

## **NEWS**

### **Visa for Chinese visitors made easy**

(<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/january/42-chinese>)

The United Kingdom is open for business and tourism and China is one of the UK's priority markets.

From 2010 to 2011 the UK saw 28 per cent growth in visit visas issued compared to France, which saw 19 per cent growth for the same period. In 2011 they processed more than 283,000 visas from Chinese nationals worldwide.

94 per cent of Chinese visitors who apply for a visa get one; 96 per cent of applicants surveyed who have applied for a visa said that they were satisfied with the service they received; 97 per cent of non-settlement visas from Chinese nationals are processed within 15 days (and 54 per cent within 5 days); 99 per cent of business visit visas are decided within 15 days (75 per cent within 5 days).

The average length of a visa application form is 6 pages (including the disclaimer); the average UK visa costs £81, which is multiple entry for 6 months to 5 years. Our website has information and guidance translated into Chinese and applicants have access to a Chinese language phone and email service.

Online application forms will also be translated in Chinese from later this year.

For businesses UKBA have set up a dedicated network of staff to support them with the visa application process.

From spring this year UKBA will offer a service to some businesses where UKBA will go to them to capture fingerprints of their employees travelling to the UK, to help speed up the system even further.