Hong

Kong and mainland China, all the applicants from both regions have to process their visa applications either through VFS Global, or through the relevant embassies and consulates.

**Portugal** - The website of the Portuguese Embassy in China contains information for Chinese people who wish to study in Portuguese educational institutions and provides a reference to the website of the Portuguese Government. As there is no Portuguese Consulate in Hong Kong, the Portuguese Consulate in Macau is responsible for vetting and approving applications from Hong Kong and issuing visas to Hong Kong applicants. In mainland China, holders of public passports are required to submit their applications to the embassy in Beijing. Visa applications for private passports must be submitted to the Service Centres of VFS Global, the service provider used by the Portuguese State in China. Visas to Portugal for the purpose of study can be divided into higher education, secondary education and training, according to the type of study, and into three categories according to the length of time: the Schengen visa for study, the temporary visa for training (national Visa E6 and E9), and the residence stay visa for research, study, higher education, student exchange, internships and voluntary work (national Visa D4). The general requirements for these visas are: a valid passport, proof of accommodation, valid and suitable medical insurance, proof of solvency (including scholarship and bank statement), a non-criminal record, and a letter or offer from the educational institute. Except for Visa D4, the applicant has to show the round-trip flight reservation: this is explicitly mentioned on the consulate's website. For Visa D4, the applicant has to submit special documents related to the purpose of the stay – for research, higher education, secondary or professional education, internship, or academic exchange. Applicants who are minors, and are not travelling with both parents or with a third person, must present a travel authorisation signed by their parents.

**Belgium** - Mainland Chinese applying for a Belgian visa need to visit the website of their partner visa application centre (VFS Global) to submit their application, as in the case of Portugal. The Belgian Embassy website does not indicate the difference in the application procedure between a public passport and a private passport.<sup>vi</sup> The VFS Global website<sup>vii</sup> states that a study visa is required for foreign students to stay in Belgium, and that a study visa, in turn, requires a certificate from the educational institution. Applicants applying for a long-stay visa (Visa D) need to register their biometric information in person at the visa centre, which includes the scanning of fingerprints and the taking of photographs. The general criteria for a study visa are similar to those of Portugal: a valid passport, a CNCC indicating no criminal convictions, and an offer from an educational institution to study there, along with proof of sufficient financial means and valid travel insurance. Additional requirements include a medical certificate, proof of qualification to access higher education, an updated CV, and a certificate from the Akademische Profstelle (APS).<sup>viii</sup> The APS certificate is only applicable to mainland Chinese students who have obtained their latest qualification in mainland China. The APS<sup>ix</sup> is the accreditation department of the Cultural Office of the German Embassy in China, which co-operates with the three Belgian regions. The certificates required for direct entry into Belgian universities are the same as those for German universities.

Hong Kong citizens who wish to study in Belgium go through a different procedure to apply for a student visa. The Consulate General of Belgium in Hong Kong handles long-stay visa applications to Belgium. For a study-related stay in Belgium, an applicant must apply for a temporary residence permit for study (Autorisation de Séjour Provisoire pour études/Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf voor Studies).<sup>x</sup> The application for a study visa does not go through the VFS Global, and the applicant does not have to produce an APS certificate, proof of qualification to access higher education, or an updated CV.<sup>xi</sup> Prospective students do need to submit a check-

list form, the two long-stay visa application forms (properly completed and signed), a recent passport photo, a valid passport with at least two empty pages (issued less than 10 years ago and valid for at least three months after the intended stay), a copy of personal data pages and previous Schengen visas, photocopy of HKID, letter of admission from the educational institute, and proof of sufficient funds.

**Czech Republic** - In March 2018, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in China extended its cooperation with VFS Global. Its services are available to Chinese nationals and expatriates from other countries legally resident in China who wish to apply for a Czech/Schengen visa. Like Belgium and Portugal, the study visa for mainland Chinese to study in the Czech Republic is through VFS Global; again, this is a procedural difference between applicants from mainland China and from Hong Kong. However, both sets applicants have to submit general documents, including application form, valid travel document (passport or document of identity for visa purposes), proof of sufficient funds, proof of the purpose of stay (most frequently an acceptance letter or similar confirmation), proof of accommodation (in the Czech language), CNCC, and travel medical insurance for the stay in the Czech Republic. If the applicant is a minor in mainland China, a letter of consent from a parent or legal guardian agreeing to the applicant's travelling to the Czech Republic is required, while for minors in Hong Kong, a birth certificate is required. Applicants submit their fingerprints in person when filing a visa application. (Children younger than 12 years are exempt from the fingerprint requirement.)

**Germany** - Applicants from mainland China and Hong Kong who wish to study at a university in Germany are required to obtain a residence permit under Section 16b of the German Residence Act (§ 16b AufenthG). However, there are differences in their treatment: the checklist on the Hong Kong consulate's website is simpler than that on the website of the German Embassy in China. Applicants from Hong Kong must submit a visa application form, a declaration of the genuineness of the documents submitted, a passport valid for at least six months (issued within the last ten years and with at least two empty pages), proof of residence in Hong Kong, two biometric passport photos, an unconditional admission/acceptance letter from a German university, entitlement to university admission, evidence of previous academic performance, proof of required language skills (English or German depending on the course), a CV, proof of financial resources, proof of travel health insurance and the visa application fee.

For applications from mainland China and Hong Kong, evidence of previous academic performance is not required; there is also no requirement for a personal letter on motivation to study in Germany. However, the certificates of mainland Chinese applicants for German university admission must undergo a vetting process by the APS (the accreditation department of the Cultural Office of the German Embassy in China) before applying for a long-stay study visa. Mainland Chinese applicants can enter Germany on the basis of three types of status: with admission to a university programme or preparatory college, with admission to a preparatory language programme, and with the intention of examining as a student applicant. For all three types of entry, there are requirements for the documents on the checklist; applicants must have a document from a German educational institution and a document proving that they are going to study in Germany. Applicants who are minors need to file a transfer of parental rights statement and supporting documents to prove the relationship between parent and child. In addition, there are various subcategory notes for mainland Chinese applicants, such as instructions for applying for a researcher or PhD candidate visa (section 18d or 16b of the Residence Act), instructions for applying for a visa for a German language course (section 16f, para. 1, of the Residence Act), and visa instructions for high school students in Germany (section 16f para. 2 of the Residence Act). The requirements for the latter two categories are almost identical to the general

requirements, except that the information to be submitted by minor applicants is more explicitly stated. For the first category, the website indicates that applicants must apply for a research visa if they have obtained their (individual) PhD within the framework of a work contract or research agreement with a German university or research institution. Foreign students who have been accepted by a German university to study for a PhD or to participate in a full-time PhD programme (systematic PhD programme) may apply for a PhD student visa. There has also been a very recent change for mainland Chinese applicants: on 7 November 2023, the Convention on Hague Authentication came into force for Chinese documents, meaning that from that date onwards, Chinese documents can be subject to the Hague Additional Certificate (Apostille) and no longer need to be authenticated within Germany. Chinese documents certified before 7 November 2023 will continue to be accepted without the need for an additional Hague Apostille. The personnel capacities of the visa section in the German Embassy in Beijing are still considerably reduced after the pandemic, and appointment waiting lists have been introduced for some categories of applicants for national visas; there are two waiting lists for students and one for researchers/PhD candidates.

**Finland** - Hong Kong and mainland Chinese who have already been accepted as students in Finland and will go to study at Finnish educational institutions must apply for a residence permit for study. Both groups can apply for a residence permit electronically (at the website [enterfinland.fi](http://enterfinland.fi)) or on paper at Finnish Immigration. The residence permit applicant must be following a course leading to a degree or vocational qualification. Applicable educational institutions include universities and universities of applied sciences, vocational education institutions and, in the case of exchange students, can also include upper secondary schools. In special cases, a residence permit may be issued for studies other than those described above, including exchange studies. The Finnish Immigration website highlights that prospective students must have sufficient income and will be personally responsible for illness-related expenses while they are in Finland. The documents required for submission are:

- a valid passport
- a certificate of acceptance from a Finnish educational institution
- a clarification on income
- a clarification on tuition fee or scholarship if applicable
- a health insurance certificate.

**Italy** - Applicants from mainland China and Hong Kong who enter Italy for the purpose of study, vocational training, or internship for a short or long stay can apply for a national visa or a Schengen visa, depending on the duration of their stay. For stays longer than 90 days, a national visa is required. The requirements on the website of the Italian Embassy in Hong Kong are relatively clear compared to the website of the Italian Embassy in China, which only has a general check list. The required documents for Hong Kong applicants are an application form, current passport or travel document, evidence of residence status in Hong Kong, acceptance letter from the institute/university in Italy, round-trip reservation, clear travel itinerary, proof of accommodation, proof of financial means, sufficient health insurance, and birth certificates, if applicants are under 18. If the birth certificate is issued outside Hong Kong or Macau, it needs to be apostilled. Certificates from countries not adhering to the apostille convention (e.g. China) must be notarised, translated into Italian and legalised by the competent FAO (Foreign Affairs Office, China) and Italian consulate. In the case of minors, if a parent is not travelling with the minor, the parent needs to sign a consent letter in person.



Compared with Hong Kong, there are many sub-categories for mainland Chinese applying for study visas: university enrolment, MarcoPolo-Turandot programme (only for Chinese nationals), enrolment to single university classes/post-graduate/exchange programmes, vocational training and internship, language courses, research and post-graduate. The checklists are almost the same with regard to the general requirements of these sub-categories, such as application form, valid passport, proof of accommodation in Italy, proof of sufficient means of subsistence for their stay in Italy, sufficient health insurance, round-trip ticket reservation, a letter or offer from the educational institute, valid residence permit in mainland China, and birth certificate and parents' consent form if the applicant is a minor. However, each sub-category also has a different checklist with special requirements.

- For university enrolment: a proof of pre-enrolment to an Italian university or AFAM (Alta Formazione Artistica, Musicale e Coreutica) institution, original or copy, together with the output (Riepilogo) of the pre-enrolment application generated by the platform University and validated by the chosen university/AFAM. If requested by the university/AFAM, a Declaration of Value/CIMEA certification is required.
- For the MarcoPolo-Turandot programme (for Chinese nationals only): the receipt generated by the University web platform after the Italian universities/higher arts institutions have verified the application, including a statement of proof of enrolment for 10 or 11 months in Italian under the Marco Polo Turandot programme, a letter of enrolment in Italian, and a statement of the value of the qualification or CIMEA certification if required by the Italian universities or higher arts schools. Documents must show the start and end dates of the Italian language course.
- For enrolment to single university classes/post-graduate/exchange programmes, various requirements apply. (a) In case of enrolment to one or more single classes or internships organized by universities: proof of enrolment (according to Italian Ministry of Education calendar) to an Italian university (either state or private) authorised to issue legally recognised degrees. (b) In case of enrolment to authorised exchange/mobility/partnership EU programmes (including Erasmus Plus) or Italian programmes or cooperation programmes between universities and academies regulated by agreement with foreign universities: proof of enrolment issued by the Italian university/academic institution and a letter issued by the Chinese/foreign university within the scope of the exchange agreement. (c) For students enrolled at an Italian university but currently in China: proof of enrolment to an Italian university or AFAM institution. This must show the actual enrolment and the student's current situation.
- For vocational training and internship, again various requirements apply. (a) In case of vocational training: proof of enrolment to the vocational training course, mentioning duration, detailed programme and certifications. The course must be organised by training institutes accredited for professional training according to Art. 142 of Legislative decree 166 of 25.05.2001. The duration of the training cannot exceed 24 months and must be aimed at a recognised qualification or at the certification of the skills acquired. (b) In case of internship: proof of enrolment to internship, as regulated by the agreement between the promoting party and the employer.
- For language courses: a letter of enrolment to the Italian language school; the letter, on the institution's letterhead, must be addressed to the Embassy of Italy and specify the period of study, the full-time enrolment (at least 20 hours per week), confirm that the course is at a higher level (not beginner), and specify whether tuition and room/board are covered in full.
- For research, requirements vary according to length of stay. (a) For stay of up to 90 days: host agreement ("convenzione di accoglienza") between the researcher and the Italian



university or research institute, which must be accredited according to Italian law, and proof that the applicant is a researcher employed by a non-Italian university or research institution. (b) For stay longer than 90 days: no impediment (“nulla osta”) declaration for research, an invitation letter from the Italian university/research institute, and a letter from the non-Italian sending university/research institute.

- For post-graduate study, two documents are required. (a) Proof of pre-enrolment to post-graduate courses (Masters other than “laurea magistrale”, PhD, specialist courses) together with the output (Riepilogo) generated by the platform University and validated by the chosen university. The courses must be held at a public or private Italian university authorised to issue qualifications with legal value. (b) For students participating in a post-graduate exchange programme (one-year exchange during PhD): letter from sending university or institution, if any. The letter must state activities to be carried out in Italy, existing agreements between sending and receiving universities, and scholarships, if applicable.

For all these sub-categories of study visas – except in the case of a student enrolled at an Italian university but currently in China – applicants have to submit their school/university final degree in original or notarised copy, legalised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, or a letter of enrolment. In mainland China, if an applicant does not submit an application in person, they can choose to submit a visa application through a representative. In that situation, it is mandatory to provide a letter of authorisation for the visa application/passport return.

### ***Concluding remarks on human behaviour in student mobility policies***

Human behaviour in student mobility policies is an interesting area to be considered when examining the six selected EU countries. We have seen relatively relaxed and individualized student mobility policies for Hong Kong students compared to mainland Chinese students. One of the reasons is that Hong Kong has an established open-door policy for entry and exit; more importantly, Hong Kong’s universities were established based on the Western model, and are recognised around the world. This makes it easier for EU countries to process visa applications from Hong Kong. The situation in mainland China is very different, as a result of its huge population and dispersed geography, with diverse degrees of development. Universities and school establishments follow the Chinese model, which making it more difficult for European countries to process individual cases. This is also the reason why a number of EU states (Portugal, Italy, Belgium and the Czech Republic) use a service provider to process applications from Chinese students who wish to study in their countries.

### **Schengen policy**

Schengen States have different policies for short-term visas for Hong Kong citizens and mainland Chinese citizens. Hong Kong citizens who hold the HKSAR passport can enter the six selected countries visa-free for 90 days; the same applies to citizens of Macau who hold Macau SAR passports. However, mainland Chinese citizens who wish to travel as tourists are required to obtain a visa. These are based on [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1806](#). For the visa application, mainland Chinese citizens must provide:

1. A return ticket (or booking) or evidence that the applicant has their own means of transport;
2. Proof of financial means, according to the length of the stay;
3. Proof of accommodation – a confirmed reservation from a hotel or other accommodation, including the address, or an invitation letter from the host;

4. Supporting documentation in relation to the applicant's "social and professional status";
5. Travel insurance;
6. A passport with at least six months of validity.
7. A final requirement: upon arriving in any of the Schengen States, the individual must not be considered a public security threat to the States.

The above are general terms for mainland Chinese applying for tourist or Schengen visas. The six selected countries advise TCNs to apply a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of three months prior to their departure. For some, like Belgium, they require proof of accommodation like a confirmed hotel reservation or other accommodation, including the address or an invitation letter from the host in Belgium stating their name, TCN's name, address and period of stay + copy of their residence permit in Belgium (eID) or resident permit for foreigners for Belgium; And recent attestation from the applicant's employer/school/university in China, stating the applicant's current position, employment date, annual salary and period. Belgium's authority also states that the application for visa c requires an original copy of a pledge of financial support called Annexe 3bis issued at most six months ago. It has to be completed, signed by the guarantor and legalised by the municipality where the guarantor is residing in Belgium. Proof of accommodation in Belgium (a confirmed hotel reservation or other accommodation including the address, TCNs' ( Third Country Nationals)name and confirmed dates of stay OR an invitation letter from the host in Belgium stating their name, TCNs' ( Third Country Nationals)name, address and period of stay + copy of their resident permit in Belgium (eID - Electronic Identity Card or resident permit for foreigners). When travelling to other Schengen States, include a full itinerary with confirmed bookings.)

Belgium has also listed the possible penalties for travellers on a tourist visa. The Immigration Office may impose a fine of 200 euros (€) on a foreign national who fails to comply with the obligations set out in Articles 4bis, 41, 41bis, 42, 42 quinquies and 42 octies of the Law of 15 December 1980 on access to the territory, residence, settlement and removal of foreign nationals. If the foreign national is a minor, the fine is issued to their legal representative or the natural or legal person responsible for their education and/or subsistence. Fines may be accumulated in the event of multiple offences or if the foreign national remains in breach after the first fine.

In the case of Italy, travellers willing to visit Italy and Schengen as part of an "ADS - Approved Destination Status" group must contact a travel agency registered at China National Tourism Authority and authorised by Schengen Embassies in China with a white badge.

To give an example of requirements: Belgium requires proof of accommodation such as a confirmed reservation for a hotel or other accommodation, including the address, or an invitation letter from the host in Belgium stating their name, the TCN's name, the address and period of stay, as well as a copy of their residence permit in Belgium (eID) or resident permit for foreigners in Belgium. It also requires recent attestation from the applicant's employer/school/university in China, stating (where applicable) the applicant's current position, employment date and annual salary. An application to the Belgian authorities for Visa C also requires an original copy of a pledge of financial support called Annexe 3b, issued no more than six months ago. This must be completed, signed by the guarantor and legalised by the municipality in which the guarantor resides in Belgium. When travelling to other Schengen States, a full itinerary with confirmed bookings is also required.

The Belgian authorities also list the possible penalties for travellers on a tourist visa (see <https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/faq/administrative-fines>):

The Immigration Office may impose a fine of 200 euros (€) on a foreign national who fails to comply with the obligations set out in Articles 4bis, 41, 41bis, 42, 42quinquies and 42octies of the Law of December 15 1980, on access to the territory, residence, settlement and removal of foreign nationals. If the foreign national is a minor, the fine is issued to their legal representative or the natural or legal person responsible for their education and/or subsistence. Fines may be accumulated in the event of multiple offences or if the foreign national remains in breach after a first fine.

In the case of Italy, travellers from mainland China who wish to visit Italy and Schengen as part of an ADS (Approved Destination Status) group must contact a travel agency registered with the China National Tourism Authority and authorized by Schengen Embassies in China.

Citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China who have legally entered one of the Schengen area States are allowed to circulate freely within the territory of all Schengen area States for the period of the validity of their visa, up to 90 days (Art. 19, §1 of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement). Short-term visas, if issued for tourism, visits, business, or study after entry into Schengen countries, do not imply a request for a residence permit (Art. 1, Law No. 68 of 28 May 2007, “Rules on short-term stays of foreigners for visits, business, tourism and study”).

However, where long-term stay is intended, through application for study, family reunification, labour and investment-based visas, different rules for mobility within the Schengen area apply. Hong Kong and mainland Chinese are subject to the same regulations that apply to all TCNs. While an individual might hold a visa based on family reunification, work, studies, or investment, this does not necessarily guarantee their transfer of residency. In principle, only TCNs who have obtained permanent residency or citizenship in the Schengen area can work in or move to other Schengen countries. A TCN – whether from Hong Kong or mainland China – who holds a residence permit (rather than permanent residency), whether it is a study permit, a work residence permit or a residence permit based on family unification, can only travel visa-free for up to 90 days. In the six selected EU countries, non-EU citizens living in one of the Schengen States with a valid residence permit do not need a visa for visits of up to 90 days in any period of 180 days, when not taking up work. TCNs (including citizens of Hong Kong or mainland Chinese) who wish to stay for longer than three months must apply for a visa to remain in the selected country for study, family reunification, work or investment.

A Hong Kong or mainland China citizen who has obtained permanent residency or citizenship can stay in a second EU country for more than three months for purposes including work, study or training if they apply for and are granted a residence permit in this second country. But there is no guarantee that a residence permit will be granted in the second EU country. That country may have set a quota on the number of residence permits it issues, or it may examine the labour market situation before granting the permit. Moreover, preference will generally be given to persons already legally staying in the second EU country.

Starting from mid-2025 (expected launch date), Hong Kong citizens will need to apply for the ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System). This system is for those who currently have visa-free entry into the Schengen zone. Authorisation will be valid for up to three years or until the passport expires, whichever comes first. (If a new passport is acquired, a new

ETIAS travel authorisation is needed.) With a valid ETIAS travel authorisation, an individual will in principle be able to enter the territory of the Schengen States as often as they want, for short-term stays – normally for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. However, entry is not guaranteed. Upon arrival, a border guard will check the passport and other documents to verify that the person meets the entry conditions. The ETIAS scheme will only be open to Hong Kong citizens. Mainland Chinese citizens who apply for Schengen visas will not be eligible to apply for ETIAS.

### ***Concluding remarks on human behaviour in Schengen policies***

This section has examined the situation for citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China who apply for a Schengen visa. While the two groups are treated differently in terms of the short-stay, 90-day visa, the long-term Schengen visa policy, which might lead to residency or citizenship, treats Hong Kong and mainland China equally.

The move to implementing the ETIAS system in currently visa-free situations shows that the Schengen States are placing stricter controls on entry/exit. The ETIAS system will record information on all visitors entering/exiting the Schengen area. According to the ETIAS website, “ETIAS will be a largely automated IT system created to identify security, irregular migration or high epidemic risks posed by visa-exempt visitors travelling to the Schengen States, whilst at the same time facilitate crossing borders for the vast majority of travellers who do not pose such risk”<sup>xii</sup>. In terms of entering the Schengen area, the new policy will expand the power of immigration officials, who will have the authority to reject a person entering the area even with ETIAS authorisation. The new policy is an indicator of tougher and more discretionary control on the part of the Schengen States. That stricter control, like its policy on tourism, is a way to deter irregular migration and security threats. Increasingly, security is being placed above freedom of movement.

## **Discussion of research results**

In this report, we have reviewed and analysed six categories of migration policy in the six selected EU countries from the perspective of a TCN originating from mainland China or Hong Kong, focussing on the legal means of migration to the selected EU countries. The report aimed to: (1) highlight the uniqueness of actors, and the characteristics and temporality of aspiring (re)migrants in mainland China and Hong Kong; and (2) investigate and illustrate the potential difference in treatment and procedures between aspiring (re)migrants from mainland China and from Hong Kong. We drew our information from the EU countries’ embassies and consulates in mainland China and Hong Kong, as the report is primarily concerned with applications made in the aspiring (re)migrants’ country of origin. It is understood that TCNs can also make migration applications outside of their country of origin; for instance, as stated in the country report for Italy (p.42), “would-be tourists may use the tourism route to enter Italy and then overstay, settling irregularly”. Applying for visas outside of the country of origin means that the TCN would bypass the corresponding embassy (or consulate) and make their application directly in the destination country. While the TCN will still need to go through similar procedures and to prepare the relevant documents to secure the visa or residence permit, the experience would be subtly different from making the application in the country of origin.

One of the differences in procedure between aspiring (re)migrants from mainland China and those from Hong Kong is that the majority of aspiring (re)migrants from Hong Kong will make

their visa applications at the EU countries' consulates general in Hong Kong.<sup>xiii</sup> In mainland China, the EU countries usually have embassies in Beijing as well as consulates general in different cities to provide consular services in different parts of China. However, most applicants from mainland China have to make their visa application indirectly via VFS Global, a visa outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide, which has offices in multiple cities.

For long-stay visas (family reunification, student, labour and investment-based visas) for the Czech Republic, Germany and Finland, applications from mainland China have to be made through the embassies/consulates of those countries. All other types of visa application from mainland China have to be made via VFS Global. There are 15 VFS Global offices across China. However, each of the six selected EU countries has its own arrangements for aspiring (re)migrants, and VFS Global cannot handle all kinds of visa applications for all six countries. For instance, only four of the VFS Global offices accept applications for visas for Italy. Of these four, the Shanghai office handles the largest number of visa types (25 in total), followed by the Guangzhou office (15 types); offices in Beijing and Chongqing only handle applications for 14 types of visa. Table 17 presents a summary of the number and location of consulates general of the six selected EU countries.

There are exceptions like the Portuguese investment migration policy – the Golden Visa – which requires applicants to make an online application directly to the Autorização de Residência para Investimento under the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) of the Portuguese government. Even in this case, however, the TCN applicant might still be required to visit the consulate in the country of origin in order to apply for the CNCC for the Golden Visa application. In Hong Kong, the issuance of the CNCC by the Hong Kong Police Force requires a “request letter from the relevant Consulate / Immigration Authority / Government Authority”.<sup>xiv</sup>

Table 17: Locations of the embassies and consulates general of the six selected EU countries in mainland China

	Beijing (embassies)	Guangzhou (consulate general)	Shanghai (consulate general)	Chengdu (consulate general)	Shenyang (consulate general)	Chongqing (consulate general)
Belgium	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
The Czech Republic	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Finland	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
Germany	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Italy	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Portugal	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X

Sources: Own representation based on 6 selected-EU countries embassies in China's websites

In general, TCNs from mainland China and Hong Kong largely follow the same migration procedures in terms of labour migration policy, family reunification policy, student mobility policy (but see below) and investment-based immigration policy. However, in policy on tourism and Schengen visas, as well as the unique programmes signed between Hong Kong and two of the EU countries – the working holiday schemes in Italy and Germany – there are significant differences in terms of some specific procedures and requirements. Hong Kong citizens who hold

the HKSAR passport or the BN(O) passport can arrive in the EU countries in the Schengen area without a visa (for stays of less than 90 days), whereas mainland Chinese citizens must apply for a short-stay visa (for less than 90 days). Moreover, even for the short-stay tourist visa, they are required to provide very detailed plans and declarations to the relevant embassies or consulates. The process is long and demanding, especially for applicants who live in cities that are far from the embassies or consulates. Another major difference between mainland China and Hong Kong is found in requirements for the student visa: aspiring (re)migrants of Chinese nationality who obtained their last diploma in China will have to go through a check of authenticity of their educational history and corresponding educational certificates. A positive result is required before a student visa is issued.

In the migration policies of the six selected EU countries, the rights and restrictions of the different types of visa are closely tied to the nature of migration, especially for the two most common types of migration, i.e. labour migration and student migration. Applicants need to present a valid offer from an employer or school to apply for the visa. The issued labour or student visa will then restrict the visa holder to carrying out the original purpose of the visa. While the visa holder enjoys geographical mobility to travel across the Schengen region, within the visa's validity period and conditions, the chief purpose of the visa remains country-specific. Investment-based and family reunification visas generally allow relatively more rights and greater flexibility for aspiring (re)migrants.

Notable examples of visas which offer greater flexibility to aspiring (re)migrants are three Portugal-specific schemes: the Golden Visa, the “digital nomad visa”, and the “D7 (retirement) visa” (see Table 18). The Golden Visa is a type of investment visa, as discussed above in the section on investment-based immigration policy. Its relatively low thresholds of required investment and period of stay (a minimum of 14 days of residency in Portugal every two years), mark it out from other investment visas. The Golden Visa holder enjoys both the rights to stay and to work in Portugal, but can also choose *not* to stay and work in Portugal regularly, while still retaining those rights.

The digital nomad visa and the D7 visa are seen as exceptional in the context of the six migration policies. Although it might be argued that the digital nomad visa represents a form of investment policy, the amount of investment required is even lower than for the Golden Visa: it is too insignificant to be considered as an investment visa. Under the digital nomad visa, the applicant – working remotely – is required to make at least “four times the Portuguese minimum wage” per month (i.e. around €3,040 per month as of 2023, subject to inflation). Meanwhile, the D7 visa requires the applicant to have a monthly “passive income” of around €760 (as of 2023, subject to inflation). Examples of passive income include pensions, investments, or rental income. Both the digital nomad visa and the D7 visa offer the holder great flexibility, including the right to work on top of the monthly income (or study) in Portugal.

The example of Portugal shows that certain EU countries manage their migration policies to prioritize their national interest (e.g. economic interests). The Portuguese government introduced these visas in different years (D7 visa in 2007, Golden Visa in 2012, and digital nomad visa in 2022) to attract a range of capital into the country. As noted above, the Portuguese government has recently made changes to the “investment options” of the Golden Visa: since October 2023, property purchase has no longer been one of the available investment options for this visa. This change was introduced in an attempt to stop further increases in rental and house prices in Portugal, which have created discontent and opposition among local Portuguese.

Table 18: Different types of residence permit other than the six (im)mobility policies in Portugal

	<b>Residence permit for investment purpose (Golden Visa)</b>	<b>Residence visa for the exercise of a professional activity done remotely (“digital nomad visa”)</b>	<b>Residence stay visa for retirement purposes, religious purposes or for living from individual revenues (“D7 visa”)</b>
<u>Specific documents</u>	<p>All third country citizens who conduct an investment activity, by one of the following routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital transfer with a value equal to or above 1.5 million Euros;</li> <li>• The creation of, at least, 10 employment positions;</li> <li>• (The purchase of real estate property with a value equal to or above 500,000 Euros;</li> <li>• The purchase of real estate property) with construction dating back more than 30 years or located in urban regeneration areas, for refurbishing, for a total value equal to or above 350,000 Euros;</li> <li>• Capital transfer with a value equal to or above 500,000 Euros for investing in research activities conducted by public or private scientific research institutions involved in the national scientific or technological system;</li> <li>• Capital transfer with a value equal to or above 250,000 Euros for investing in artistic output or supporting the arts, for reconstruction or refurbishment of the national heritage, through the local and central authorities, public institutions, public corporate sector, public foundations, private foundations of public interest, networked local authorities, local corporate sector organisations, local associations and public cultural associations, pursuing activities of artistic output, and reconstruction or maintenance of the national heritage;</li> <li>• Capital transfer of the amount of 500,000 Euros, or higher, for the acquisition of units of investment funds or venture capital fund or funds dedicated to the capitalisation of companies, capital</li> </ul>	<p><u>In case of subordinate work, one of the following documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work contract; or,</li> <li>• Declaration by employer confirming the labour link.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Religious</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of responsibility; and,</li> <li>• Document certifying the applicant’s status as a minister of worship or a member of an institute of consecrated life issued by the church or religious community to which he belongs, recognised by the Portuguese legal system (nominal invitation).</li> </ul> <p>Means of subsistence can be reduced by half when proved that the applicant has secured, in any way, housing or up to 90% of the amount when demonstrated that food is also secured.</p>
		<p><u>In case of independent professional activity, one of the following documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Society contract; or,</li> <li>• Contract of services provision; or,</li> <li>• Document attesting the services provided to one or more entities.</li> </ul> <p>Proof of average monthly income for the last three months with a minimum value equivalent to four monthly minimum guaranty remuneration.</p>	<p><u>Retired</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document certifying the retirement amount.</li> </ul>

<p>injected under the Portuguese legislation, whose maturity, at the moment of the investment, is, at least, of five years and, at least, 60% of the investments is realised in commercial companies with head office in national territory;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital transfer of the amount of 500,000Euros, or higher, for constitution of a commercial society with head office in the national territory, combined with the creation of five permanent jobs, or for the reinforcement of the share capital of a commercial society with head office in national territory, already existing, with the creation or keeping of creating jobs, with a minimum of five permanent jobs, and for a minimum period of three years;</li> <li>• Family reunification.</li> </ul>	<p>Both above scenarios:  Document attesting fiscal residence.  Proof of average monthly income for the last three months with a minimum value equivalent to four monthly minimum guaranty remuneration.</p>	<p><u>For living from individual revenues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document certifying revenue from movable and immovable property; intellectual or financial assets.</li> </ul>
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Source: Own representation based on Consulado Geral de Portugal em Macau e Hong Kong. <https://cgportugal.org/> and Embassy of Portugal in China. <https://pequim.embaixadaportugal.mne.gov.pt/en/>



There are two other exceptions which grant special migration treatment to selected Hong Kong citizens (aged between 18 and 30), as a result of agreements between the Hong Kong SAR government and the German and Italian governments. These schemes offer another type of visa which falls outside of the six policy categories and gives greater flexibility for aspiring (re)migrants. The Hong Kong SAR government signed the Working Holiday Scheme Agreement with Germany in 2009, allowing young people from Germany and those from Hong Kong aged between 18 and 30 (before the 31st birthday at the time of submission of the application) to enter and remain in the territory of the other Party for a maximum period of 12 months. An annual quota of 300 applicants (on a first-come-first-served basis) is set on both sides. The introduction of the scheme in Germany aims to enable young Hong Kongers to “gain an insight into the culture and daily life of Germany” during their stay.

While the Working Holiday Scheme is a mutual programme between the two governments, we highlight the rights and restrictions applying to Hong Kong residents in the programme, in line with this report’s focus on aspiring (re)migrants to EU countries.<sup>xv</sup> For instance, during their stay in Germany, applicants have the right to work, with restrictions. Visa holders can take up job(s) with different employers (up to three months per employer) during their stay to finance their time in Germany. Visa holders can also participate in language or training courses for up to six months out of the maximum 12 months’ stay. To be eligible for the scheme, applicants are required not only to be within the relevant age range but also to be in possession of a valid passport of the HKSAR. In addition to the application form, applicants are also required to provide a CV, a motivation letter, a detailed monthly travel plan for the entire stay, proof of address of accommodation (e.g. hotel confirmation) for the first week of the stay, travel insurance, copy of their flight reservation, and proof of financial means of at least €2,000 in the past three months. During their stay under the scheme, visa holders are not allowed to be accompanied by dependent family members (e.g. children).

A similar agreement, the Holiday-Work (“Vacanza Lavoro”) programme, was signed by the governments of Italy and Hong Kong in 2019. Young Italians and those from Hong Kong aged between 18 and 30 are allowed to enter and remain in the territory of the other Party for a maximum period of 12 months.<sup>xvi</sup> While the agreement was signed more than four years ago, the two governments had not finalized details at the time of writing (the end of 2023). The website of the Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong states that the “agreement is in the process of being ratified and is therefore not yet in force”. Nevertheless, the substantive framework of the programme was already established when the agreement was signed.

Like the Working Holiday programme between Germany and Hong Kong, the programme in Italy is primarily intended for holiday and travel. The applicant has the right to work and study in the destination country to “improve the knowledge of the language, appreciate the culture and general way of life of the other Party to promote mutual understanding between Italy and the HKSAR”.<sup>xvii</sup> As with the German scheme, the applicant’s right to work is not unrestricted. Hong Kong applicants to the programme will not be able to accept work in Italy for more than three months with one employer, and not more than six months in total. Their employer must notify the competent Italian authorities of the employment. Applicants will be able to study or participate in training courses in Italy, but for no more than six months during their stay. Hong Kong SAR residents who work in Italy through the Holiday-Work programme will also be subject to Italian legislation on labour and social security.

Applicants in Hong Kong must be permanent residents of the Hong Kong SAR and hold a valid HKSAR passport. Similar to other long-stay visas, applicants are also required to fulfil requirements like a CNCC and proof of an insurance policy which covers the entire period of stay. “Sufficient financial resources” are required, but there is no specific amount stated in the agreement. The requirement only states that applicants should have enough financial resources to “purchase a ticket for the outward journey and show that they have the financial resources necessary to meet their needs during the period of stay”. Also, the residence permit for work holidays cannot be extended or converted into a different type of residence permit, and there is no right to a family reunification visa through this scheme.

The last part of this discussion is dedicated to understanding the difficulties faced by aspiring (re)migrants from mainland China and Hong Kong in making their migration applications. The often long and demanding application procedures pose enormous challenges, putting pressure and uncertainty onto TCNs. This explains why many TCNs choose to hire migration agents to handle their applications regardless of the purpose of migration, even when the use of an agent is not compulsory. In most cases, the role of an agent is to prepare documents like the Certificate of No Criminal Conviction on behalf of the applicant. We use the example of the CNCC application to illustrate how challenging and tedious the process can be. To apply for the CNCC, the applicant must first contact the consulate/embassy of the destination country to issue a letter of request to the police. The applicant brings this letter to the police to make the CNCC application. Fingerprints are collected at this stage. The police issue the CNCC to the consulate/embassy and the CNCC is then forwarded back to the applicant. Although this stage takes a long time, going back and forth between different parties (various waiting times are involved at each stage), the preparation of the certificate does not end there. The applicant then has to take the certificate to the local district office to make a declaration that “the document is an original document and the information provided is true and correct”. After making the declaration, the applicant must take the CNCC for legalisation, apostilled by the court. The apostilled CNCC can then be used for the visa application. Any mistake at any stage in the above procedure will affect the visa application. Moreover, not all of the six selected EU countries make materials and guidance, including the application form and checklist, accessible in Chinese. Only Portugal, Italy and Germany offer Chinese materials through their embassies/consulates. Belgium, the Czech Republic and Finland offer materials in English and other languages (as well as their original language) – but not Chinese. The language barrier can be a serious problem for aspiring (re)migrants from the very start of the application process.

Another difficulty faced by aspiring (re)migrants in the application procedure is the ambiguous instructions. There is no applicant-friendly and detailed instruction guide. Given the complexity of the application process, applicants find themselves caught between different parties in making their application, with relevant information hard to access. Take the case of applying for a working visa in Belgium as an example. According to the website of the Consulate General in Hong Kong, “to apply for a visa, please always first submit your application form electronically and then make an appointment”. However, a little further on, the same website states that “you need a work permit before you can apply for a visa” and the “work permit” needs to be arranged by the Belgium-based employer with the regional government in Belgium. The details of the work permit application (documents required and fee) are not specified on the consulate general website. The lack of communication channels and ways to track and monitor the application process add further stress to the situation. Applicants can only wait anxiously for the outcome of

their application, often not even sure whether the documents they have submitted fulfil the requirements. Relevant rules, potential penalties and benefits are rarely mentioned on embassy/consulate websites. In sum, the migration policies and the related procedures are far from welcoming to TCNs.

## **Conclusion**

As one of the most populous countries in the world, migrants from China can be found in every part of the globe. Although EU countries have not historically been the most popular migration destination for Chinese people, the number of Chinese aspiring (re)migrants turning to Europe has been growing in the past few decades. On one hand, the Covid-19 pandemic and the increasingly volatile relationship between China and the Western world might have slowed down if not reversed the trend. On the other hand, the changing political environment in Hong Kong has created a new wave of migration. Nevertheless, without the specific migration policies targeting aspiring (re)migrants from Hong Kong implemented by the governments of the UK, Canada and Australia, EU countries have seen little growth in the number of migrants from Hong Kong.

Although it has been over 26 years since the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, and despite the accelerated integration between the two territories, there are many differences between them in terms of migration. In the six studied policy areas of the six selected EU countries covered in this report, Hong Kong citizens who hold a SAR passport or a BN(O) passport are exempt from obtaining a Schengen visa should they wish to travel for a short stay (less than 90 days), as a result of lobbying by the Hong Kong SAR government with different European countries. This remains the most significant difference in treatment between Hong Kong and mainland China. Nonetheless, the migration policies of the selected European countries, especially with regard to long-term visas for different purposes, are generally demanding in their requirements and offer limited flexibility. An aspiring migrant has to demonstrate a specific purpose for travel (study, work, investment, family reunification, etc.) and provide supporting proof. At the same time, the complicated application procedure is always challenging: the process is long and can be frustrating, while the lack of transparency, the language barrier (for many TCNs), and the often ambiguous and unclear instructions, make the application process difficult and daunting. All these conditions serve as hurdles for aspiring (re)migrants to fulfil their migration plans. Nevertheless, there are a few exceptions among the selected EU countries: Portugal, for instance, offers a range of visas, such as the Golden Visa and the digital nomad visa, to attract aspiring (re)migrants and their capital to Portugal. Holders of these visas enjoy greater flexibility regarding the right to work and live in Portugal, although the processing times for applications are long, due to the popularity of these types of visas.

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## ANNEXES

### Annex 1 – Mobility policies in Belgium

Source: categorization based on the websites of embassy of Belgium in China and consulate general of Belgium in Hong Kong

<https://china.diplomatie.belgium.be/en> <https://hongkongmacau.diplomatie.belgium.be/en>

**Table 1. Description of Belgium’s labour migration policy**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>Family members accompanying the person who is going to work in Belgium, have to apply for the appropriate visa for “Family Reunion”</p> <p>Single permit is required for TCNs who work as an employee / researcher</p> <p>TCNs who wish to settle in Belgium as a self-employed person must be the holder of a professional card (carte professionnelle/beroepskaart) before they can apply for the Visa D.</p> <p>(As from 03/01/2019, third-country nationals wishing to work in Belgium for more than 90 days will apply to the competent Region, through their employer, for a single application for a work permit and a request for a residence permit. The proof of payment</p>	<p>All TCNs who wish to stay for more than 90 days in Belgium per six-month period, need to apply for a visa D.</p> <p>The exceptions are citizens of the European Union or citizens of one of the following countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland.</p> <p>TCNs who are prospective workers residing abroad</p> <p>Police Department for the application of the Certificate of No Criminal Conviction (CNCC) (Hong Kong) or a Certificate of Criminal Record (Macau), covering the previous 6 months.</p> <p>District Office to make a declaration of the CNCC.</p>		<p>The length of TCNs’ stay in Belgium;</p> <p>TCNs’ professional status (employee or self-employed) in Belgium.</p> <p>TCNs are encouraged to lodge their application early to allow sufficient time for the process. Suggested time : (the earliest is 6 months before your intended departure date).</p> <p>For certain visa applications (not specified), the Consulate is required to transfer the file to the Immigration Office in Belgium. Decisions can take longer and timings are unpredictable.</p> <p>TCNs should always first submit their application form electronically and then make an appointment via the FPS</p>

<p>of the administrative fee will have to be submitted. (The Embassy/Consulate of Belgium has no role in this process).</p>	<p>High Court Registry (HK) or Direcção dos Serviços de Assuntos de Justiça (Macau) for legalization and apostille.</p> <p>Translator for documents that are not in French, Dutch, German or English.</p> <p>Authorized medical centre for the application of the medical certificate.</p>		<p>Foreign Affairs website: <a href="http://visaonweb.diplomatie.be">visaonweb.diplomatie.be</a>  TCNs' fingerprints (from age 12) and facial image (from age 6) will be captured and stored in a national database for 10 years.</p> <p>The minimum processing time for the visa is one week (after all documents are ready).</p> <p>When the TCNs (Third Country Nationals) are issued a visa D, the TCNs(Third Country Nationals) will have to register with the administration of the commune/municipality where the TCNs (Third Country Nationals) will be residing in Belgium. The TCNs (Third Country Nationals) are required to do this within 8 days of the arrival in Belgium, to apply for a residence permit.</p> <p>Any non-exempt person wishing to stay in Belgium for more than 90 days is informed that their efforts to integrate into Belgian society will be monitored by the Immigration Office.</p> <p>These general residence conditions apply to applications submitted after 25 January 2017 to a Belgian diplomatic or consular post (visa D application) or to the municipal administration for the place of residence (residence application).</p>
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<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>The visa D is a multiple-entry national visa. It requires registration at the municipality (gemeente/commune) of the place where the TCNs will be residing in Belgium.</p> <p>This visa entitles the TCNs to travel within the Schengen area during the first 3 months after entry into Belgium, while waiting to receive the official residence permit.</p>	<p>The Immigration Office may impose a fine of 200 euros (€) on a foreign national who fails to comply with the obligations set out in Articles 4bis, 41, 41bis, 42, 42 quinquies and 42 octies of the Law of 15 December 1980 on access to the territory, residence, settlement and removal of foreign nationals.</p> <p>Fines may be accumulated in the event of multiple offences, or if the foreign national remains in breach after a first fine.</p> <p>Sanctioned foreign nationals must pay the fine immediately, even if they do not agree and/or intend to appeal against the decision of the Immigration Office. In the event of non-payment, the Immigration Office will inform the Cadaster, Registration and Domains administration (FPS - Federal Public Service Finance), which will pursue the recovery of the fine.</p>	<p>In case of refusal the applicant will be notified in written about the reasons for this refusal. The refusal letter will be written in Dutch, French or German, depending on the preference given at the time of application.</p> <p>As the refusal decision has not been taken by the Embassy or Consulate General but by the Belgian immigration authorities, the Embassy or Consulate General is not competent to comment on this refusal by any means (at the counter, by telephone or in writing).</p> <p>The applicant can decide to lodge an appeal with the Belgian judicial authorities, as explained in the refusal notice or apply again for a visa with the Embassy or Consulate General.</p>	<p>Family members accompanying the person who is going to work in Belgium, have to apply for the appropriate visa for “Family Reunion”.</p> <p>If they are abroad, this decision is issued to the foreigner by the embassy or consulate of Belgium that is issuing the visa D. If they are in Belgium, this is done by the municipal administration for the place of residence.</p>



**Table 2. Description of Belgium’s family reunification policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>All nationals who wish to accompany their spouse or family member to stay for more than 90 days in Belgium per six-month period, need to apply for a visa D – Family Reunion. The exceptions are citizens of the European Union or citizens of one of the following countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland.</p> <p>Parents can apply for a visa to join their child but only if the child is under 18 years old.</p>	<p>Police Department for the application of the Certificate of No Criminal Conviction (CNCC) (Hong Kong) or a Certificate of Criminal Record (Macau), covering the previous 6 months.</p> <p>District Office to make a declaration of the CNCC (Certificate of No Criminal Conviction).</p> <p>High Court Registry (HK) or Direcção dos Serviços de Assuntos de Justiça (Macau) for legalization and apostille.</p> <p>Translator for documents that are not in French, Dutch, German or English.</p> <p>Authorized medical centre for the application of the medical certificate.</p>		<p>TCNs are encouraged to lodge their application early to allow sufficient time for the process. Suggested time: (the earliest is 6 months before your intended departure date).</p> <p>For certain visa applications (not specified), the Consulate is required to transfer the file to the Immigration Office in Belgium. Decisions can take longer and timings are unpredictable.</p> <p>TCNs should always first submit their application form electronically and then make an appointment via the FPS Foreign Affairs website: <a href="http://visaonweb.diplomatie.be">visaonweb.diplomatie.be</a></p> <p>Any non-exempt person wishing to stay in Belgium for more than 90 days is informed that their efforts to integrate into Belgian society will be monitored by the Immigration Office. These general residence conditions apply to applications submitted after 25 January 2017 to a Belgian diplomatic or consular post (visa D application) or to the municipal administration for the place of</p>

			residence (residence application).
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
	<p>The Immigration Office may impose a fine of 200 euros (€) on a foreign national who fails to comply with the obligations set out in Articles 4bis, 41, 41bis, 42, 42 quinquies and 42 octies of the Law of 15 December 1980 on access to the territory, residence, settlement and removal of foreign nationals.</p> <p>If the foreign national is a minor, the fine is issued to their legal representative, or to the natural or legal person responsible for their education and/or subsistence.</p> <p>Fines may be accumulated in the event of multiple offences, or if the foreign national remains in breach after a first fine.</p> <p>Sanctioned foreign nationals must pay the fine immediately, even if they do not agree and/or intend to appeal against the decision of the Immigration Office. In the event of non-payment, the Immigration Office will inform the Cadaster, Registration and Domains administration (FPS - Federal Public Service Finance), which will pursue the recovery of the fine.</p>		<p>If they are abroad, this decision is issued to the foreigner by the embassy or consulate of Belgium that is issuing the visa D. If they are in Belgium, this is done by the municipal administration for the place of residence.</p>

**Table 3. Description of Belgium’s policy on tourism**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>A Schengen (Visa C) visa allows the TCNs to travel to all the Schengen countries.</p> <p>The application for a Schengen Visa has to be lodged with the Schengen representation of the country of the TCNs’ main destination. (For tourists visiting several countries, it is the country where most of the time is spent. If the TCNs spend equal time in several Schengen states the TCNs are required to apply for the visa at the representation of the country where the TCNs enter the Schengen area.)</p> <p>Short-term stays                      - TCNs already admitted in Schengen states are exempt from the visa requirement for stays not exceeding 90 days                      -Short stayers do not need to apply for a residence permit, though have to declare their presence, including through hotelkeepers, if they are exempt from applying for an entry visa</p>	<p>HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macau SAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: <u>no visa required.</u></p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI), Macao Travel Permit, and People’s Republic of China passport (PRC): Schengen visa is required.</p>	<p>HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macau SAR (Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: <u>no visa required.</u></p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI), Macao Travel Permit, and People’s Republic of China passport (PRC - People’s Republic of China): Schengen visa is required.</p>	<p>The TCNs are encouraged to lodge the application early (the earliest is 3 months before the intended departure date) to allow sufficient time for the process, to avoid delays in issuing to visa, thus delaying the intended date of travel. (minimum 14 days before the intended date of departure. No express visa procedure.)</p> <p>In some cases, applications of visa C require an original copy of a pledge of financial support called Annexe 3bis / Bijlage 3bis, issued no more than 6 months ago. It has to be completed, signed by the guarantor and legalized by the municipality where the guarantor is residing in Belgium.</p> <p>Travel insurance certificate + table of benefits and area of coverage from a local travel agent covering all risks and costs (incl. medical and repatriation) in the Schengen zone for a minimum of €30 000.</p> <p>Proof of accommodation in Belgium (a confirmed hotel reservation or other accommodation including the address, TCNs’ (Third Country Nationals) name and confirmed dates of stay OR an invitation letter from the host</p>

			<p>in Belgium stating their name, TCNs' (Third Country Nationals)name, address and period of stay + copy of their resident permit in Belgium (eID - Electronic Identity Card or resident permit for foreigners). When also travelling to other Schengen States, include a full itinerary with confirmed bookings.)</p> <p>Recent attestation from your Employer / School / University in Hong Kong, stating the applicant's: current position, employment date, annual salary and period of approved leave.</p> <p>Return Flight: reservation/booking to Belgium with confirmed travel dates. When also travelling to other Schengen States, include a full itinerary with confirmed bookings.</p> <p>For non-working spouse: marriage certificate is required.</p> <p>For child: birth certificate, letter from school (&gt;12 years old); letter of consent (if child travels alone/with another)</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>

	<p>The Immigration Office may impose a fine of 200 euros (€) on a foreign national who fails to comply with the obligations set out in Articles 4bis, 41, 41bis, 42, 42 quinquies and 42 octies of the Law of 15 December 1980 on access to the territory, residence, settlement and removal of foreign nationals.</p> <p>If the foreign national is a minor, the fine is issued to their legal representative, or to the natural or legal person responsible for their education and/or subsistence.</p> <p>Fines may be accumulated in the event of multiple offences, or if the foreign national remains in breach after a first fine.</p> <p>Sanctioned foreign nationals must pay the fine immediately, even if they do not agree and/or intend to appeal against the decision of the Immigration Office. In the event of non-payment, the Immigration Office will inform the Cadaster, Registration and Domains administration (FPS Federal Public Service Finance), which will pursue the recovery of the fine.</p>		<p>A foreigner may not be able to leave Belgium before their visa expires or, if they are exempt from the visa requirement, before the end of the authorised period of stay. In certain circumstances, the Immigration Office may authorise this foreigner to extend their stay.</p>
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**Table 4. Description of Belgium’s investment-based immigration policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Table 5. Description of Belgium's student mobility policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>For a study-related stay in Belgium, you must apply for a temporary residence permit for study (Autorisation de Séjour Provisoire pour études/Machtiging tot Voorlopig Verblijf voor studies).</p> <p>Annex 32 form will be required.</p>	<p>All TCNs who wish to stay for more than 90 days in Belgium per six-month period, need to apply for a visa D.</p> <p>The exceptions are citizens of the European Union or citizens of one of the following countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland.</p> <p>Police Department for the application of the Certificate of No Criminal Conviction(CNCC) (Hong Kong) or a Certificate of Criminal Record (Macau), covering the previous 6 months.</p> <p>District Office to make a declaration of the CNCC (Certificate of No Criminal Conviction).</p> <p>High Court Registry (HK) or Direcção dos Serviços de Assuntos de Justiça (Macau) for legalization and apostille.</p> <p>Translator for documents that are not in French, Dutch, German or English.</p> <p>Authorized medical centre for the application of the medical certificate.</p>	<p>If the TCNs are under age 18 years of age, a written consent (PDF, 189.36 KB) for travelling signed by the TCNs' parents / legal guardians is needed. This document has to be legalised by High Court Apostille Service.</p> <p>Depending on the TCNs' study program, the TCNs' might be asked to fill out a questionnaire, which takes about one hour to complete and has to be filled out here at the consulate.</p>	<p>When the TCNs are issued a visa D, the TCNs will have to register with the administration of the commune/municipality where the TCNs will be residing in Belgium. The TCNs are required to do this within 8 days of the arrival in Belgium, to apply for a residence permit.</p>

<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>The visa D is a multiple-entry national visa. It requires registration at the municipality (gemeente/commune) of the place where the TCNs will be residing in Belgium.</p> <p>This visa entitles the TCNs to travel within the Schengen area during the first 3 months after entry into Belgium, while waiting to receive the official residence permit.</p>		<p>The refusal letter will be written in Dutch, French or German, depending on the preference given at the time of application.</p> <p>As the refusal decision has not been taken by the Embassy or Consulate General but by the Belgian immigration authorities, the Embassy or Consulate General is not competent to comment on this refusal by any means (at the counter, by telephone or in writing).</p> <p>The applicant can decide to lodge an appeal with the Belgian judicial authorities, as explained in the refusal notice or apply again for a visa with the Embassy or Consulate General.</p>	<p>If they are abroad, this decision is issued to the foreigner by the embassy or consulate of Belgium that is issuing the visa D. If they are in Belgium, this is done by the municipal administration for the place of residence.</p>



**Table 6. Description of Belgium’s Schengen policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>The application for a Schengen Visa has to be lodged with the Schengen representation of the country of the TCNs’ main destination. (For tourists visiting several countries, it is the country where most of the time is spent. If the TCNs spend equal time in several Schengen states the TCNs are required to apply for the visa at the representation of the country where the TCNs enter the Schengen area.)</p> <p>Short-term stays - TCNs already admitted in Schengen states are exempt from the visa requirement for stays not exceeding 90 days -Short stayers do not need to apply for a residence permit, though have to declare their presence, including through hotelkeepers, if they are exempt from applying for an entry visa</p>	<p>Hong Kong and Macau passport holders are exempted from applying for this visa. They are allowed to stay in the Schengen zone for a maximum of 90 days, each period of 180 days.</p> <p>Also applies for TCNs who would like to travel to Luxembourg.</p> <p>HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macao SAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: <u>no visa required.</u></p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI), Macao Travel Permit, and People's Republic of China passport (PRC - People’s Republic of China): Schengen visa is required</p>	<p>HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macao SAR (Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: <u>no visa required.</u></p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI), Macao Travel Permit, and People's Republic of China passport (PRC- People’s Republic of China): Schengen visa is required</p>	<p>All applicants have to come in person for their visa applications, including children and infants. (No third-party authorization)</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Annex 2 – Mobility policies in the Czech Republic

Source: categorization based on the websites of embassy of the Czech Republic in China and consulate general of the Czech Republic in Hong Kong <https://mzv.gov.cz/beijing/en/index.html> <https://mzv.gov.cz/hongkong/en/index.html>

**Table 1. Description of Czech Republic’s labour migration policy**

guarantee(s)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>- For the purpose of employment (Employee card), Blue Card An applicant should submit the application on a completed form along with all the necessary requirements given individually for selected purposes of stay. The applicant should however, always submit originals or notarized copies of the documents. All of the documents submitted must be made out in the Czech language or officially translated into Czech. Moreover, Chinese public documents must be supported by a higher verification (superlegalisation).</p> <p>- The Intra-Company Employee Transfer Card is a new type of authorisation for long-term residence in the Territory of the Czech Republic where the purpose of residence (longer than 3 months) of the foreign national is to perform work in the position of manager, specialist or employed intern to which the foreign national has been transferred.</p> <p>The Intra-Company Employee Transfer Card is issued for the duration of transfer to the territory of EU member states, but</p>	<p>The Intra-Company Employee Transfer Card is intended for foreign nationals of all states of the world, with the exception of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- citizens of EU/EEA member states and Switzerland and a</li> <li>- their family members who are citizens of other states and hold residence cards for family members of an EU citizen (or, in the case of the family members of a citizen of an EEA state or Switzerland, a foreign national’s residence card) or have applied for such.</li> </ul>	<p>All Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese like other TCNs. They are at the eligible working age. Different criteria will be applied to different applicants based on the job natures employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* business people</li> <li>* self-employed</li> </ul>	<p>There are two types of such visa one is for more than 90 days up to a year and another is called long-term residence (over a year)</p> <p>The Czech authorities will issue a visa for a stay for more than 90 days upon the request of a foreign national who intends to stay in the Czech Republic for study, employment, business or family unification. The processing time is approx. 90 days (60 days - For student visa, from the day the Consulate General receives a complete application file.</p> <p>- For the long-term residence (over a year visa), The Consulate General in Hong Kong currently only has the capacity to accept Employee Card applications during its consular hours, 4 applicants per month.</p> <p>Once approved, the applicants can enjoy working in Czech Republic and travel freely within the Schengen area. and with the successful renewal of the visa that can lead to permanent residency/citizenships upon living in</p>

<p>only to a maximum of 3 years for a manager and specialist and for 1 year for an employed intern.</p> <p>- This residence permit (unlike the standard Intra-Company Employee Transfer Card) is issued to foreign nationals (with citizenship of third countries) who already hold an intra-company employee transfer residence permit issued by a different EU member state. This must concern foreign nationals who are employed in a country that is not an EU member-state, were transferred to a certain EU member-state where they were issued intra-company employee transfer residence permits and then have subsequently been transferred intra-company to the Czech Republic where they intend to remain for longer than 90 days.</p> <p>The EU Member-State Intra-Company Employee Transfer Card is intended for intra-company transferred managers, specialists and employed interns who hold an intra-company employee transfer residence permit issued by a different EU member state.</p> <p>In simple terms, intra-company transfer is the temporary transfer of an employee of a multinational company from a functioning section of a multinational company in a country that is not an EU member state to a functioning section of</p>			<p>Czech Republic for five years</p>
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the company located in an EU member state.			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
Once approved, the applicants can enjoy working in Czech Republic and with successful renewal of the visa that can lead to permanent residency/citizenships upon living for five years			

**Table 2. Description of Czech Republic’s family reunification policy**

guarantee(s)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>An applicant should submit the application on a completed form along with all the necessary requirements given individually for selected purposes of stay. You should, however, always submit originals or notarized copies of the documents. All of the documents submitted must be made out in the Czech language or officially translated into Czech. Moreover, Chinese public documents must be supported by a higher verification (superlegalisation).</p> <p>Along with the application for a long-term residence for family reunification, you should submit these requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) travel document,</li> <li>b) proof of accommodation,</li> <li>c) 2 photographs; not applicable if a pictorial record has been taken of you,</li> <li>d) documentary evidence of the family relationship (if it concerns an application for a long-term residence permit for the purpose of family reunification with a person who has been granted asylum, the family relationship can be proven in another credible manner if submission of such a document is not possible),</li> <li>e) parental consent, or consent of any other statutory representative or guardian with the residence of a child in the Czech Republic if the child is not going to live with this parent, statutory representative or guardian; this shall not apply if the applicant proves that he/she is unable to submit such a document due to reasons beyond his/her control or if he/she already resides in</li> </ul>	<p>Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese citizens with the exception of</p> <p>citizens of EU/EEA member states and Switzerland and a</p> <p>their family members who are citizens of other states and hold residence cards for family members of an EU citizen (or, in the case of the family members of a citizen of an EEA state or Switzerland, a foreign national’s residence card) or have applied for such.</p>	<p>Registered spouses/or children who are 18 or below. Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese and could be exempted.</p> <p>Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese citizens with the exception of citizens of EU/EEA member states and Switzerland and their family members who are citizens of other states and hold residence cards for family members of an EU citizen (or, in the case of the family members of a citizen of an EEA state or Switzerland, a foreign national’s residence card) or have applied for such.</p>	<p>The requirements for the application shall not be older than 180 days except for the travel document, birth certificate, marriage certificate and the photograph of the foreign national if it corresponds to his/her actual appearance.</p> <p>The Czech authorities will issue a visa for a stay for more than 90 days upon the request of a foreign national who intends to stay in the Czech Republic for family unification. The processing time is approx. 90 days (60 days for student visa) from the day the Consulate</p> <p>General receives a complete application file.</p> <p>Or they can apply for a long stay visa (for more than one year) which could possibly lead to permanent residency or citizenship</p>

<p>the Czech Republic;</p> <p>f) proof of finance - a document proving that the aggregate monthly household income of the family after its reunification will not be lower than the sum of the amount of the subsistence minimums of all family members and the highest amount of normative costs for housing, which the foreign national can credibly prove as an amount of reasonably justified costs for the accommodation of the family,</p> <p>g) a foreign national who has resided as a family member of a holder of an EU Blue Card in another EU Member State is further obliged to submit a document or a residence permit that was granted to him/her as a family member of a holder of an EU Blue Card by another EU Member State,</p> <p>h) upon request an Extract from the Penal Register record,</p> <p>i) ) a medical report, that you do not have a serious illness, this can only be requested if there is reasonable suspicion that you suffer from a serious illness</p>			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
		There could be possibility the family members could be staying in the Czech Republic waiting for the visa.	

**Table 3. Description of Czech Republic’s policy on tourism**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
A Schengen visa allows to travel freely without the Schengen area	Hong Kong citizens who hold the HKSAR passports or the BN(O) passports are exempted.	Those who hold a HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passport will be granted 90 days visa free entry. Mainland Chinese citizens who hold Chinese passports will need to obtain a visa to travel freely for 90 days. For Mainland Chinese citizens to travel to Czech Republic, Mainland Chinese citizens who hold mainland Chinese passports. valid passport with at least six months of validity and its scanned copy to provide information. You need to provide a photo, and biometric and supporting documents, purpose of stay, accommodation, financial means, proof of return, and travel insurance	Both HKSAR’s visa free entry and the Mainland Chinese citizens have 90 days entry
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>Referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
Hong Kong citizens who hold the HKSAR passports or the BN(O) passports can enjoy 90 days visa free entry.			

**Table 4. Description of Czech Republic’s investment-based immigration policy**

<b>guarantee(s)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>Application requirement for Long-term residence for investment;</p> <p>travel document;</p> <p>1 photograph; this does not apply if an image record has already been captured;</p> <p>a document demonstrating that the foreign national or the commercial corporation, of which the foreign national is a governing body, member of a governing body or of which such foreign national is a procurator or partner, has access in the Territory to finances for implementation of significant investment; such document must not be more than 30 days old on the date of lodging your application;</p> <p>financial statements or similar documents containing the net profits of the applicant, commercial corporation and its controlling entity for the 2 calendar or accounting years preceding the date of lodging the application,</p> <p>upon request, proof of origin of the finances for implementation of the significant investment (tax return or, in the case of a natural person who is an</p>	<p>Long-term residence for investment purposes is intended for entrepreneurs who intend to stay in the Czech Republic for longer than 90 days and plan to make a “significant investment” in the Czech Republic and also for foreign nationals in the management of commercial corporations with a similar plan.</p>	<p>There is no particular requirement on gender, ethnic groups or age.</p>	<p>After five years of living in the Czech Republic, that would lead to permanent residency and ten years for citizenship. There is no detail on the duration of the visa and details on how it could be renewed.</p>



<p>employee, a document confirming income certified by the employer),</p> <p>a statutory statement by the applicant that a decision with effect similar to a bankruptcy decision has not been served either on the applicant, the commercial corporation or its controlling entity in the country of its hitherto operations,</p> <p>documents proving ownership and origin of other assets to be invested (e.g. purchase contract) and an expert valuation of such assets,</p> <p>a document proving that the foreign national is debt-free; this shall not apply for a foreign national who has not yet been in the Territory,</p> <p>if the applicant is a foreign national applying for long-term residence for investment purposes as a partner, governing body, member of a governing body or procurator of a commercial corporation, please submit</p> <p>a document proving the commercial corporation is debt-free,</p> <p>a document proving that the applicant's activity in the territory of the Czech Republic will have a substantial influence on the business of the commercial corporation (if more than 5 persons from the same company apply for entitlement to residence, their</p>			
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<p>concrete significance for the company by means of candidate profiles – candidate curricula vitae. In the absence of the aforementioned, the rebuttable assumption stipulated in the government ordinance laying down details relating to the issuance or extension of long-term residence for investment purposes shall apply, i.e. if there are fewer than 5 persons, it is assumed that they have a significant influence for the company – an extract from the commercial register is required),</p> <p>a document proving that his/her/its share in such commercial corporation is at least the minimum share stipulated in the government ordinance (extract from the commercial register),</p> <p>proof of registration in the appropriate register, list or records,</p> <p>upon request, a document similar to an extract from the Penal Register,</p> <p>upon request, a document confirming satisfaction of the requirements of measures for preventing the introduction of infectious disease, travel medical insurance certificate, and, upon request, proof of payment of the insurance premium specified in the travel medical insurance certificate; this shall not apply in cases specified in Section 180j(4).</p>			
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<p>a business plan containing a description of the targets of the plan to implement a significant investment, a risk assessment of execution of this plan, the reasons for making such significant investment in the Territory, a description of the separate stages of the plan to implement a significant investment, including a time schedule, the volume of finances earmarked for each stage, description of the product to be manufactured or service to be provided, customer and sales outlet target groups and of the technical and technological processes of production or the method of provision and description of the method of securing a work force.</p>			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>Once they are granted the visa, they can travel freely in the Schengen area.</p>			

**Table 5. Description of Czech Republic’s student mobility policy**

<b>guarantee(s)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>a) a travel document,  b) a document confirming the purpose of applicants stay in the territory,  c) proof of accommodation,  d) a photograph; not necessary if a pictorial recording has been made  e) parental consent, or that of another legal representative or guardian, with your stay in the Czech Republic, if applicant is a minor,  f) proof of funds, if it concerns university studies or unpaid professional work experience, in other cases a document stating that the costs for applicants stay are paid by a domestic host organisation,  g) upon request a document similar to an extract from the Penal Register record,  h) a medical report, that applicants do not have a serious illness; the presentation of a medical report can only be requested if there is reasonable suspicion that you suffer from a serious disease.</p>	<p>Mainland Chinese citizens and Hong Kong passport holders, BN(O) passport holders.</p> <p>Embassy and Consulate general of Czech Republic</p> <p>VFS Global if application from mainland China</p>	<p>Mainland Chinese citizens and Hong Kong passport holders, BN(O) passport holders who wants to study in Czech Republic</p>	<p>Depending on the duration of the curriculum</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>Once they are granted the visa, they can travel freely in the Schengen area.</p>			

**Table 6. Description of Czech Republic's Schengen policy**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
	<p>Mainland Chinese citizens and Hong Kong passport holders, BN(O) passport holders.</p>	<p>Schengen area is formed by the following states:</p> <p>Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Austria, Greece, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.</p> <p>“90/180 rule”</p> <p>According to a “90/180 rule,” a foreigner can stay in the Czech Republic/Schengen area for a maximum of 90 days within any 180 days. After a 90 days long stay, it is necessary to travel out of the Czech Republic/Schengen area. This rule does not pertain to aliens who:</p> <p>(1) are citizens of those countries with which the Czech Republic has concluded a bilateral visa free agreement before its entry into the EU (i.e. Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Israel, Malaysia, Panama, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Uruguay) – these aliens however need to travel out of the Schengen area after a 90 days long stay at least for one day; (2) stayed in the Czech Republic/Schengen area based on</p>	<p>Number of entries</p> <p>The validity period of a Schengen (short-term) visa is determined in accordance with the length of travel, for a maximum of 5 years. According to expected number of stays, Schengen (short-term) visa may be issued as follows:</p> <p>single entry – entitles to a single uninterrupted stay during the period stipulated in the visa, which may not exceed 90 days;</p> <p>double entry visa – entitles to two stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within 180 days;</p> <p>multiple entry visa – entitles to multiple stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within a 180 days.</p> <p>Please note that the Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 establishing the EU's Visa Code sets out procedures and conditions for issuing short-stay visas for visits to the Schengen</p>

		<p>a Schengen visa and their subsequent stay will be based on a Czech national visa (these visas are issued only in exceptional cases);</p> <p>(3) will stay in the Czech Republic based on a long-term visa or long-term residency permit.</p>	<p>area of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period.</p> <p>Visa Code sets out rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a progressively longer length of validity:</p> <p>1 year, if the applicant has used three visas within the previous 2 years;  2 years, if the applicant has already used a 1-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 2 years;  5 years, if the applicant has already used a 2-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 3 years.</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>Schengen (short-term) visa issued by a diplomatic mission of the Czech Republic or of another Schengen state entitles its holder to stay in the territory of the Czech Republic/Schengen area for the period indicated in the visa. Holder of a Schengen (Short-term) visa can stay on the territory of the Czech Republic, unless the Czech Republic has been excluded from the territorial validity of the visa.</p>			

### Annex 3 – Mobility policies in Finland

Source: categorization based on the websites of embassy of the Finland in China and consulate general of the Finland in Hong Kong

<https://finlandabroad.fi/web/chn/frontpage> <https://finlandabroad.fi/web/hkg/mission>

**Table1. Description of Finland’s labour migration policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>Residence Permit is required for jobs that are over 90 days Special residence permits and visas depending on the job nature Submit Form TEM 054 Jobs that require less 90 days do not require a visa for Hong Kong Chinese Mainland Chinese would require the employer to submit the form to the employment service in Finland for application</p> <p><b>the requirements for the residence permit for an employed person:</b> Have a valid passport Have not been imposed with an entry ban You are not a danger to public order and security Are not a danger to public health Are not a danger to Finland’s international relations Have a job in Finland The salary for the job is sufficient Salary must be at least the minimum salary specified in the collective</p>	<p>Hong Kong SAR and BN(O) passport holders Mainland Chinese passport holders Employers</p>	<p>Intend to work in Finland</p>	<p>90 days (visa C) More than 90 days Visa D and residence permit</p>

<p>agreement that applies to your sector. Read more about the collective agreements in Finland (tyosuojelu.fi). If there is no collective agreement or you are going to work part-time, your salary must be at least EUR 1,331 per month in 2023.</p> <p>The employer meets certain requirements Your employer must pay their taxes and the statutory insurance premiums and be able to pay you salary. The terms and conditions of your employment relationship must comply with Finnish legislation. In addition, there is no labour force available for the work in question in Finland or within the EU/EEA within a reasonable time. Whether your employer meets the requirements or not will be assessed by the TE Office.</p> <p><b>Seasonal workers' visa</b>  Normally need a residence permit to be allowed to work in Finland. However, for seasonal work of maximum 90 days you do not need a residence permit but a visa or a seasonal work certificate as a citizen of a visa free country.</p> <p>Seasonal work done in Finland will be governed by the Seasonal Work Act based on the new EU Directive on seasonal workers. The Seasonal Work Act does not apply to picking of wild berries because this does not involve an employment relationship. The picking of wild berries takes place by virtue of the Act on the Legal Status of Foreigners Collecting Natural Products (487/2021).</p>			
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<p>The Employment and Economic Development Office of North Ostrobothnia follows the fulfilment of the conditions specified in sections 5 and 7 of the Act, which entered into force on 14 June 2021, applying to operators in the natural products sector.</p> <p>Wild-berry picking is permitted under a Schengen visa for a maximum of 90 days over a period of 180 days. Visa applications for the purpose of wild-berry picking, submitted by third-country nationals who are subject to the visa requirement, are processed individually in accordance with the Visa Code and based on all available information. These kinds of visa applications must be submitted at a Finnish mission.</p> <p>Seasonal work refers to work in agriculture and tourism that is done at certain times of the year. Examples of seasonal work include work in forestry, plant production and festivals.</p> <p>The regular processing times set out in the Visa Code apply to the processing of seasonal visas. A permit for engaging in seasonal work is granted for working for one or more designated employers. A visa granted for seasonal work contains the additional information “Kausityö” and its validity period starts on the date when the employment relationship starts. You can find instructions on how to apply a visa in the paragraph Where and how to apply for a visa(Link to another website.).</p> <p>If the seasonal work exceeds 90 days,</p>			
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apply for a seasonal work permit from the Finnish Immigration Service.			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
The visa holder can travel freely within Schengen area If your family members are moving to Finland with you, you all can apply for a residence permit at the same time. Your spouse must create a user account and submit his or her own application in Enter Finland. Your children's applications can be sent from your own user account. The Finnish Immigration Service tries to decide your and your family members' applications at the same time, but there are situations when this is not possible.			Schengen policies

**Table 2. Description of Finland's family reunification policy**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>Family members who are Hong Kong citizens need to apply through consulate Mainland Chinese family members would need to apply through VFS Global</p> <p><b>Visa and residence permit of a Finnish citizen's family member</b> In accordance with section 37 of the Aliens Act (Ulkomaalaislaki 301/2004), a Finnish citizen's foreign family members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the spouse of a Finnish citizen</li> <li>- a person in a registered partnership with a Finnish citizen</li> <li>- an unmarried child under 18 years of age, whose guardian or the spouse of the guardian resides in Finland</li> <li>- if the person residing in Finland is a minor, his or her guardian is the family member</li> </ul> <p>Persons living in a marriage-like relationship and sharing the same household are comparable to a married couple regardless of their sex, provided that they have lived together for at least two years. The two-year requirement does not apply if the persons have a child in their joint custody or if there are other weighty reasons.</p> <p><u>Residence permit application by a family member who is a visa national</u> If you are a family member of a Finnish citizen and you intend to travel to Finland for a period of time exceeding three months, please follow the instructions: Apply for a residence permit at a Finnish</p>	<p>Hong Kong SAR and BN(O) passport holders Mainland Chinese passport holder EU/Finnish passport holder TCN(s) with work permit</p>	<p>For short-term or long-term family reunion</p>	<p>Depending on the spouse's condition of stay in Finland</p>

<p>mission either in your home country or in the country of departure where you have a legal residence well in advance. The residence permit application must be submitted in person. Read more about the application of a residence permit at the Finnish Immigration Service (Link to another website.) (Opens New Window) website.</p> <p><u>Residence permit application by a family member who is exempt from the visa requirement</u></p> <p>If you do not need a visa to Finland, you can stay in the country for a maximum of 90 days.</p> <p>If you are a Finnish citizen's family member and you intend to travel to Finland for a longer stay than three months, you can apply for a residence permit in advance at a Finnish mission.</p> <p>You can submit a residence permit application at the Finnish Immigration Service (Link to another website.) (Opens New Window), too.</p> <p><b>Family members of an EU citizen who are covered by EU Free Movement Directive</b></p> <p>According to the EU Free Movement Directive (Link to another website.), a family member means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.the spouse;</li> <li>2.the partner with whom the EU citizen has contracted a registered partnership, on the basis of the legislation of a Member State, if the legislation of the host Member State treats registered partnerships as equivalent to marriage and in accordance with the</li> </ol>			
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<p>conditions laid down in the relevant legislation of the host Member State;  3.the direct descendants who are under the age of 21 or are dependants and those of the spouse or partner as defined in point 2;  4.the dependent direct relatives in the ascending line and those of the spouse or partner as defined in point 2.  Family members of an EU citizen who are covered by the EU Free Movement Directive may submit their application for visa either at a visa application centre or at Finland’s mission abroad. No fee is charged for the visa.</p> <p>Check the website finlandvisa.fi for more detailed country-specific instructions on the documents required for visa applications of family members of an EU citizen who are covered by the Free Movement Directive (Link to another website.). You can check the required visa application documents without logging in on the website finlandvisa.fi.</p>			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
Once approved, they can travel freely within Schengen area, right to work			Schengen policy, labour migration policy

**Table 3. Description of Finland's policy on tourism**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>The Schengen category C visa allows its holder to travel in the Schengen Area on a short-term and temporary basis for no more than 90 days over a period of 180 days. A C visa can be obtained in the form of:</p> <p>Single-entry visa allows the holder to enter into the destination country once and stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.</p> <p>Double-entry visa allows entry into the destination country twice and may be valid within the Schengen area for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.</p> <p>Multiple-entry visa is granted for several consecutive visits to the Schengen area. The total duration of the stays may not exceed the number of days stated on the visa sticker, that is, up to 90 days in a 180-day period. A multiple-entry visa is valid for a maximum of five (5) years.</p>	<p><b>China: travel documents to Finland (incl. Hong Kong and Macao)</b></p> <p><b>China</b> <u>Visa required</u> Visa required to Schengen area and Finland <u>Visa free</u> Holders of Diplomatic passports</p> <p><u>Travel documents accepted by Finnish authorities</u> Ordinary passport Diplomatic passport Service passport / Official duty passport Public affairs passport Travel document recognized for exit or transit to return to China and it may be endorsed with a visa Seaman's book (on duty)</p> <p><b>Hong Kong (China)</b> <u>Visa required:</u> Visa required to Schengen area and Finland <u>Visa free / exception</u> Holders of a HKSAR and BN(O) Passport / Hong Kong (China) Special Administrative Region</p> <p><u>Travel documents accepted by Finnish authorities</u> Ordinary passport HKSAR Passport (Passport / Hong Kong (China) Special Administrative Region) The holder is visa free to Schengen area and Finland HKSAR Document of Identity (Hong Kong</p>		<p>90 days visa-free for travelling within Schengen area</p> <p>The validity period of a Schengen (short-term) visa is determined in accordance with the length of travel, for a maximum of 5 years. According to expected number of stays, Schengen (short-term) visa may be issued as follows:</p> <p>single entry – entitles to a single uninterrupted stay during the period stipulated in the visa, which may not exceed 90 days;</p> <p>double entry visa – entitles to two stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within 180 days</p> <p>multiple entry visa – entitles to multiple stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within a 180 days.</p> <p>Please note that the Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 establishing the EU's Visa Code sets out procedures and conditions for issuing short-stay visas for visits to the Schengen area of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period. 1 year, if the applicant has used three visas within the</p>

	<p>Document of Identity for Visa Purposes issued by Hong Kong authorities)</p> <p><b>Macao (China)</b>  <u>Visa required</u>          Visa required to Schengen area and Finland  <u>Visa free /exception</u>          Holders of a Passport / Macao (China) Special Administrative Region</p> <p><u>Travel documents accepted by Finnish authorities</u>          Ordinary passport          Passport / Macao (China) Special Administrative Region          The holder is visa free to Schengen area and Finland          Travel Permit / Macao (China) Special Administrative Region</p>		<p>previous 2 years; 2 years, if the applicant has already used a 1-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 2 years; 5 years, if the applicant has already used a 2-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 3 years.          Visa Code sets out rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a progressively longer length of validity:</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
90 day of 180 days visa free for Hong Kong citizens; for Mainland Chinese citizens, 90 days of 180s to travel within the Schengen area once they obtain the Schengen visas			Schengen policies

**Table 4. Description of Finland’s investment-based immigration policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>Entrepreneur - self-employed person of a private entrepreneur; a partner in a general partnership, a generally partner (not a silent partner) in a limited partnership; a member of of a cooperative having unlimited liability for refinancing, and an entrepreneur in a limited liability company; secondly the company is profitable, which meets the requirement assessed by A cCenter for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY center) in Finland. Third, the company is registered in the Trade Register mainland by the Finnish Patent and Registration Office.</p> <p>Start-up entrepreneur - applicant owns a recently established start-up company that aims to grow or is in the process of establishing a start-up up company, details of which can be found on the website of Business Finland. Second, the start-up company has a positive Eligibility Statement from Business Finland; Third, the applicant has sufficient financial resources for the entire duration of the residence permit</p>	<p>Hong Kong citizens with HKSAR and BN(O) passport Mainland Chinese citizens</p>	<p>Establishing business in Finland</p>	<p>Initial duration is two years for start- up entrepreneurs</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>Right to work and free to travel within Schengen area, family reunification</p>			<p>Schengen policy, labour migration policy and family reunification policy</p>



**Table 5. Description of Finland’s student mobility policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>Apply for a residence permit if an applicant intends to study in Finland for longer than 90 days.</p> <p><b>the requirements for the residence permit for studies</b></p> <p>You have a valid passport            You must have a valid passport. A residence permit can be granted for a longer period than the period of validity of your passport. If your passport expires while the residence permit is valid, remember to renew it early enough.            You have not been imposed with an entry ban            You are not a danger to public order and security            You are not a danger to public health            You have been admitted to a study programme in Finland that leads to a degree or a vocational qualification            You have enough money to cover your tuition fees            You have enough money to cover your living costs in Finland            You must have at least EUR 560 per month at your disposal so that you can pay for your accommodation, food and other needs in Finland.            You must have the money for living in Finland for the entire time your residence</p>	<p>If an applicant already has a residence permit for studies granted to the applicant by another EU Member State, an applicant can study in Finland if an applicant submits a mobility notification. With a mobility notification, an applicant can study in Finland for 360 days. If an applicant wishes to study in Finland for longer, an applicant will need a residence permit.</p>	<p>There are no particular age or gender restrictions for students. In this case, it is for those who are Hong Kong or Mainland Chinese citizens who have valid passports</p>	<p>There are short-term student visas and long-term student visas. For those who need to remain in Finland for more than 90 days they need to acquire for residence permit. The duration of stay depends on the duration of their study.</p>

<p>permit is valid.          You have insurance          In order to get a residence permit, you must take out private insurance that will cover your medical and pharmaceutical expenses.          However, you do not need private insurance if you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or a Finnish Kela card.</p>			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>Once their student visas are approved, they can travel freely within the Schengen area</p>			

**Table 6. Description of Finland's Schengen policy**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
	Hong Kong citizens Mainland Chinese citizens	Hong Kong Citizens who hold the BN(O) or HKSAR passports	<p>90 days Visa-free for Hong Kong citizens</p> <p>Mainland Chinese would need to apply for Schengen visa in VSF Global</p> <p>The validity period of a Schengen (short-term) visa is determined in accordance with the length of travel, for a maximum of 5 years. According to expected number of stays, Schengen (short-term) visa may be issued as follows:</p> <p>single entry – entitles to a single uninterrupted stay during the period stipulated in the visa, which may not exceed 90 days;</p> <p>double entry visa – entitles to two stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within 180 days</p> <p>multiple entry visa – entitles to multiple stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within a 180 days. Please note that the Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 establishing the EU's Visa Code sets out procedures and conditions for issuing short-stay visas for visits to</p>

			<p>the Schengen area of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period. 1 year, if the applicant has used three visas within the previous 2 years; 2 years, if the applicant has already used a 1-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 2 years; 5 years, if the applicant has already used a 2-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 3 years.</p> <p>Visa Code sets out rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a progressively longer length of validity:</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>

## Annex 4 – Mobility policies in Germany

Source: categorization based on the websites of German embassy of in China and German consulate general in Hong Kong

<https://china.diplo.de/cn-zh> <https://hongkong.diplo.de/hk-en>

\*) From 7 November 2023, the Apostille Convention will enter into force for Mainland Chinese documents, i.e. from that date, Mainland Chinese documents can be subject to Apostille, and then legalization is no longer required within Germany. Mainland Chinese documents authenticated before November 7, 2023 will continue to be accepted without the need for an additional Apostille.

**Table 1. Description of Germany’s labour migration policy**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p><b>Instructions for applying for a German work visa (Article 18 et seq. of the AufenthG)</b>  <b>Germany work permit application</b>                      General information for citizens of mainland China:                      High skilled professionals                      For those who receives a minimum of 43,800 Euros annually. (For jobs in-demand: Natural scientists, Mathematicians; Engineers; Doctors and IT professionals; Product manufacturing; Mining; Product managers of Construction and Logistics; Managers of information technology and service.; medical professionals (Childcare or Healthcare), Veterinarians; Dentists; caring or midwives or teaching professional in and outside schools who have certified qualifications; an annual income of € 39,683. ) All the above will receive blue card.                      For those who do not have university qualifications, if they can prove they have at least three-year experience they will also</p>	<p>Citizens of mainland China</p>	<p>professionals, positions that generate high incomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A visa or residence permit for qualified employment is issued for a maximum of four years.</li> <li>- The EU (European Union) Blue Card is issued for the duration of your work contract, including an additional three months, and is limited to four years.</li> <li>- Special rules for professional drivers: As long as your employment contract is valid, your residence permit can generally be extended.</li> <li>- After entering Germany, a residence permit for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications or for the completion of qualification programmes is issued for up to 18 months.</li> </ul> <p><b>What you need to know about your</b></p>

<p>receive blue card.</p> <p>the lower salary threshold for in-demand occupations applies (i.e. salary 45.3% of the annual contribution assessment limit; €39,682.80 in 2023).</p> <p>Professionals who have academic qualifications but do not meet the above salary levels, or professionals who have received vocational training, can obtain a residence permit.</p> <p>Used to perform work that meets my qualifications.</p> <p>Corporate executives or talents (experts) with corporate expertise can also obtain a residence permit. Limited-term employment is also possible on staff exchange or intra-company transfer (ICT).</p> <p><u>Application requirement for working in Germany</u></p> <p>A fully completed and signed German visa application form in German or English must contain notification of Section 54 of the AufenthG. Please use our electronic visa application form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 recent biometric ID photos (format: see photo template Foto-Mustertafel). No retouched photos will be accepted.</li> <li>• Valid travel passport (hand signed and with at least two blank pages). The passport validity must be at least three months beyond the visa validity period.</li> <li>• 1 copy of passport information page</li> </ul> <p>CV</p> <p>Letter of certification from your current employer</p>			<p><b>work visa application in Germany (Article 18 of the AufenthG et seq.)</b></p> <p>The normal processing time is about 4 weeks, but in some cases it may be longer. It is advisable to apply as early as possible, up to six months in advance. Employers can also contact the foreigners administration bureau in charge of them to apply for expedited procedures for entry visas for professionals.</p> <p><b>Instructions for Applying for a Work Visa (Article 20 of the AufenthG) for mainland Chinese citizens</b></p> <p>The normal processing time is about 2 to 3 weeks, but in some cases it can be longer.</p> <p><b>Visa application for opening a private company in Germany (Art. 21 of the AufenthG) for mainland Chinese citizens</b></p> <p>The visa usually needs to be approved by the competent Aliens Administration in Germany. A visa can only be issued after receiving this approval.</p> <p>The normal processing time is about 8-12 weeks, with some cases being longer.</p> <p><b>Notes on Caregiver Visa Application (Sections 16a, 16d or 18a of the AufenthG) for mainland Chinese citizens</b></p> <p>The normal processing time is about 4</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Declaration of employment relationship form” „Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis“ completed and signed by the prospective employer</li> <li>• Letter of explanation for the expedited procedure for professionals Erklärung zum beschleunigten Fachkräfteverfahren</li> <li>• Proof of adequate medical insurance If you are required to take out statutory medical insurance in Germany as an employee, please note that this insurance is only applicable if you already live and work in Germany. If you enter Germany before then, you must apply for personal medical insurance until the employment relationship begins and the statutory medical insurance takes effect.</li> <li>• If necessary, please also provide: a license or license guarantee issued by the German competent authority (e.g. medical industry) EU Blue Card or other professionals with academic qualifications</li> <li>• Foreign degree certificate: document equivalent to a German university degree Printouts of degree and university ratings from the anabin database. or the original certificate of ZAB ZAB (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) (if the degree in the anabin database is not rated "corresponding" or "equivalent" and/or the university is not rated "H+")</li> <li>• Personal qualification certificate: University degree certificate If you obtained your degree in China, you must provide both the university graduation certificate and the degree certificate</li> </ul>			<p>weeks, but in some cases it may be longer</p> <p><b>China Chef Visa Notice (Article 19c, Paragraph 1 of the Residence Law and Article 11, Paragraph 2 of the Labour Law) for mainland Chinese citizens</b> The normal processing time is about 4 weeks, and in some cases it may be longer</p> <p><b>Notes on visa applications for researchers and PhDs (Section 18d or 16b of the AufenthG) for mainland Chinese citizens</b> The normal processing time is about 2-4 weeks, but in some cases it can be longer.</p> <p><b>National Visa for Employment (§§ 18 ff. AufenthG) for Hong Kong citizens</b> The standard processing time is approx. 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer</p> <p><b>Jobseeker Visa (§ 20 AufenthG) for Hong Kong citizens</b> The standard processing time is approx. 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer</p> <p><b>for research stay (§ 18d AufenthG) for Hong Kong citizens</b> The standard processing time can take up to 2 weeks, in individual cases even</p>
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<p>Applicants over 45 years old: Submit proof of sufficient pension or salary reaches at least 55% of the annual contribution assessment limit for general pension insurance - 2023: gross income of 48,180 euros/year (not applicable to EU Blue Card)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A German employment contract signed by both parties, which can be written in German or English Staff communication</li> <li>• Supplementary instructions for applying for a residence permit for expatriates Zusatzklärung</li> <li>• List of expatriates (not required if pre-approved by the German Federal Labor Office) • Chinese employment contract that remains valid after the expiration period</li> <li>• Proof of professional qualifications Intra-company transfer (ICT)</li> <li>• Supplementary instructions for applying for a residence permit for expatriates Zusatzklärung</li> <li>• Chinese employment contract that remains valid after the assignment period ends</li> <li>• Professional qualification certificate A certificate of vocational training completed in Germany or a certification document from the competent authority proving that the training completed in China is equivalent to the training in Germany. The agency responsible for this can be found on the website <a href="http://www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de">www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de</a></li> <li>• Proof of qualifications such as certificates, diplomas, etc.</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicants over 45 years of age: Submit proof of adequate pension OR salary reaches</p>			<p>longer.</p> <p><b>Working Holiday Visa for Hong Kong citizens</b> The standard processing time can take up to 2 weeks</p>
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<p>at least 55% of the annual contribution assessment limit for general pension insurance  - 2023: gross income of €48,180/year  Corporate executives or talents (experts) with corporate expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documents proving professional knowledge (such as certificates, diplomas) must exceed the level of professional knowledge required by the company. Non-Chinese applicants</li> <li>• Valid Chinese residence permit to prove permanent residence</li> </ul> <p>Instructions for obtaining a work visa (Article 20 of the AufenthG)  general information  This type of visa is provided to foreign professionals who are interested in working in Germany and hold a professional qualification certificate or a university degree certificate recognized by Germany, so that they can find a job that matches their professional skills within up to 6 months after arriving in Germany. .  You cannot work formally while you are looking for a job in Germany, except for probation work of up to 10 hours per week.  Family members of applicants holding work visas cannot apply for family reunion visas. If you have received a specific job opportunity, please refer to the German Work Visa Application Instructions  Work visa application checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 fully completed and signed German visa application form in German or English and must contain notification of Section 54 of the AufenthG. Please use our electronic visa application form</li> </ul>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 recent biometric ID photos (format: see photo template Foto-Mustertafel). Any photos that have been retouched will not be accepted.</li> <li>• Valid travel passport (hand signed and with at least two blank pages). The passport validity must be at least three months beyond the visa validity period</li> <li>• 1 copy of passport information page</li> <li>• Resume written in German or English</li> <li>• 1 persuasive letter explaining motivation written by the applicant in German or English and stating the following points as much as possible - planned length of stay and schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interested job areas</li> <li>- The company that will be competing for the position</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If there is: invitation letter from the company for interview or correspondence or emails with the company contacted</li> <li>• Letter of certification from your current employer</li> <li>• Proof of financial resources ensuring financial resources for the entire period of stay in Germany (at least 1027 euros per month of stay) e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letter of financial guarantee stipulated in Article 68 of the " AufenthG " (the application must be made no more than 6 months before the date of issuance of the letter of financial guarantee, and the purpose of stay is "looking for a job") or</li> <li>- Statement from a German bank for the last 3 months or</li> <li>- Accounts with limited withdrawals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proof of residence during the stay in Germany (for example: rental contract, hotel</li> </ul>			
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<p>reservation, passport information page of the inviter in Germany and invitation letter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of travel medical insurance in Germany, effective from the date of entry and valid for at least 6 months</li> <li>• If necessary: License or letter of authorization issued by the competent German authority (e.g. medical industry)</li> <li>• Applicants over 45 years of age: Submit a written declaration of adequate pension or a salary that reaches at least 55% of the annual contribution assessment limit for general pension insurance, gross income in 2023, €48,180/year (not applicable to EU Blue Card)</li> </ul> <p>Professionals with academic qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of personal qualifications: College degree certificate</li> </ul> <p>Foreign degree certificate: Document equivalent to a German university degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Copies of degree and university evaluations from the anabin Datenbank database or (if the degree in the anabin database is not rated as "corresponding" or "equivalent" and/or the university is not rated as "H+") - original certificate rating from ZAB ZAB (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen)</li> </ul> <p>If the degree was obtained in China, you must provide both the university diploma and the degree certificate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If available: Foreign language language documentation</li> </ul> <p>Vocationally trained professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A certificate of vocational training completed in Germany or a certification document from the competent authority must prove that the training completed in China is equivalent to the training in Germany. The</li> </ul>			
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<p>agency responsible for this can be found on the website <a href="http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de">www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of qualifications such as certificates, diplomas, etc.</li> <li>• Proof of German language proficiency that matches the desired occupation, a recognized language certificate (at least B1 level)</li> </ul> <p>Non-Chinese applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valid Chinese residence permit to prove permanent residence</li> </ul> <p>Instructions for applying for a visa to open a private business in Germany (Article 21 of the AufenthG)</p> <p>general information</p> <p>A residence permit to open a private business can be issued if the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are economic benefits or regional needs,</li> <li>- the business operations will have a positive impact on the local economy, and</li> <li>- The funds required to open a business have been guaranteed (own capital or approved loans)</li> </ul> <p>Material list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 fully completed and signed German visa application form in German or English and must contain notification of Article 54 of the AufenthG. Please use our electronic visa application form</li> <li>• 2 recent biometric ID photos (format: see photo template Foto-Mustertafel). No retouched photos will be accepted.</li> </ul>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valid travel passport (hand signed and with at least two blank pages). The passport validity must be at least three months beyond the visa validity period.</li> <li>• 1 copy of passport information page</li> <li>CV</li> <li>• Proof of personal qualifications (such as school and university diplomas, employment certificates and other proof of skills)</li> <li>• Proof of foreign language proficiency. For information on recognized language certificates,</li> <li>k) Ancillary information: the number of jobs expected to be created or the number of training places expected to be generated l) If possible, a description of the positive impact of the program on innovation and research</li> <li>• Applicants over 45 years old: Submit proof of adequate pension</li> <li>• Proof of adequate medical insurance in Germany effective from the date of entry and with a coverage period of 180 days. Checklist of visa application materials for opening a private enterprise</li> <li>Applicants of non-Chinese nationality</li> <li>• Valid Chinese residence permit to prove permanent residence</li> <li>Instructions for applying for a caregiver visa (Article 16a, 16d or 18a of the AufenthG)</li> <li>general information</li> <li>People who plan to work in the nursing industry for a long time in Germany need to obtain a license issued by the state to engage in this industry. The following requirements must generally be met to be approved to work as a caregiver in Germany:</li> </ul>			
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<p>Recognized degree: Nursing degrees earned in China must be recognized in Germany. The competent authority will examine whether your professional qualification is equivalent to a German qualification. If not, you can take a knowledge test or adaptive course to demonstrate an equivalent level of knowledge. Applications for professional recognition must be submitted to the competent authority of the federal state where the employment is located. For relevant institutional information, please see:  <a href="http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de">www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de</a>  Sufficient German language skills: Level B2 knowledge of German according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (GER) is usually required. Additionally, there may be other requirements. You can also travel to Germany to train as a caregiver. If your German knowledge does not meet the requirements, you can take German classes in advance.</p> <p>Information list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 fully completed and signed German visa application form in German or English and must contain notification of Article 54 of the AufenthG. Please use our electronic visa application form</li> <li>• 2 recent biometric ID photos (format: see photo template Foto-Mustertafel). No retouched photos will be accepted.</li> <li>• Valid travel passport (hand signed and with at least two blank pages). The passport validity must be at least three months beyond the visa validity period.</li> <li>• 1 copy of passport information page</li> <li>• Resume written in German or English</li> </ul>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter of certification from your current employer</li> <li>• Letter of explanation for the expedited procedure for professionals Erklärung zum beschleunigten Fachkräfteverfahren</li> <li>• Proof of adequate medical insurance</li> </ul> <p>If you are required to take out statutory medical insurance in Germany as an employee, please note that this insurance is only applicable if you already live and work in Germany. If you enter Germany before then, you must apply for private medical insurance until the employment relationship begins and the legal until medical insurance takes effect.</p> <p>Immigration to work as a nursing staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Declaration of Employment Relationship Form” „Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis“ completed and signed by the prospective employer</li> <li>• Chinese Nursing or Nurse Professional Diploma</li> <li>• Vocational qualification recognition certificate issued by the relevant German accreditation agency</li> <li>• Business license guarantee from Germany</li> <li>• Certificate of German proficiency up to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. For information on recognized language certificates, see the Long-Term Residency FAQ</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicants over 45 years old: Submit proof of adequate pension (only if salary is less than 55% of the annual contribution assessment limit for general pension insurance - 2023: gross income of €48,180/year)</p>			
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<p>Certification of nursing professional qualifications after entry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chinese Nursing or Nurse Professional Diploma</li> <li>• Partial accreditation certificate for professional qualifications issued by the relevant German accreditation agency (Defizitbescheid)</li> <li>• Proof that the applicant will attend supplementary nursing training in Germany/Proof that the applicant will attend preparatory classes for the nursing graduation exam in Germany/Proof of the number of language classes per week and the provider of the language classes that the applicant will attend in Germany</li> <li>• If planned at the same time working as an auxiliary caregiver:</li> </ul> <p>- Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis”  “Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis” completed and signed by the prospective employer and its supplementary pages Zusatzblatt</p> <p>- “Employment Declaration Form” for future employment as a professional caregiver  „Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis“</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otherwise: Proof of sufficient financial resources</li> </ul> <p>Attend a certified course at the school: €1027 per month.  Attend the company's certification course: 882 euros net / 1060 euros gross monthly income.  If the vocational training salary is too low, proof of funds for the monthly difference must be submitted separately, e.g. through a restricted withdrawal account Sperrkonto</p>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of adequate German language proficiency (usually a certificate of German proficiency up to level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). For information on recognized language certificates, see the Long-Term Residency FAQ</li> </ul> <p>Entering the country to participate in professional nursing training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training contracts (with nursing schools and nursing facilities)</li> <li>• Certificate of German proficiency up to level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. For information on recognized language certificates, see the Long-Term Residency FAQ</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <p>Proof that you will attend language classes in Germany for at least 18 hours per week and proof of sources of living expenses while attending language classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of funds:</li> </ul> <p>School vocational training: proof of financial resources with a monthly income of at least 903 euros is required for the first year</p> <p>Corporate vocational training: In the first year, proof of funds must be submitted with a net monthly income of at least 771 euros, that is, a gross monthly income of 927 euros.</p> <p>If you attend a preparatory language course for vocational training without a salary or if the training salary is too low, you must submit separate proof of funds for the monthly difference, e.g. through a restricted withdrawal account Sperrkonto</p> <p>Applicants of non-Chinese nationality</p>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valid Chinese residence permit to prove permanent residence</li> </ul> <p>Chinese Chef Visa Instructions (Residence Law Article 19c Paragraph 1 and Labor Law Article 11 Paragraph 2) General Information Chinese chefs can obtain a residence permit to work in Chinese restaurants. Please note that Chinese restaurant chef visa applicants must be Chinese citizens and apply for the visa in China.</p> <p>Visa application materials list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 fully completed and signed German visa application form in German or English and must contain notification of Article 54 of the AufenthG. Please use our electronic visa application form</li> <li>• 2 recent biometric ID photos (format: see photo template Foto-Mustertafel). No retouched photos will be accepted.</li> <li>• Valid travel passport (hand signed and with at least two blank pages). The passport validity must be at least three months beyond the visa validity period.</li> <li>• 1 copy of passport information page</li> <li>• "Declaration of employment relationship form" Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis" completed and signed by the employer</li> <li>• “</li> </ul> <p>Introduction to Chinese restaurants in Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menus of Chinese restaurants in Germany</li> <li>• Resume written in German or English</li> <li>• Proof of completion of vocational training (minimum 2 years of training) at a recognized educational institution (vocational school)</li> </ul>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of work as a chef to date</li> <li>• Training Certificate for Laborers Working Abroad</li> <li>• Original chef professional qualification certificate</li> <li>• Valid health examination certificate and cooking examination certificate issued by one of the three cooking schools in Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou</li> <li>• Proof of adequate medical insurance</li> </ul> <p>If you are an employee and must apply for statutory medical insurance in Germany, please note that this insurance is only applicable if you already live and work in Germany. If you enter Germany before this time, you must apply for private medical insurance until the employment relationship begins and the legal until medical insurance takes effect.</p> <p>Instructions for applying for visas for researchers and PhD students (Article 18d or 16b of the AufenthG)  general information  Researchers are third country citizens who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Possess a doctoral degree or have academic qualifications suitable for direct entry into a doctoral program, and</li> <li>2. Selected by a research institution and allowed to enter the territory of an EU member state,</li> <li>3. Conduct research that would normally require such a degree.</li> </ol> <p>NOTE: This also includes PhD students.  If the applicant obtains a doctorate (individual doctorate) within the framework of a work contract or research agreement with a German</p>			
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<p>university or research institution, he must apply for a research visa.</p> <p>Checklist of application materials for researchers and PhD students in Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 fully completed and signed German visa application form in German or English and must contain notification of Article 54 of the AufenthG. Please use our electronic visa application form.</li> <li>• 2 recent biometric ID photos (format: see photo template Foto-Mustertafel). No retouched photos will be accepted.</li> <li>• Valid travel passport (hand signed and with at least two blank pages). The passport validity must be at least three months beyond the visa validity period.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1 copy of passport information page</li> <li>• Letter of motivation</li> <li>• Applicant's description of the research project (research proposal)</li> <li>• A detailed and complete curriculum vitae, including accurate information on education to date (must include a one-page summary of the content of the bachelor's thesis and master's thesis (if applicable)) and research projects undertaken (if applicable)</li> <li>• College degree</li> </ul> <p>If the degree was obtained in China, you must provide both the university diploma and degree certificate</p> <p>If for research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptance agreement or corresponding contract with a German research institution. This acceptance agreement/contract must contain certain basic elements (refer to Article 38f of the AufenthG) and be signed by an authorized signatory. A work contract alone is</li> </ul>			
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<p>not enough. A sample acceptance agreement is available here hier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation letter from a German university or research institution, which must indicate the content of academic activities, length of stay and expenses incurred during the stay</li> <li>• If the majority of the costs of the research project are not funded by public funds, written proof of cost commitment must be provided, i.e. proof of the cost incurred by the public institution in the next six months after the termination of the receiving agreement</li> <li>• Proof of sufficient financial resources</li> </ul> <p>Proof of funds :</p> <p>Applicants must provide proof of financial support of at least €1,027 per month during their stay in Germany if they are not employed. Proof of funds can be in the following forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corresponding contract</li> <li>- Scholarships from German or European institutions, scholarships from China Scholarship Council</li> <li>- Account with limited withdrawals - Sperrkonto</li> </ul> <p>When submitting your application, you must provide the fees required for the first year of residence. If the stay is shorter than one year, the total amount is reduced accordingly.</p> <p>If there is an employment relationship, proof of the statutory minimum wage of at least €2,080 gross monthly income must be provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of adequate medical insurance</li> </ul> <p>If you are required to take out statutory medical insurance in Germany as an employee, please note that this insurance is</p>			
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<p>only applicable if you already live and work in Germany. If you enter Germany before then, you must apply for private medical insurance until the employment relationship begins and the legal until medical insurance takes effect. If you are not legally obliged to take out statutory medical insurance after entry, you must provide proof of insurance covering the entire visa period (usually six months).</p> <p><b><u>The followings are for citizens of Hong Kong</u></b></p> <p><b>National Visa for Employment (§§ 18 ff. AufenthG)</b></p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time is approx. 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> To shorten the procedure, your employer can apply for a pre-approval “Vorabzustimmung” from the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Your employer can also contact the aliens authorities for an accelerated skilled worker procedure („Beschleunigtes Fachkräfteverfahren“).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> </ul>			
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required) September 2023</p> <p>Checklist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> „Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis“ completed and signed by the prospective employer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation of pre-approval (Vorabzustimmung) by the Federal Employment Agency (only if available, speeds up the process)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum vitae</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visa application fee 75 EUR, in cash in HKD. The exact amount in HKD depends on the exchange rate.</p> <p><u>EU Blue Card and other skilled workers additional documents</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Annual salary for the year 2023 - at least 43.800 EUR gross (2024: 45.300 EUR) or - at least 39.682,80 EUR gross (2024: 41.041,80 EUR) for</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> bottleneck professions such as natural scientists, mathematicians, engineers, doctors and IT professionals</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> young professionals if you obtained your last degree or equivalent qualification less than three years ago</p>			
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> for IT professional or manager without a formal qualification. You must have worked in IT for at least three of the past seven years. Your professional experience must have been at university level</p> <p>- if less than above-mentioned salaries or as a professional with vocational training, you may be granted a residence permit to engage in skilled employment if your qualification is recognised in Germany or comparable to a German degree</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Qualification:</p> <p>- German university degree or</p> <p>- A foreign university degree fulfilling below requirements</p> <p>- level 6 of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) or level 6 of the European Qualifications Framework</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> For foreign degrees:</p> <p>- Two print-outs of anabin database of the university and the university degree</p> <p>- university has to be rated “H+”</p> <p>- degree has to be rated “equivalent” or</p> <p>- Statement of comparability by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> From the age of 45</p> <p>Proof of adequate provision for old age (only if salary does not amount to at least 55 % of the annual contribution. assessment ceiling for the general pension insurance scheme - 2023: 48.180 EUR gross/per annum, 2024: 49.830 EUR) (not applicable for EU Blue Card)</p>			
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<p><u>Intra-company transfer (ICT) additional documents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Zusatzklärung for a residence permit complying with the employment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of professional qualification</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of professional qualification</li> </ul> <p>Skilled Workers with Vocational Training additional documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of vocational training completed in Germany OR notification from the competent authority that the training completed abroad is equivalent to German training. The agency responsible for recognition in Germany can be contacted via <a href="http://www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de">www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> From the age of 45</li> </ul> <p>Proof of adequate provision for old age (only if salary does not amount to at least 55 % of the annual contribution assessment ceiling for the general pension insurance scheme - 2023: 48.180 EUR gross/per annum)</p> <p><b>Jobseeker Visa (§ 20 AufenthG)</b>  This visa is aimed at highly qualified non-EU nationals holding a German, a recognized or a comparable foreign academic degree. The visa will enable the holder to remain in Germany for a period of six months in order to find appropriate employment.</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time is approx. 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer.</li> </ul>			
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</p> <p>September 2023 Checklist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum vitae</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Job offer or letter of invitation for interviews in Germany (and related email correspondence)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong Hong Kong stay permit and a Hong Kong Identity Card, or Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Signed motivation letter Providing information on the planned course of action to secure a job (sector, region, intended place of residence/accommodation etc.).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Qualification: German university degree or A foreign university degree fulfilling below requirements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> For foreign degrees:</p>			
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<p>Two print-outs of anabin database of the university and the university degree, university has to be rated “H+”, degree has to be rated “equivalent”, or Statement of comparability by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)</p> <p><b>Self-employed/freelancer Visa</b>  Freelancers such as artists (painters, musicians or writers) or in other liberal professions may apply for a residence permit for freelance work. This visa category requires you to have the means or the income to fund your project and to support yourself.</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The processing time can take up to several months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong  - Hong Kong stay permit and a Hong Kong Identity Card or</li> </ul>			
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<p>- Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Detailed business plan outlining the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Business concept</li> <li>- Financing and investment plan</li> <li>- Capital requirement plan</li> <li>- Revenue forecast for the first three years</li> <li>- Market and competitive analysis</li> <li>- Marketing strategy</li> </ul> <p>- If applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- expected number of employees and trainees</li> <li>- explanation of the extent to which the areas of innovation and research will be positively influenced by the project</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Qualification, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University degree</li> <li>- Training certificate</li> <li>- Experience certificates</li> <li>- Reference letters</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Financial proof:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bank statements of the last three months</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the applicant</li> <li>- coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation</li> <li>- valid for the entire Schengen area</li> <li>- valid for at least three months after the date of departure</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of adequate old age pension provisions if you are older than 45 years of age</p> <p><b>for research stay (§ 18d AufenthG)</b> If you intend to conduct research in Germany, you are required to obtain a residence permit.</p>			
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<p>This residence permit must be issued before you enter the country.</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 2 weeks, in individual cases even longer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hong Kong stay permit and a Hong Kong Identity Card or</li> <li>- Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Aufnahmevereinbarung (Hosting Agreement)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Signed motivation letter with a detailed description of the intended activity in Germany</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum vitae, complete and in detail</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of University qualification (German</li> </ul>			
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<p>or otherwise equivalent university degree)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial proof with a minimum of 1.027 EUR per month by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invitation letter from the German university or research organisation (internship agreement)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>stating: Purpose and duration of stay, salary and detailed description of duty/training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A blocked account (“Sperrkonto”) at a German bank showing a minimum amount according to the duration of your intended stay (withdrawal limit of 1.027 EUR per month). You have to open the blocked account directly with the bank.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the applicant</li> <li>- coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation</li> <li>- valid for the entire Schengen area</li> <li>- valid for at least three months the date of departure</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Working Holiday Visa</b></p> <p>The Working Holiday Scheme aims to enable citizens of Hong Kong between 18 and 30 years to gain an insight into the culture and daily life in the Federal Republic of Germany. It allows them to travel to Germany for a stay of up to twelve months. Since the Working Holiday Scheme is intended to promote greater mutual understanding, the applicant's primary aim should be to visit Germany. However, to help finance the stay, short-term employments of not more than three months each can be taken up with different employers</p>			
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<p>of the visa holder's choice.  300 Working Holiday Visa per year which will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.  Checklist  General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 2 weeks.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Signed motivation letter and detailed monthly travel plan for the entire stay.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum vitae</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of address of accommodation (e.g. hotel confirmation) for the first week of your stay</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance covering the “Working Holiday Programme”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of sufficient funds (at least 2,000.00 EUR) in the past three months.</li> </ul> <p>Evidence of own funds has to be provided</p>			
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(e.g., recent bank statements, savings account passbook or an official patronage declaration with proof of income of the patron). <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of your flight reservation			
Themes			
benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)	penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)	forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)	referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)
Right to work; Family members(except jobseeker visa); PR ( Permanent Resident) after 5 years of continued residence.		Visa for the recognition of foreign qualifications - a foreigner with non-recognized professional qualification in Germany - It is possible to take a course of study or train some skills in order to make your professional qualifications compatible with the German requirements. - have register the qualification program approved by the Federal Employment Agency (BA - Bundesagentur für Arbeit) - sufficient income - Fulfilment of language skills	



**Table 2. Description of Germany’s family reunification policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>For citizens of Hong Kong and Mainland China</p> <p>Spouses and minor unmarried children (under 18 years of age) of foreigners residing in Germany can apply for a reunification visa. These two types of visa are “<b>marriage visa</b>” and “<b>family reunion visa</b>”.</p> <p><b>Please note that you cannot convert a “tourist visa” into a “marriage visa” and “family reunion visa”. (this appears in Germany consulate of Hong Kong only)</b></p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 3 months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>September 2023</p> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa</li> </ul>	<p>who are third-country nationals joining EU ( European Union) citizen and non-EU ( European Union) citizen</p> <p>Children under the age of 18 of parent with Germany citizenship</p> <p>Children under the age 21 of parent with EU-/ EEA-citizenship</p> <p>TCN parents who are the minor has Germany nationality</p> <p>Citizens of Hong Kong and mainland China</p>	<p>Family members are third-country nationals</p> <p>Please note that now a new German law is in effect which requires that any person wishing to join his/her spouse to reside in Germany should have attained a certain level of German language proficiency before he/she is issued with a visa.</p>	<p>8 to 12 weeks or more for the processing time for mainland Chinese</p> <p>Family reunification with underage children</p> <p><b>Instructions for Visa Application for Dependent Children (Minor Children) (Article 32 of the AufenthG) for mainland Chinese citizens</b></p> <p>The normal processing time is 8-12 weeks, but in some cases it may be longer</p> <p><b>Instructions for applying for a visa for family reunification with a minor German child (Article 28, paragraph 1, sentence 1, point 3 of the AufenthG) for mainland Chinese citizens</b></p> <p>The normal processing time is about 1-2 weeks, but in some cases it may be longer</p> <p><b>Instructions for applying for a visa for reunification with EU/EEA citizens residing in Germany for mainland Chinese citizens</b></p> <p>The normal processing time is about 2 weeks, but in some cases it may be longer</p>

<p>application form (no copy required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport copy of the applicant's fiancé/e (copy of photo page), or the child</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> “Anmeldung zur Eheschließung” Proof of confirmation of marriage registration from local German registry office if apply for marriage visa</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> “Meldebescheinigung” Certificate of registration (not older than 3 months) if apply for marriage visa</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificate* of joint children (if any) with apostille if born in Hong Kong or legalisation if applicable and passport copies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invitation letter of the fiancé/e to set up joint residence in Germany with informal declaration on how to secure livelihood in Germany</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of financial means of applicant’s fiancé/e e. g. employment contract or bank statements of the last 3 months</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> additional documents on page 2</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong/mainland China</li> </ul>			<p><b>Marriage Visa for Hong Kong citizens</b> The standard processing time can take up to 2-3 months.</p> <p><b>Family Reunion Visa (§§ 28 ff. AufenthG) for Hong Kong citizens</b> The standard processing time can take up to 3 months.</p> <p><b>Family Reunion Visa for the spouse of a German citizen for the parent of a German minor child (§§ 28 ff. AufenthG) for Hong Kong citizens</b> The standard processing time can take up to 3 months.</p> <p><b>Family Reunion Visa for Hong Kong citizens</b> for the spouse of an EU-/EEA-citizen for the parent of an EU-/EEA-minor child The standard processing time can take up to 3 months.</p>
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<p>- Mainland stay permit  - Hong Kong stay permit and Hong Kong Identity Card or  - Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)  <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of a basic command of German  Goethe-Institut Level A1 or any language certificate based on the standards of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) not older than 12 months  <input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating  - name of the applicant  - coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation  - valid for the entire Schengen area  - valid for at least three months after the date of departure</p> <p><b>Family reunion for underage children (Aufenthaltsgesetz - AufenthG§ 32 )</b>  General information  Children who are single (below 18) of TCNs who live in Germany can apply for family reunification visa</p> <p>If a minor is over 16 years old and unaccompanied by both legal guardians or sole legal guardian, in principle, the minor must have German language proficiency at level C1 of CEFR; or there should be proof that the applicant will be</p>			
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<p>able to adjust to the living and study in Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 recent photos without retouching (Foto-Mustertafel)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Valid travel passport (hand signed and with at least two blank pages). The passport must be valid for at least three months beyond the visa validity period</li> </ul> <p>Passport copy</p> <p>An invitation copy</p> <p>One invitation letter in any format, accompanied by copies of the guardian's travel passport and residence permit, and the guardian's household registration certificate in Germany (the date of application should not exceed 6 months from the date of issue of the household registration certificate). If you are moving with your legal guardian at the same time, you will also need to provide proof of residence (such as a rental contract, property certificate, or relevant information containing future address information in Germany). Determine the foreigners administration office responsible for your visa application by address, which will also be responsible for issuing a residence permit after entry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Original birth certificate of the minor child with double legalization or apostille <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Original marriage certificate of the parents with double legalization or apostille</li> <li>or (if the parents are divorced)</li> <li>b) Original certificate of divorce of the parents (divorce decree or divorce</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
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<p>agreement) certified by double legalization or apostille*</p> <p><b>Family Reunion Visa for the spouse of a German citizen for the parent of a German minor child (§§ 28 ff. AufenthG)</b></p> <p>seek permanent residency in Germany (or staying in Germany for longer than 90 days), you are required to obtain a residence permit in the form of a visa. <b>Please note that you cannot convert a “tourist visa” into a “family reunion visa”. (this appears in Germany consulate of Hong Kong only)</b></p> <p>If you are married to a German citizen or if you are the parent of a German minor child and wish to</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 3 months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong</li> </ul> <p>- Hong Kong stay permit and Hong Kong</p>			
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<p>Identity Card or  - Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card  (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In the event of joint relocation to Germany  proof of accommodation in Germany including full address (e. g. rental agreement, hotel reservation or invitation letter in case of private accommodation with name, full address and passport copy of the inviting person)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating  - name of the applicant  - coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation  - valid for the entire Schengen area  - valid for at least three months after the date of departure</p> <p><u>for the spouse of a German citizen</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate*  with apostille if married in Hong Kong or legalisation if applicable</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Passport copy of the applicant's spouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "Meldebescheinigung" (certificate of registration) if the spouse is already living in Germany</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Invitation letter of the spouse to set up joint residence in Germany with informal declaration on how to secure livelihood in Germany</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In case of previous marriages divorce certificates/decrees with legal notice e.g. Decree Nisi and Decree Absolute both with apostille</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificate* of joint children (if</p>			
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<p>any) with apostille if born in Hong Kong or legalization if applicable and passport copies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificate* of your child with apostille if married in Hong Kong or legalization if applicable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate* with apostille if married in Hong Kong or legalization if applicable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport copy of your child (copy of photo page)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> “Meldebescheinigung” (certificate of registration) if the child is already living in Germany (not older than 3 months)</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In the event of joint relocation to Germany proof of accommodation in Germany including full address (e. g. rental agreement, hotel reservation or invitation letter in case of private accommodation with name, full address and passport copy of the inviting person)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of a basic command of German Goethe-Institut Level A1 or any language certificate based on the standards of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) not older than 12 months</p> <p><u>for the parent of a German minor child</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificate* of your child with apostille if married in Hong Kong or legalization if applicable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate*</li> </ul>			
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<p>with apostille if married in Hong Kong or legalization if applicable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport copy of your child (copy of photo page)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In the event of joint relocation to Germany proof of accommodation in Germany including full address (e. g. rental agreement, hotel reservation or invitation letter in case of private accommodation with name, full address and passport copy of the inviting person)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> “Meldebescheinigung” (certificate of registration) if the child is already living in Germany (not older than 3 months)</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Reunion Visa for the spouse of an EU-/EEA-citizen for the parent of an EU-/EEA-minor child</b></p> <p>wish to seek permanent residency in Germany you are required to obtain a residence permit in the form of a visa. Please note that you cannot convert a “tourist visa” into a “family reunion visa”.</p> <p>If you are married to an EU-/EEA-citizen or if you are the parent of an EU-/EEA-minor child and</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 3 months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted</li> </ul>			
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<p>together with a translation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> additional documents on page 2</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hong Kong stay permit and Hong Kong Identity Card or</li> <li>- Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the applicant</li> <li>- coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation</li> <li>- valid for the entire Schengen area</li> <li>- valid for at least three months after the date of departure</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>for the spouse of an EU-/EEA-citizen</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate* with apostille if married in Hong Kong or legalisation if applicable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport copy of the applicant's spouse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "Meldebescheinigung" (certificate of registration) if the spouse is already living in Germany</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In the event of joint relocation to Germany</li> </ul>			
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<p>proof of accommodation in Germany including full address (e. g. rental agreement, hotel reservation or invitation letter in case of private accommodation with name, full address and passport copy of the inviting person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invitation letter of the spouse to set up joint residence in Germany with informal declaration on how to secure livelihood in Germany</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of financial means of applicant's spouse e. g. employment contract or bank statements of the last 3 months</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In case of previous marriages divorce certificates/decrees with legal notice e.g. Decree Nisi and Decree Absolute both with apostille</li> </ul> <p><u>for the parent of an EU-/EEA-minor child</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificate* of your child with apostille if married in Hong Kong or legalization if applicable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate* with apostille if married in Hong Kong or legalization if applicable</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport copy of your child (copy of photo page)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "Meldebescheinigung" (certificate of registration) if the child is already living in Germany (not older than 3 months)</li> </ul>			
Themes			

benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)	penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)	forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)	referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)
<p>Be entitled to a temporary or permanent residence permit.</p> <p><b>*German embassy of Mainland China has written that the age limit for children of EU/EEA citizens is 21. But this cannot be found on the website of German consulate of Hong Kong</b></p>	<p>if either parent is a German citizen, the child automatically obtains German citizenship at birth. In special cases, children can obtain German nationality at birth in addition to the nationality of their parents.</p>	<p>Please note that now a new German law is in effect which requires that any person wishing to join his/her spouse to reside in Germany should have attained a certain level of German language proficiency before he/she is issued with a visa.</p> <p>When a foreign national moves to Germany to join a German spouse, proof of linguistic ability is not required if the German national has previously taken advantage of his/her right of freedom of movement within Europe or if the efforts required by the foreign spouse in order to acquire basic German skills whilst abroad are impossible, cannot be reasonably expected or do not prove successful within a period of one year</p>	<p>Please note that you cannot convert a “tourist visa” into a ”marriage visa” and “family reunion visa”.</p>

**Table 3. Description of Germany's policy on tourism**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>1. Holders of passports of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China do not need to apply for a visa if they are coming to Germany to visit their relatives, for tourism or for business purposes.</p> <p>2. If you are only traveling to Germany or Europe for a short period of time, you should apply for a Schengen visa. A Schengen visa allows you to stay in the Schengen area for up to 90 days per six months. If your place of residence is China and your main destination is Germany, your visa application will be processed by the German Embassy or Consulate General in Beijing. VFS. GLOBAL assists in receiving the visa application, forwarding the complete application documents including the paid visa fee to the visa section of the appropriate embassy or consulate, and returning the passport on behalf of the applicant. The processing of visa applications is the sole responsibility of the German Embassy or Consulate General in China. VFS. GLOBAL has set up visa application centers in 15 large and medium-sized cities across the country, and its operations are supervised by the German embassy or consulate in China.</p>	<p>Hong Kong passport holders and Mainland China residents</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hong Kong passport holders can travel to Germany at any time.</li> <li>- Mainland Chinese residents have to time their visit according to their own arrival plans. are required to provide reasonable proof of short-term visits to Germany, such as hotel orders and air tickets, in order to apply for a Schengen visa.</li> </ul>

Themes			
benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)	penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)	forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)	referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)
<p>stay in Germany not exceeding 90 days with 12 months. For a visit, as a tourist, on business, or for medical treatment.</p>		<p>When traveling to a third country via Germany, please note that a visa is not required if you do not leave the international transit area of the airport during your connecting flight and your final destination is a non-Schengen country; a visa is required if you have to enter the Schengen area during your transit stay, e.g. due to a change of airport.</p>	

**Table 4. Description of Germany's investment-based immigration policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
Invest Euros 250,000 according to the Chinese consular service Three-year self-employment if there is special region need or superior economic interest	Mainland Chinese passport holder	Investment, mainland Chinese only	three years for self-employment
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
Right to work, free to travel in Schengen arena family reunification		older than 45 years, proof of having sufficient capital or credit to undertake the self-employed activity	Schengen policy, family reunification, labour migration

**Table 5. Description of Germany's student mobility policy**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>According to the decision of the German Ministry of Education, students with a Chinese school diploma who wish to study in Germany for more than 3 months must attend the APS review process before applying for a visa. According to the resolution, only by submitting an APS certificate can one be eligible for admission to a German university.</p> <p><b>Mainland Chinese application conditions are almost same as Hong Kong application conditions, except the APS certificate. Applicants should pay attention to the instructions from APS,</b></p> <p><b>Student Visa (§ 16b AufenthG)</b> If you wish to study for a university in Germany, you are required to obtain a residence permit. This residence permit must be issued before you enter the country. Please note that you cannot convert a “tourist visa” into a “student visa”. General Information  <input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.  <input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 4 weeks, in individual cases even</p>	<p>Hong Kong passport holders and Mainland China residents as third country foreigners want to have a full-time study, German language course, vocational training, or to be a researcher in Germany.</p>	<p>Third-country foreigners with adequate German language skills and academic abilities.</p>	<p>Apply for a resident permit within 3 months when entering German.</p> <p>Visa for studying: A minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 2 years.</p> <p>Visa for research: at least 1 year.</p> <p>Visa for language acquisition: a maximum of 12 months.</p> <p>Visa for a study-related internship EU (European Union): a maximum of 6 months.</p> <p>Visa for training: general at least 2 years.</p> <p>A permit to stay for up to 9 months for the application course and up to 6 months for the search for a training place.</p> <p><b>Student Visa (§ 16b AufenthG)</b> The standard processing time can take up to 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer.</p> <p><b>Exchange Student Visa (§ 16b AufenthG)</b> The standard processing time can take up to 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer.</p>

<p>longer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hong Kong stay permit and a Hong Kong Identity Card or</li> <li>- Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unconditional admission/acceptance letter from a German university</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Entitlement to university admission (usually a high school diploma or graduation examination certificate)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of previous academic performance (e. g. transcript record)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of required language knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For lectures conducted in German:</li> <li>- proof of sufficient German language knowledge (Goethe Institut, TestDaF)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			<p><b>German Language Course Visa as a preparation for university studies (§ 16b AufenthG)</b> The standard processing time can take up to 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer.</p> <p><b>German Language Course Visa (§ 16f AufenthG)</b> The standard processing time can take up to 3 months.</p> <p><b>School attendance Visa</b> The processing time can take up to several months.</p>
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<p>- For lectures conducted in English:  - letter from the university in Germany confirming that lectures will be hold in English and  - proof of sufficient English language knowledge (IELTS, TOEFL or Cambridge) unless or  - proof that previous studies have been in English as well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum vitae</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial proof with a minimum of 934 EUR per month (11,208 EUR/year) by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A blocked account (“Sperrkonto”) at a German bank showing a minimum amount according to the duration of your intended stay (withdrawal limit of 934 EUR per month). You have to open the blocked account directly with the bank or</li> <li>- Proof of scholarship or</li> <li>- Financial obligation (“Verpflichtungserklärung”) issued by the local aliens authorities in Germany signed by a person supporting you financially</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the applicant</li> <li>- coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation</li> <li>- valid for the entire Schengen area</li> <li>- valid for at least three months the date of departure</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Exchange Student Visa (§ 16b AufenthG)</b>  If you wish to study for an exchange</p>			
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<p>semester at a university in Germany, you are required to obtain a residence permit. This residence permit must be issued before you enter the country. Please note that you cannot convert a “tourist visa” into a “student visa”.</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hong Kong stay permit and Hong Kong Identity Card or</li> <li>- Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3</li> </ul>			
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<p>months)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Admission letter/invitation letter from a university in Germany</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Letter from your home university in Hong Kong confirming that you are taking part in an exchange program also stating the name of the university in Germany and the exact period</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial proof with a minimum of 934 EUR per month (11,208 EUR/year) by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A blocked account (“Sperrkonto”) at a German bank showing a minimum amount according to the duration of your intended stay (withdrawal limit of 934 EUR per month). You have to open the blocked account directly with the bank or</li> <li>- Proof of scholarship or</li> <li>- Financial obligation (“Verpflichtungserklärung”) issued by the local aliens authorities in Germany signed by a person supporting you financially</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the applicant</li> <li>- coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation</li> <li>- valid for the entire Schengen area</li> <li>- valid for the entire duration of stay in the Schengen area</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>German Language Course Visa as a preparation for university studies (§ 16b AufenthG)</b> If you intend to attend a long-term</p>			
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<p>language course (for longer than 90 days) as a condition of admission for university studies in Germany, you are required to obtain a residence permit in the form of a visa.</p> <p>A language course visa as preparation for university studies can later be converted into a residence permit for study purposes after official admission by university.</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 4 months, in individual cases even longer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hong Kong stay permit and a Hong Kong Identity Card or</li> <li>- Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
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<p>(only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation letter from the language school with details (cost, level, length, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conditional admission/acceptance letter by a German university including a confirmation that a language course is a requirement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Entitlement to university admission (usually a high school diploma or graduation examination certificate)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of previous academic performance (e.g. transcript record)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of German language knowledge</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum vitae</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> additional documents on page 2</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial proof with a minimum of 934 EUR per month (11,208 EUR/year) by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A blocked account (“Sperrkonto”) at a German bank showing a minimum amount according to the duration of your intended stay (withdrawal limit of 934 EUR per month). You have to open the blocked account directly with the bank or</li> <li>- Proof of scholarship or</li> <li>- Financial obligation (“Verpflichtungserklärung”) issued by the local aliens authorities in Germany signed by a person supporting you financially</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the applicant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
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<p>- coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation  - valid for the entire Schengen area  - valid for at least three months the date of departure</p> <p><b>German Language Course Visa (§ 16f AufenthG)</b>  If you intend to attend a language course (min. 18 hrs per week for longer than 90 days) with a concrete career motivation, e. g. your employer sends you or explicitly recommends the language course for your further career development and gives reasons, you are required to obtain a residence permit in the form of a visa. An application out of personal interest with no evidence of previous efforts to learn German is generally not likely to be successful.</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The standard processing time can take up to 3 months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.</li> </ul> <p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of genuineness of</li> </ul>			
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<p>submitted documents (no copy required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of residency in Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hong Kong stay permit and a Hong Kong Identity Card or</li> <li>- Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation letter by the language school with details (cost, level, length, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of German language knowledge</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Signed motivation letter in German</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum vitae</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial proof with a minimum of 1.027 EUR per month for the entire stay by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A blocked account (“Sperrkonto”) at a German bank showing a minimum amount according to the duration of your intended stay (withdrawal limit of 1.027 EUR per month). You have to open the blocked account directly with the bank or</li> <li>- Proof of scholarship or</li> <li>- Financial obligation (“Verpflichtungserklärung”) issued by the local aliens authorities in Germany signed by a person supporting you financially</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> additional documents on page 2</li> </ul>			
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the applicant</li> <li>- coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation</li> <li>- valid for the entire Schengen area</li> <li>- valid for at least three months after the date of departure</li> </ul> <p><b>School attendance Visa</b></p> <p>A school attendance visa is the right choice if you wish to attend a recognized school in Germany from the 9th grade onwards.</p> <p>General Information</p> <p>For minor applicants:</p> <p>Both legal guardians have to accompany their child to the interview and sign the application.</p> <p>If only one guardian is present, a signed consent letter verified by a German mission from the other guardian is required.</p> <p>If application is filed by a single parent the court decision on sole care and custody or certificate of death of parent have to be submitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The processing time can take up to several months.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Consulate General reserves the</li> </ul>			
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right to request further documentation.

Checklist

- Fully completed and signed visa application form (no copy required)
- Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents (no copy required)
- Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)
- Proof of residency in Hong Kong
  - Hong Kong stay permit and a Hong Kong Identity Card or
  - Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)
- Two passport photos according to biometric specifications (not older than 3 months)
- Birth certificate with apostille if born in Hong Kong or legalisation if applicable\*
- Passport copies and marriage certificate\* of the legal guardians if applicable
- If applicable additional documents regarding custody, see general information above
- Admission letter from the school in Germany, stating
  - grade level
  - type of school
  - the school fee
  - required language and proof of sufficient language skills if applicable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School contract signed by both parties</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> additional documents on page 2</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Financial proof <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- confirmation from the school that the school fees for the first year have been paid or</li> <li>- blocked account (“Sperrkonto”) at a German bank showing a minimum amount according to the duration of your intended stay (withdrawal limit of 934 EUR per month). You have to open the blocked account directly with the bank</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> School contract signed by both parties</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of previous school report and the latest school certificate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Legalized declaration on the transfer of personal custody for the entire duration of school attendance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Declaration of acceptance of the person to whom personal custody is to be transferred with a copy of the identity card or passport with residence permit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of travel health insurance stating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of the applicant</li> <li>- coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation</li> <li>- valid for the entire Schengen area</li> <li>- valid for at least three months after the date of departure</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Visa application fee</li> </ul>			
<b>Themes</b>			

<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>1. Minimum stay of one year; 2. After graduation, or completion of a research project, you can apply for a job-seeking visa.</p>	<p>Foreigners can obtain a language class visa and participate in language classes that are not for the purpose of studying abroad. Applicants are not allowed to work during their stay in Germany. If you want to go to high school in Germany after your language course, please refer to the "What you need to know about high school visas".</p>		<p>1. If a job is found, it can be converted into a work visa; 2. can be converted to a family reunification visa if they are married; 3. if you continue your studies, you can apply for a student visa; 4. can be converted to a permanent resident permit after meeting the conditions for permanent residence. 5 .can work part-time as a student to earn living expenses during their studies. 6. have the opportunity to look for a job in Germany after completing their studies. 7. If you have not yet been offered a place at a university, you can also travel to Germany to take a language preparation course. This period of stay is not more than one year and is only allowed to work on holidays. 8. It is also possible to travel to Germany as a student applicant, for example to take entrance exams. If you are admitted to a university during your stay in Germany, you can obtain a residence permit to study in Germany.</p>

**Table 6. Description of Germany's Schengen policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>1. Short stay: Mainland residents must apply for a Schengen visa to stay in Germany; Hong Kong passport holders are exempted from applying for a short-term visa to enter Germany, and if mainland residents have a connecting flight in Germany, they do not need to apply for a visa to enter Germany (the connecting flight visa is an A visa).</p> <p>2. Hong Kong passport holders and Mainland China residents with a national residence permit issued by a Schengen country may, for the duration of its validity, travel for up to 90 days per 180-day period to any other Schengen country. This also applies to holders of a national visa (category "D" visa) issued by a Schengen country.</p> <p>3. For long term stays, it is necessary to apply for a suitable visa for the purpose of work, study or family reunion.</p>	<p>Hong Kong passport holders and Mainland China residents</p>		<p>Visa for a short-term stay of up to 90 days in a period of 180 days to any other Schengen country for Hong Kong citizens</p> <p>For mainland Chinese citizens, they need to apply for Schengen visa through VSF Global</p> <p>The validity period of a Schengen (short-term) visa is determined in accordance with the length of travel, for a maximum of 5 years. According to expected number of stays, Schengen (short-term) visa may be issued as follows:</p> <p>single entry – entitles to a single uninterrupted</p> <p>stay during the period stipulated in the visa, which may not exceed 90 days;</p> <p>double entry visa – entitles to two stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within 180 days</p> <p>multiple entry visa – entitles to multiple stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within a 180 days.</p>

			<p>Please note that the Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 establishing the EU's Visa Code sets out procedures and conditions for issuing short-stay visas for visits to the Schengen area of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period. 1 year, if the applicant has used three visas within the previous 2 years; 2 years, if the applicant has already used a 1-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 2 years; 5 years, if the applicant has already used a 2-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 3 years.</p> <p>Visa Code sets out rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a progressively longer length of validity:</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
Travel freely between Schengen countries	Foreigners with a short-term stay cannot work in Germany.		

### Annex 5 – Mobility policies in Italy

Source: categorization based on the websites of embassy of Italy in China and consulate general of Italy in Hong Kong

<https://ambpechino.esteri.it/zh/> <https://conshongkong.esteri.it/en/>

**Table 1. Description of Italy’s labour migration policy**

guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>Working visa Non-EU citizens willing to work in Italia must apply for a work visa, and once in Italy convert the visa in residence permit for work purposes. Please download here the National visa application form.</p> <p>a) Salaried work In order to apply for a salaried work visa (“lavoro subordinato”) it is mandatory to previously obtain from Italy a no-impediment (“nulla osta”) issued by the “Sportello Unico per l’Immigrazione”. Few exceptions to no-impediment are regulated by law (see below). Once you obtains the no-impediment, please apply providing the following documents . List of useful laws and norms: Decreto Lgs 286/1998; DPR 394/1999; L. 103 del 24.05.2002; Decreto Interministeriale 850/2011 Allegato A, punto 8.</p> <p>b) Self-employment work Businessmen willing to invest in Italy, free lances, high level ranks of already registered companies, artists and performers can apply for a self-employment visa. Requests among quotas of self-employment workers yearly established by Italian law</p>	<p>TCNs includes Hong Kong passport holder and mainland-Chinese residents</p>		<p>If TCNs (Third Country Nationals) enter Italy with an Italian national visa (visa D) instead of a Schengen visa, they must apply to the Italian police station within 8 days of their arrival to convert their visa into a residence permit, which is valid for the same period as their visa and must be renewed on Italian territory.</p> <p>For certain visa applications (not specified), the Consulate is required to transfer the file to the Immigration Office in Italy. Decisions can take longer and timings are unpredictable.</p> <p>Attention: Holders of HKSAR ( Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passport (issued by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) and Macao SAR passport (issued by the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region) are exempt from visa requirement when entering the Schengen Area for stays no longer than 3 months ONLY for tourism and business. Please also note that BNO ( British National Overseas) passport holders are exempt from visa requirements to enter Italy for tourism or</p>

<p>(“Decreto flussi”):  The Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers 14.12.2015 (so called Decreto flussi) for the year 2016 allows a worldwide quota of 2.400 available self-employment work visas.</p> <p>1) Businessmen willing to start a new company, by investing no less than 500.000 euros and creating at least 3 new jobs, please find here the checklist of documents.</p> <p>2) For start-up companies, please provide the following documents.</p> <p>3) In case you will be an executive figure in a company registered as active at least three years ago, please follow this checklist.  Allowed executive figures are a) president; b) member of the board of directors; c) managing director; d) accounting auditor.  Allowed company is types a) Limited company; or, b) Limited liability company; or, c) Limited partnership with share.</p> <p>4) Free lances working under regulated professions (find here the list) or professions registered in a professional order (find here the list), or not regulated professions represented at national level by associations enlisted by an Italian Public administration (find here the list for the health sector), must provide the following documents.</p> <p>5) High repute artists and performers, enrolled by Italian public authorities or private institutions, can apply providing the following documents, provided that the requirements of the Interministerial Decree 850 of 11.05.2011 are fulfilled.  Requests out of yearly established quotas:</p>			<p>business for stays no longer than 3 months.</p>
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<p>Outside the yearly established quotas of self-employment visas, highly qualified and specialized workers, whose work contract has already been approved in Italy by a relevant certification issued by the “Direzione territoriale del lavoro”, can apply for a self-employment visa. Allowed categories are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) General managers, or highly specialized managers, of: i) a company registered in Italy or having a branch in Italy; or ii) of the representative office of a foreign company registered in a country member of the World Trade Organization; or, iii) of the main Italian branch of Italian or European Union companies;</li> <li>2) Language lecturer at University, participating to an exchange programme or stably hired;</li> <li>3) University professor going to teach in a University in Italy;</li> <li>4) Interpreter or translator.</li> </ol> <p>Visa applicants must follow this checklist.</p> <p>Short stay (less than 90 days) self-employment for high repute artists and performers:</p> <p>Visas for performers and artists who will stay less than 90 days are issued outside of the quotas established on yearly bases by the “Decreto flussi” law. During their stay, such performers are not allowed to perform under a producer or a client different than the one indicated in the contract provided for the visa application (see art. 40.15 of Decree of the President of the Republic n. 394/99).</p> <p>Documents to be provided for the visa</p>			
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<p>application are enlisted here. Please, be informed that all non-high repute artists and performers must apply for the salaried work visa (see above). List of useful laws and norms: Decreto Lgs 286/1998; DPR 394/1999; L. 103 del 24.05.2002; Decreto Interministeriale 850/2011 Allegato A, punto 7; Decreti sui flussi per lavoro non stagionale pubblicati a cadenza annuale; L. 221/2012. c) Salaried work – seamen Work visa is required for all foreign seamen to be embarked on ships flying the Italian flag, as well as for foreigners recruited for complementary services onboard Italian cruise ships (Law. 856, 5.12.1986). For the list of documents to be submitted, please click here.</p>			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>The visa D is a multiple-entry national visa. It requires registration at the municipality (gemeente/commune) of the place where the TCNs will be residing in Italy.</p> <p>This visa entitles the TCNs to travel within the Schengen area during the first 3 months after entry into Italy, while waiting to receive the official residence permit.</p>		<p>Outside the yearly established quotas of self-employment visas, highly qualified and specialized workers, whose work contract has already been approved in Italy by a relevant certification issued by the “Direzione territoriale del lavoro”, can apply for a self-employment visa. Allowed categories are: 1) General managers, or highly specialized managers, of: i) a company registered in Italy or having a branch in</p>	

		<p>Italy; or ii) of the representative office of a foreign company registered in a country member of the World Trade Organization; or, iii) of the main Italian branch of Italian or European Union companies;</p> <p>2) Language lecturer at University, participating to an exchange programme or stably hired;</p> <p>3) University professor going to teach in a University in Italy;</p> <p>4) Interpreter or translator.</p> <p>Short stay (less than 90 days) self-employment for high repute artists and performers:</p> <p>Visas for performers and artists who will stay less than 90 days are issued outside of the quotas established on yearly bases by the “Decreto flussi” law. During their stay, such performers are not allowed to perform under a producer or a client different than the one indicated in the contract provided for the visa application (see art. 40.15 of Decree of the President of the Republic n. 394/99).</p>	
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**Table 2. Description of Italy's family reunification policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>Those who according to Italian law have the right for family reunion with their relatives regularly resident in Italy, can apply after being issued the no-impediment (“nulla osta”) by relevant Italian authorities.  <a href="#">Checklist for Business Application- Fashion Model (esteri.it)</a>                      Proof of family relation                      Notes:                      notary certificate proving family relation with the non-EU (European Union)                      citizen living in Italy (marriage, birth, family, etc.) according to art.29 of                      Legislative Decree 286/1998, to be translated in Italian and legalized both by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Embassy of Italy in Beijing.                      For minors under 18 years of age, authorization to expatriate (in original and copy) signed by natural parent/s who do not regularly reside in Italy, legalized both by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the Embassy of Italy in Beijing. If one parent passed away, notary death certificate, legalized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Italian Embassy in Beijing.                      Hukou, copy (for Chinese nationals only)</p>	<p>Hong Kong passport holder and mainland-Chinese</p>	<p>Non-EU ( European Union) /EEA (European Economic Area) family members</p>	
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Table 3. Description of Italy’s policy on tourism**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>A Schengen (Visa C) visa allows the TCNs to travel to all the Schengen countries.</p> <p>The application for a Schengen Visa has to be lodged with the Schengen representation of the country of the TCNs’ main destination. (For tourists visiting several countries, it is the country where most of the time is spent. If the TCNs spend equal time in several Schengen states the TCNs are required to apply for the visa at the representation of the country where the TCNs enter the Schengen area.)</p> <p>Short-term stays - TCNs already admitted in Schengen states are exempt from the visa requirement for stays not exceeding 90 days -Short stayers do not need to apply for a residence permit, though have to declare their presence, including through hotelkeepers, if they are exempt from applying for an entry visa</p>	<p>HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macau SAR ( Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: <u>no visa required.</u></p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI), Macao Travel Permit, and People's Republic of China passport (PRC - People’s Republic of China): Schengen visa is required.</p>	<p>HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macau SAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: <u>no visa required.</u></p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI), Macau Travel Permit, and People's Republic of China passport (PRC - People’s Republic of China): Schengen visa is required.</p> <p>Travelers willing to visit Italy and Schengen as part of an “ADS - Approved Destination Status” group must contact a travel agency registered at China National Tourism Authority and authorized by Schengen Embassies in China with a white badge.</p>	<p>90 days for any Schengen visa holders, HKSAR passport or BN(O) passports can stay visa-free for 90 days Mainland Chinese would need to apply for Schengen visa through VSF Global The validity period of a Schengen (short-term) visa is determined in accordance with the length of travel, for a maximum of 5 years. According to expected number of stays, Schengen (short-term) visa may be issued as follows:</p> <p>single entry – entitles to a single uninterrupted stay during the period stipulated in the visa, which may not exceed 90 days;</p> <p>double entry visa – entitles to two stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within 180 days multiple entry visa – entitles to multiple stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within a 180 days.</p> <p>Please note that the Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 establishing the EU's Visa Code sets out procedures and conditions for issuing short-stay visas for visits to the Schengen area of no more than 90</p>

			<p>days in any 180-day period. 1 year, if the applicant has used three visas within the previous 2 years; 2 years, if the applicant has already used a 1-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 2 years; 5 years, if the applicant has already used a 2-year</p> <p>multiple-entry visa within the previous 3 years.</p> <p>Visa Code sets out rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a progressively longer length of validity:</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>stay in Italy does not exceed 90 days with 6 months.</p> <p>For a visit, as a tourist, on business, for visiting family and friends, or attending sport and cultural events.</p>			

**Table 4. Description of Italy's investment-based immigration policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
Three types of investments: Investment in government bonds; investment in a company incorporated and operating in Italy, which included innovative start-ups, and donation	Hong Kong BN( O) and HKSAR passport holders Mainland Chinese passport holders	Intend to invest	2+3 years
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
freely travel among Schengen area; family reunification, right to work			Schengen policy, family reunification, labour migration

**Table 5. Description of Italy’s student mobility policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>a) University enrolment Foreign citizens who already finalized the pre-enrolment procedure through the UNIVERSITALY website for a three year course laurea degree or laurea magistrale degree course at Italian Universities or AFAM - Alta formazione artistica, musicale e coreutica Institutions for the academic year of reference, and that have already obtained the validation by the University/AFAM - Alta formazione artistica, musicale e coreutica Institution, can apply for a “Studio-Immatricolazione” type visa. In addition to the required documentation for the issuance of the Study visa, students must also submit the output (riepilogo) of their pre-enrolment application generated from the University website, validated by the University/AFAM - Alta formazione artistica, musicale e coreutica Institution. Furthermore, if requested by the University/AFAM - Alta formazione artistica, musicale e coreutica, they also need to submit the original school/university degree, translated into Italian and legalized and the Declaration of Value, which can be substituted by the Diploma Supplement or ENIC-NARI - European</p>	<p>Hong Kong passport holder and mainland Chinese  Marco Polo – Turandot program (only for Chinese nationals)</p>	<p>HKSAR (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macau SAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: <u>no visa required</u>.  Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI - Document of Identity), Macao Travel Permit, and People's Republic of China passport (PRC - People’s Republic of China): Schengen visa is required</p>	<p>If TCNs enter Italy with an Italian national visa (visa D) instead of a Schengen visa, they must apply to the Italian police station within 8 days of their arrival to convert their visa into a residence permit, which is valid for the same period as their visa and must be renewed on Italian territory.</p>

<p>Network of Information Centres in the European Region) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union certificates issued by CIMEA - Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence.</p> <p>In the event that the University/AFAM - Alta formazione artistica, musicale e coreutica, requests the Declaration of Value, students must apply for it to the Student Office of this Embassy before applying for a visa.</p> <p>b) Marco Polo – Turandot program (only for Chinese nationals)</p> <p>c) Enrolment to single University classes, post-graduate, exchange programmes Students who intend to enroll to single courses, post graduate courses, exchange programs or other courses, can apply for a study visa following this check list. Student who are already enrolled in Italy and are currently in China can apply for a study visa by following this check-list.</p> <p>d) Vocational training and Internship Visas to participate in professional training programs or internships must be requested by providing the documents as listed.</p> <p>e) Language courses at private schools Visas to attend language courses at Italian schools must be requested by providing the documents as listed.</p> <p>f) Research The research visa allows to carry out a research activity at universities or</p>			
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research institutes recognized by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR). Applicants must have a higher qualification that enable them to carry out doctoral programs.			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Table 6. Description of Italy's Schengen policy**

<b>guarantee(s) (conditions of entry/stay)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>The application for a Schengen Visa has to be lodged with the Schengen representation of the country of the TCNs' ( Third Country Nationals)main destination. (For tourists visiting several countries, it is the country where most of the time is spent. If the TCNs s' ( Third Country Nationals) spend equal time in several Schengen states the TCNs s' ( Third Country Nationals) are required to apply for the visa at the representation of the country where the TCNs s' ( Third Country Nationals) enter the Schengen area.)</p> <p>Short-term stays -TCNs s' ( Third Country Nationals) already admitted in Schengen states are exempt from the visa requirement for stays not exceeding 90 days -Short stayers do not need to apply for a residence permit, though have to declare their presence, including through hotelkeepers, if they are exempt from applying for an entry visa</p>	<p>Hong Kong and Macau passport holders are exempted from applying for this visa. They are allowed to stay in the Schengen zone for a maximum of 90 days, each period of 180 days.</p> <p>Also applies for TCNs who would like to travel to Luxembourg.</p> <p>HKSAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macau SAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: no visa required.</p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI - Document of Identity), Macao Travel Permit, and People's Republic of China passport (PRC - People's Republic of China): Schengen visa is required</p>	<p>HKSAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macau SAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: no visa required.</p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI - Document of Identity), Macao Travel Permit, and People's Republic of China passport (PRC - People's Republic of China): Schengen visa is required</p>	<p>90 days visa-free out of 180 days for BN(O) and HKSAR passport holders For Mainland Chinese citizens, they need to apply for Schengen visa through VSF (Global) All applicants have to come in person for their visa applications, including children and infants. (No third party authorization) The validity period of a Schengen (short-term) visa is determined in accordance with the length of travel, for a maximum of 5 years. According to expected number of stays, Schengen (short-term) visa may be issued as follows:</p> <p>single entry – entitles to a single uninterrupted stay during the period stipulated in the visa, which may not exceed 90 days;</p> <p>double entry visa – entitles to two stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within 180 days</p> <p>multiple entry visa – entitles to multiple stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within a 180 days.</p>

			<p>Please note that the Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 establishing the EU's Visa Code sets out procedures and conditions for issuing short-stay visas for visits to the Schengen area of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period. 1 year, if the applicant has used three visas within the previous 2 years; 2 years, if the applicant has already used a 1-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 2 years; 5 years, if the applicant has already used a 2-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 3 years.</p> <p>Visa Code sets out rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a progressively longer length of validity:</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Annex 6 – Mobility policies in Portugal

Source: categorization based on the websites of embassy of Portugal in China and consulate general of Portugal in Hong Kong

<https://pequim.embaixadaportugal.mne.gov.pt/en/> <https://cgportugal.org/cn>

The Consular Section of the Embassy of Portugal in Beijing is currently only processing visa applications to Public Affairs and Service Passport holders. Visa applications may be submitted directly to the Consular Section, by appointment (via e-mail [sconsular.pequim@mne.pt](mailto:sconsular.pequim@mne.pt)) or by courier.

The remaining visa applications must be submitted at the Service Centers of VFS Global, the service provider used by the Portuguese State in China (<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/chn/en/prt/>).

**Table 1. Description of Portugal’s labour migration policy**

guarantee(s)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>less than 1 year</p> <p>National visa E2 - in the framework of transfer of nationals to state parties to the World Trade Organization (WTO), for service providing or professional training purposes</p> <p>National visa E3 - Temporary stay visa for independent work purpose</p> <p>National visa E4 - scientific research purposes, academic teaching purposes, or highly qualified activity purposes, for less than a year</p>	<p>All TCNs who wish to stay for more than 90 days in Portugal per six month period, need to apply for a visa E or D.</p> <p>The exceptions are citizens of the European Union or citizens of one of the following countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.</p>	<p>TCNs who are prospective workers residing abroad</p>	<p>Notwithstanding the possibility of a shorter decision for the visa application, according to Portuguese law the decision period pertaining to national residence visas may take up to 60 days.</p>

<p>National visa E5 - Amateur sports purposes</p> <p>National visa E6 - Exceptional and well-founded circumstances, namely for programs of study in a certified institution, student exchange, unpaid professional internship, volunteer work or pursuant to WTO obligations or those arising from conventions and international agreements to which Portugal is a state party</p> <p>National visa E8 - Seasonal work with a duration between 90 and 270 days</p> <p>National visa E - Exercise of a Professional Activity Done Remotely</p> <p>More than 1 year</p> <p>National visa D1 - Subordinated work activity</p> <p>National visa D2 - Independent work activity, migrant entrepreneur, and start-up visa</p> <p>National visa D3 - Teaching purposes, highly qualified or cultural activity, or highly qualified subordinated activity</p> <p>National visa D - Exercise of a Professional Activity Done Remotely</p> <p>National visa D - Job seeker</p>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non-EU or EEA citizenship</li> <li>- A passport, valid for at least three months following the duration of your intended stay</li> <li>- Two passport photos</li> <li>- Health insurance</li> <li>- Criminal record from your country of origin</li> <li>- A form that authorises the SEF (Immigration and Border Services) to access to your criminal record</li> <li>- Proof of means of subsistence through a statement of responsibility</li> <li>- A salary of at least minimum wage</li> <li>- A work contract or agreement of work activity</li> </ul>			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Table 2. Description of Portugal's family reunification policy**

guarantee(s)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>National visa D6 - Family reunification</p> <p>National visa D - Visa for Accompanying Family Member Applying for a Residence Visa</p> <p>Family Members of Portuguese Citizens, EU/EEE/Switzerland</p> <p>Member States shall grant third-country nationals who are family members of citizens of the Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (under the Withdrawal Agreement), who are covered by Directive 2004/38/ CE, all facilities for obtaining the necessary visas.</p> <p>Nuclear family members are automatically entitled to enter and reside in the country, regardless of their nationality.</p> <p>Nationals of third countries who are family members of EU citizens are only required to hold an entry visa, in compliance with Regulation (CE) n.º 539/2001.</p> <p>According to the n.º 2 of article 2 of the Directive (EC) 38/2004 are considered as nuclear family members:</p>	<p>Hong Kong citizens with BN(O) or HKSAR passports</p> <p>Mainland Chinese citizens</p> <p>Immigration control</p>	<p>Spouse and partners through a registered union, children who are 18 or below</p>	<p>Copy of the notification of family reunification authorization made by the Immigration and Borders Services (SEF).</p> <p>The visa application for family reunification must be submitted within 90 days</p> <p>Notwithstanding the possibility of a shorter decision for the visa application, according to Portuguese law the decision period pertaining to national residence visas may take up to 60 days.</p>

<p>The spouse;</p> <p>The partner with whom the Union citizen has contracted a registered partnership, on the basis of the legislation of a Member State, if the legislation of the host Member State treats registered partnerships as equivalent to marriage and in accordance with the conditions laid down in the relevant legislation of the host Member State;</p> <p>The direct descendants who are under the age of 21 or are dependants and those of the spouse or partner as defined above; or,</p> <p>The dependent direct relatives in the ascending line and those of the spouse or partner as defined above.</p>			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



**Table 3. Description of Portugal’s policy on tourism**

<b>guarantee(s)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>Depending on the plan of the trip, the consulate may issue a national visa or a Schengen unified visa.</p>	<p>Macao and Hong Kong SAR passport holders can visit the Schengen Area visa-free for up to 90 days.</p> <p>Legal residence permit in Macao SAR or Hong Kong SAR with a date of expiration of more than 3 months counting after the date of exit from Portugal.</p>	<p>HKSAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, Macau SAR passports, for a stay up to 90 days, and British National Overseas passports (BNO), for a stay up to 90 days: <u>no visa required</u>.</p> <p>Hong Kong Documents of Identity for visa purposes (DI),</p> <p>Macao Travel Permit, and People's Republic of China passport (PRC): Schengen visa is required</p>	<p>For the case of Schengen visas, the decision period may last up until 15 days, but in case a more detailed analysis of the visa request is needed, the decision period may be extended (for up to 45 days).</p> <p>The Consulate General upholds the right to request additional information or documentation and schedule an interview if needed.</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
<p>Schengen visas are generally valid for 3 months and allow multiple entries.</p>			

**Table 4. Description of Portugal’s investment-based immigration policy**

The website of the Portuguese Embassy in Mainland China and Macau does not provide any information on Golden Visas. However, the requirements for obtaining a residence permit for a Golden Visa can be found on the official website of the Portuguese Immigration Service.

guarantee(s)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>The rules governing the granting of Residence Permit for Investment (ARI/Golden Visa), in force from 8 October 2012, enable third country nationals to obtain a temporary residence permit to conduct business activities with visa waiver to enter national territory.</p> <p>All third country citizens who conduct an investment activity, as an individual businessperson or through a company set up in Portugal or in another EU Member State and who, in addition, are stably settled in Portugal, provided these citizens fulfil the quantitative requirements and the time requirements set out by the relevant legislation, may apply for a Residence Permit for Investment</p>	<p>Portuguese, EU and EEE nationals are not eligible for the ARI/Golden Visa scheme.</p> <p>Applicants can include the following family members in your application for a Portuguese Golden Visa:</p> <p>Applicants’ spouse or partner.</p> <p>Children under the age of 18.</p> <p>Children over the age of 18 who are dependent on you financially. Adult children must be enrolled in full-time education and unmarried to qualify as dependents.</p> <p>Siblings under the age of 18 of either yourself or your spouse/partner. For siblings to qualify as dependents, you or your partner must have legal custody of them.</p> <p>Dependent parents (over the age of 55) of either Applicants’ spouse/partner. Applicants must</p>	<p>Middle class with some savings</p>	<p>Without prejudice to any special legal provisions (in this case the renewal deadlines), with the amendment introduced to article 75 of the Aliens Act, by article 192 of Act n.º 75-B/2020 of 31 december – State Budget to 2021 in force since 01/01/2021 and to 2021, the temporary residence permit for investment purposes is valid for two years [and not just one] from the date of issue of the corresponding title.</p>

	provide documents proving their dependency unless they are older than 65.		
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits</b>	<b>penalty/ties</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residence visa waiver for entering Portugal;</li> <li>- Living and working in Portugal, on condition that they stay in Portugal for a period of 7 or more days, in the first year, and 14 or more days, in the subsequent years;</li> <li>- Visa exemption for travelling within the Schengen Area;</li> <li>- Family reunification</li> <li>- Applying for permanent residence (pursuant to the Aliens Act – Act number 23/2007 of 4 July with the current wording );</li> <li>- Applying for Portuguese citizenship, by naturalization, provided all other requirements set out by the Nationality Act are fulfilled (Act number 37/81 of 3 October, as amended);</li> </ul>	<p>The granting of a residence permit shall entail: the absence of any fact which, if known to the competent authorities, would preclude the granting of the visa; Absence of conviction for a crime which in Portugal is punishable by a custodial sentence of more than one year; The applicant is not within a period of prohibition of entry into the national territory, following an expulsion measure from the country; No indication in the Schengen Information System; No indication in SEF’s Integrated Information System for non-admission purposes, under article 33 of the Aliens Act;</p>		<p>As the renewal fee for a Golden Visa is higher than for other types of visas, it can be converted into a work or student visa if you live and work in Portugal.</p>

**Table 5. Description of Portugal’s student mobility policy**

<b>guarantee(s)</b>	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<p>- Less than 90 days, Schengen visa – Study</p> <p>- Less than 1 year, National visa E4 - scientific research purposes, academic teaching purposes, or highly qualified activity purposes, for less than a year</p> <p>- More than 1 year, National visa D4 - Research, study, higher education students exchange, internships, and volunteer work</p>	<p>Hong Kong citizens who hold BN(O) or HKSAR passports</p> <p>Mainland Chinese citizens</p>	<p>the people intend to study in Portugal.</p>	<p>For the case of Schengen visas, the decision period may last up until 15 days, but in case a more detailed analysis of the visa request is needed, the decision period may be extended (for up to 45 days).</p> <p>Notwithstanding the possibility of a shorter decision for the visa application, according to Portuguese law the decision period pertaining to national residence visas may take up to 60 days.</p>
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits (rights/privileges of entry/stay)</b>	<b>penalty/ties (penalizing clause/article for IFs)</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Table 6. Description of Portugal’s Schengen policy**

The Schengen area is composed of the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Malta, Norway, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

guarantee(s)	actors	characteristics	temporality
<p>A Schengen Visa is an authorization issued by one of the EU Member-States for airport transit, transit or an intended short stay in a territory of one or more Member-States, allowing its holder to present him/herself at the external frontier. The Schengen visa does not automatically guarantee the visa holder the respective entry in the Schengen Space, which will be decided by the border authorities upon arrival. At the border (or any control point) the visa holder may have to display the visa or to provide additional documentation, including proof of financial means for the duration of the stay and the return trip.</p> <p>A summary of the Schengen information is as follows:</p> <p>"The Schengen Uniform Visa allows nationals of third countries who require a visa to enter or transit through the countries that make up the Schengen</p>	<p>Macau and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport holders can travel to the Schengen area visa-free for up to 90 days.</p> <p>People's Republic of China passport (PRC): Schengen visa is required.</p> <p>If mainland Chinese has the Legal residence permit in Macao SAR or Hong Kong SAR with a date of expiration of more than 3 months counting after the date of exit from Portugal.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Schengen visa - Business and professional purposes</li> <li>2. Schengen visa – Tourism</li> <li>3. Schengen visa – Study</li> <li>4. Schengen Visa - Cultural events, sport/scientific/religious activities</li> <li>5. Schengen visa - Medical assistance</li> <li>6. Schengen visa - Visit family members and/or friend</li> <li>7. Schengen visa - Family members with EU/EEA/Swiss citizenship</li> <li>8. Schengen visa - completion of ARI request procedures</li> <li>9. Schengen visa - Airport transit</li> </ol>	<p>For the case of Schengen visas, the decision period may last up until 15 days, but in case a more detailed analysis of the visa request is needed, the decision period may be extended (for up to 45 days).</p> <p>The Consulate General upholds the right to request additional information or documentation and schedule an interview if needed.</p> <p>The validity period of a Schengen (short-term) visa is determined in accordance with the length of travel, for a maximum of 5 years. According to expected number of stays, Schengen (short-term) visa may be issued as follows:</p> <p>single entry – entitles to a single uninterrupted stay during the period stipulated in the visa, which may not exceed 90 days;</p>

<p>Area. These visas are referred to as uniform visas because the visa regulations applicable to the Member States of the Convention on the Implementation of the Schengen Agreement are the same. This visa is for short-term stays of up to 90 days and is especially issued to tourists.</p> <p>Long-term visas are issued in accordance with the legislation in force in the host country, which can be temporary stay or residence visas depending on the length of stay, and can be held by persons who want to stay in Portugal for the following purposes: study, Xi, Xi, work, medical treatment, etc.</p> <p>Temporary stay visas are generally valid for 3 months and allow multiple entries.</p> <p>The residence visa is valid for 4 months and allows 2 entries and the holder of the visa should apply for a residence permit within the validity period of the visa. ”</p> <p>In accordance with the current rules, the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong processes visa applications for travel to Portugal to the main destination or point of entry for persons residing in Macau or Hong Kong.</p> <p>The Consulate General of Portugal handles Schengen visas in Macau on behalf of Germany, Austria, Greece, Slovenia and Hungary.</p>			<p>double entry visa – entitles to two stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within 180 days</p> <p>multiple entry visa – entitles to multiple stays during the period stipulated in the visa, while the sum of the lengths of stay may not exceed 90 days within a 180 days.</p> <p>Please note that the Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 establishing the EU's Visa Code sets out procedures and conditions for issuing short-stay visas for visits to the Schengen area of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period. 1 year, if the applicant has used three visas within the previous 2 years; 2 years, if the applicant has already used a 1-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 2 years; 5 years, if the applicant has already used a 2-year multiple-entry visa within the previous 3 years.</p> <p>Visa Code sets out rules on the issuing of multiple entry visas with a progressively longer length of validity:</p>
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Others are assessed on a case-by-case basis.			
<b>Themes</b>			
<b>benefits</b>	<b>penalty/ties</b>	<b>forgiveness (forgiving clause/article)</b>	<b>referrals (connecting with other mobility policies)</b>
The temporary stay visa is generally valid for 3 months and allows multiple entries	<p>All the documentation provided as well as the payment of the visa fee for the administrative processing of the visa application does not grant the issuance of a visa, nor does it entail a refund in case of refusal.</p> <p>You must respect the period of stay defined in your visa. Misuse and overstay may result in you being expelled from Portugal and banned from obtaining a new visa for a certain period of time.</p>		

Appendix

**Agreements and Mutual Documents Signed Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and six EU selected countries<sup>xviii</sup>**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agreement and Other Important Mutual Document</b>
<b>Belgium<sup>xix</sup></b>	1979	· Agreement on the Development of Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between China and Belgium, 1979 · The two countries signed a cultural exchange agreement in 1979
	1980	The two countries signed an agreement on cultural cooperation
	June 1984	Luxembourg Economic Union on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments <sup>xx</sup>
	June 2005	Luxembourg Economic Union On The Reciprocal Promotion And Protection Of Investments <sup>xxi</sup>
	April 2012	The Ministry of Education and the Government of the Flemish Region signed an agreement on educational exchanges
<b>Germany<sup>xxii</sup></b>	October 1972	China and Germany established diplomatic relations
	October 1978	China and Germany signed an intergovernmental agreement on scientific and technological cooperation
	October 1983	Agreement between the People's Republic of China and the Federal Republic of Germany on the Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investments and the Protocol thereto <sup>xxiii</sup>
	April 2002	China and Germany signed the Minutes of the Talks on the Mutual Establishment of Cultural Centres in China and Germany and the Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Equivalence in Higher Education.
	July 2002	China and Germany signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of Tourism for Groups of Chinese Citizens to Germany



	December 2003	Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the People's Republic of China on the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investments <sup>xxiv</sup>
	May 2004	the two sides announced the establishment of a partnership of global responsibility under the China-EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the establishment of an annual meeting mechanism between the two prime ministers.
	November 2005	The two sides signed a new cultural cooperation agreement, and the foundation stone of the Chinese Cultural Center in Berlin was officially laid.  China and Germany co-hosted the International Conference on Renewable Energy in Beijing and adopted the Beijing Declaration aimed at promoting the development of renewable energy
	July 2010	the two sides issued the Sino-German Joint Communiqué on Comprehensively Promoting the Strategic Partnership and agreed to establish an intergovernmental consultation mechanism, expressed support for the establishment of the "Sino-German Alternative Power Platform" and strengthened cooperation in the field of electric vehicles
	March 2014	The Chinese and German governments issued the Outline of Action for Sino-German Cooperation.  The People's Bank of China (PBoC) and the Deutsche Bundesbank signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a Renminbi Clearing Mechanism in Frankfurt am Main.
	August 2016	Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the opening ceremony of the Confucius Institute in Stralsund and delivered a speech. Sino-German cooperation has established 19 Confucius Institutes and 2 independent Confucius Classrooms in Germany.
<b>Finland<sup>xxv</sup></b>	1950	Finland recognised New China on 13 January 1950 and established diplomatic relations with China on 28 October the same year.
	1952	Finland and China signed the Triangular Trade Agreement.

1953	China and Finland signed the Interstate Trade and Payment Agreement, the first interstate trade agreement with a Western country.
1956	Exchange of notes between China and Finland on mutual tariffs and most-favored-nation shipping status
1973	An agreement on student exchange between the two countries was signed
1975	Sino-Finnish Agreement on Civil Air Transport
1976	Sino-Finnish Maritime Agreement
1982	Long-term trade agreement between China and Finland
1984	Sino-Finnish Cultural Agreement Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Finland on the Protection of Investments
1986	Sino-Finnish agreement on scientific and technological cooperation. Sino-Finnish Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion (1986)
1995	Memorandum of Understanding on Judicial Cooperation between China and Finland Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation between China and Finland

1999	Sino-Finnish Highway Technical Cooperation Agreement
November 2004	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investments <sup>xxvi</sup>
2005	The two countries signed the Sino-Finnish agreement on economic, industrial and technical cooperation. Memorandum of Understanding on Sino-Finnish Agricultural Cooperation
2006	The Ministries of Education of the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Degree Certificates Memorandum of Understanding on Sino-Finnish Cooperation in the Field of Occupational Safety and Health
2007	Sino-Finnish agreement on cooperation in the establishment of the Confucius Institute in Helsinki China and Finland signed a memorandum of understanding on environmental cooperation.
2009	Memorandum of Understanding between China and Finland on Further Promoting Sino-Finnish Cooperation in the Field of High Technology Memorandum of Understanding between China and Finland on cooperation in eco-parks
2010	The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the fields of culture, education, science, youth and sports
2011	Memorandum of Understanding between China and Finland on Cooperation on Nano innovation Centre

2012	Memorandum of Understanding between China and Finland on Further Deepening Agricultural Cooperation
2013	Memorandum of Understanding between China and Finland on ICT Cooperation
2015	<p>Implementation Plan for the Chinese Guest of Honour Programme at the Helsinki Festival</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding between China and Finland on establishing cultural centres</p> <p>Signing of a memorandum of cooperation between China and Finland on strengthening cooperation in all fields of education.</p> <p>In 2015, China and Finland co-hosted the SLUSH China 2015 International Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference in Beijing, and the Zhongguancun Administrative Committee signed an agreement with the Finnish Trade Association to set up a Sino-Finnish Innovation Fund of about EUR 30-40 million.</p>
2017	<p>Joint Statement of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Finland on Establishing and Promoting a New Forward-looking Partnership</p> <p>Joint Statement by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Economy and Labour of Finland on the Establishment of the Sino-Finnish Innovative Enterprises Cooperation Committee under the China-Finland New Future Partnership</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding between the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Finland on Jointly Promoting Cooperation on Giant Panda Conservation</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Exchanges between the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Finland Implementation Plan 2017-2020</p>
2019	<p>China and Finland signed an agreement to establish a cultural centre</p> <p>Joint Work Plan for Promoting the New China-Finland Future-oriented Partnership</p>

<b>Italy</b> <sup>xxvii</sup>	November 1970	The two countries officially established diplomatic relations
	1978	Signature of the Sino-Italian intergovernmental agreement on scientific and technological cooperation and establishment of the Sino-Italian Joint Commission for Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
	January 1985	Agreement Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Italy concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investments <sup>xxviii</sup>
	June 2014	Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Cultural Cooperation Mechanisms signed by the Ministries of Culture of the two countries
	August 2015	China-Italy Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
	December 2015	China-Italy extradition treaty <sup>xxix</sup>
	2016	The competent authorities of the two countries also signed the Memorandum of Understanding on China-Italy Joint Police Patrols and officially launched the joint patrols in May 2016, with four rounds of joint police patrols in Italy and three rounds of joint police patrols in China so far.
	February 2017	The two sides signed the "Sino-Italian Strategic Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation towards 2020".
	By 2022	The two sides have established 12 Confucius Institutes and 39 Confucius Classrooms.
<b>Czech Republic</b> <sup>xxx</sup>	1949	China established diplomatic relations with the former Czechoslovakia on 6 October 1949. On 1 January 1993, the Czech Republic became an independent and sovereign state and both sides agreed to continue to use 6 October 1949 as the date for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

December 1991	Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on the Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investments <sup>xxxix</sup>
February 1993	The Customs Cooperation Agreement between China and Czechoslovakia came into force
October 1993	The two governments signed a trade agreement;
December 1999	Joint Communiqué of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Czech Republic;
April 2004	Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Czech Republic;
December 2005	Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Czech Republic on the Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investment  Additional Protocol between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Slovak Republic to the BIT
August 2009	Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Czech Republic on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income;
October 2014	Memorandum of Understanding between the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic on Cooperation in Civil Nuclear Energy and Interbank Cooperation Agreement on Promoting Two-Way Investment by Chinese and Czech Enterprises;

November 2015	<p>Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, and Agreement on Financial Strategic Cooperation between the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the Czech Government;</p> <p>China and the Czech Republic signed a memorandum of understanding between the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of China and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic on film exchanges and cooperation;</p> <p>A joint statement between the China National Tourism Administration and the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic on tourism exchanges and cooperation.</p>
March 2016	<p>Joint Declaration of the People's Republic of China and the Czech Republic on Establishing Strategic Partnership.</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Czech Republic on the Joint Preparation of the Outline of the China-Czech Republic Cooperation Plan;</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding between the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic on Strengthening Cooperation in Building the Online Silk Road and Promoting Information Interconnection;</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic on Cooperation in Industrial Parks;</p> <p>Agreement on Cooperation in Cross-Border Crisis Management between the China Banking Regulatory Commission and the Czech National Bank;</p>
May 2017	<p>Memorandum of understanding on cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) was signed, and in July, the first working group meeting of the China-Czech Cooperation Centre under the "Belt and Road" framework was held in the Czech Republic;</p>
June 2018	<p>The two countries held a working meeting on the coordination and promotion of the Belt and Road cooperation plan;</p>

	November 2018	The first Confucius Institute in the Czech capital, Prague, the Confucius Institute at the Prague University of Financial Management, was inaugurated.
	October 2019	The 11th regular meeting of the Joint Economic Commission between the two governments was held in the Czech Republic;
<b>Portugal</b> <sup>xxxixxxxiii</sup>	January 1975	Portugal recognizes the government of the People's Republic of China
	February 1979	an agreement on the foundation for the establishment of diplomatic relations is reached
	July 1980	a commercial agreement is signed in Beijing
	April 1982	a cooperation agreement on the fields of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation is signed in Beijing
	October 1982	an agreement on economic, industrial and technical cooperation is signed in Beijing
	May 1985	on the occasion of a visit to Beijing by President Ramalho Eanes, China informed Portugal that it wished to negotiate the Organic Statute of Macau
	April 1987	the two countries sign a joint declaration, followed by transition process that ended with the ceremony for the transference of sovereignty on December 20th, 1999
	July 1991	a cooperation agreement is reached between Portugal and China regarding the field of sports
	Februar 1992	Agreement Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Portuguese Republic Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investments <sup>xxxiv</sup>
	April 1998	a convention between Portugal and China to avoid double taxation and prevent tax evasion was approved, along with the respective protocol
	2005	Agreement Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Portuguese Republic Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investments



	<p>Agreement on the mutual recognition of academic qualifications and degrees in higher education。 Confucius Institutes 孔子學院 were opened at the Universities of Minho, Lisbon, Aveiro, Coimbra and Porto.</p> <p>The scientific and technological cooperation agreement between the Portuguese and Chinese governments was signed.</p> <p>The leaders of the two countries announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership.</p> <p>Criminal Justice Agreement between Portugal and China</p>
2006	Agreement on cooperation between the two countries' Ministries of Defence
2007	Extradition Treaty between China and Portugal <sup>xxxv</sup> Treaty on the transfer of sentenced persons between Portugal and China <sup>xxxvi</sup>
2010	A cooperation agreement regarding tourism is signed in Lisbon
2014	Protocol on Cooperation in Research and Innovation in the Field of Marine Sciences
2016	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Marine Sciences Signature of an agreement on the reciprocal establishment of cultural centers
November 2017	The two countries formally launched the Blue Partnership. In the field of justice, the two countries have signed the Sino-Portuguese Agreement on Criminal Justice, the Sino-Portuguese Treaty on Extradition and the Sino-Portuguese Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, all of which are now in force.
2018 年	The two sides issued a joint statement on further strengthening the China-Portugal comprehensive strategic partnership.

## Endnote

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- <sup>i</sup> <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/01/en/plus/2816-chinese-new-year-and-quality-life-among-chinese-canada>
- <sup>ii</sup> <https://interactives.lowyinstitute.org/features/chinese-communities/reports/2023%20Being%20Chinese%20in%20Australia%20Poll%20%E2%80%93%20Lowy%20Institute.pdf>
- <sup>iii</sup> <https://academic-accelerator.com/encyclopedia/british-chinese>
- <sup>iv</sup> [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/gjhdq\\_676201/gj\\_676203/oz\\_678770/1206\\_679282/sbgx\\_679286/](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/oz_678770/1206_679282/sbgx_679286/)
- <sup>v</sup> [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/gjhdq\\_676201/gj\\_676203/oz\\_678770/1206\\_679086/sbgx\\_679090/](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/oz_678770/1206_679086/sbgx_679090/)
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://china.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/qianwangbilishi/bilishiqianzheng>
- <sup>vii</sup> <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/belgium/china/chinese/#study>
- <sup>viii</sup> <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/belgium/china/chinese/pdf/Checklist-for-student-art-58-belgium.pdf>
- <sup>ix</sup> <https://www.aps.org.cn/zh/internationale-kooperationen/bel>
- <sup>x</sup> <https://hongkongmacau.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/travel-belgium/visa-belgium/visa-d-long-stay-professional-student>
- <sup>xi</sup> [https://hongkongmacau.diplomatie.belgium.be/sites/default/files/Visa%20D%20student%20checklist\\_1.pdf](https://hongkongmacau.diplomatie.belgium.be/sites/default/files/Visa%20D%20student%20checklist_1.pdf)
- <sup>xii</sup> [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/smart-borders/european-travel-information-authorisation-system\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/smart-borders/european-travel-information-authorisation-system_en)
- <sup>xiii</sup> Mainland Chinese residing in Hong Kong but not holding the SAR passport (i.e. non-Hong Kong permanent residents) are required to apply for the Schengen visa. For five of the six selected countries, they can apply directly at the country's consulate general in Hong Kong. For Finland, applications have to be made via the VFS Global office in Hong Kong.
- <sup>xiv</sup> [https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp\\_en/11\\_useful\\_info/cert\\_no\\_crime\\_local.html](https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/11_useful_info/cert_no_crime_local.html)
- <sup>xv</sup> <https://hongkong.diplo.de/hk-en/service/05-VisaEinreise/-/2585282>
- <sup>xvi</sup> [https://conshongkong.esteri.it/en/news/dal\\_consolato/2019/07/firma-dell-accordo-vacanza-lavoro-2/](https://conshongkong.esteri.it/en/news/dal_consolato/2019/07/firma-dell-accordo-vacanza-lavoro-2/)

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- xvii [https://conshongkong.esteri.it/en/news/dal\\_consolato/2019/07/firma-dell-accordo-vacanza-lavoro-2/](https://conshongkong.esteri.it/en/news/dal_consolato/2019/07/firma-dell-accordo-vacanza-lavoro-2/)
- xviii Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xix [双边关系 中华人民共和国外交部 \(fmprc.gov.cn\)](#)
- xx Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xxi Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xxii [双边关系 中华人民共和国外交部 \(fmprc.gov.cn\)](#)
- xxiii Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xxiv Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xxv [双边关系 中华人民共和国外交部 \(fmprc.gov.cn\)](#)
- xxvi Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xxvii [双边关系 中华人民共和国外交部 \(fmprc.gov.cn\)](#)
- xxviii Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xxix In 2015, the Italian side agreed to extradite economic crime suspects to China, the first case in a European country
- xxx [双边关系 中华人民共和国外交部 \(fmprc.gov.cn\)](#)
- xxxi Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xxxii [双边关系 中华人民共和国外交部 \(fmprc.gov.cn\)](#)
- xxxiii <https://portaldiplomatico.mne.gov.pt/en/bilateral-relations/general-countries/people-s-republic-of-china>
- xxxiv Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <http://tfs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/Nocategory/201111/20111107819474.shtml>
- xxxv [https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjb\\_673085/zfxxgk\\_674865/gknrlb/tywj/tyqk/200907/t20090728\\_9277029.shtml](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjb_673085/zfxxgk_674865/gknrlb/tywj/tyqk/200907/t20090728_9277029.shtml)

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xxxvi [中华人民共和国和葡萄牙共和国关于移管被判刑人的条约 \(moj.gov.cn\)](http://moj.gov.cn)