Naturalization as a Chinese National

Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China

A Guide for Overseas Applicants

Immigration Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

ID 922A (4/2026)

This guide and the application form are issued free of charge to persons who wish to naturalize as Chinese nationals in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

This is a general guide on Chinese nationality matters and carries no legal authority.

The guide will help you to decide whether you are eligible to apply for naturalization and how to do so.

If you require more information, please contact:

Information and Liaison Section,
Immigration Department,
UG Floor, Administration Tower,
Immigration Headquarters,
61 Po Yap Road, Tseung Kwan O,
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What this guide contains

1. Explains the statutory requirements of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China and the factors that the Director of Immigration will normally consider to approve an application for naturalization as a Chinese national

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2. Explains which sections of the application form you should complete, what information you should give, where to submit your application and the fee required

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3. Tells you what will follow in the process of your application

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1. Statutory requirements of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China and factors to be considered by the Director of Immigration

The requirements laid down in Articles 7 and 8 of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China are as follows:

Article 7

Foreign nationals or stateless persons who are willing to abide by China's Constitution and laws and who meet one of the following conditions may be naturalized upon approval of their applications:

(1) they are near relatives of Chinese nationals;

(2) they have settled in China; or

(3) they have other legitimate reasons.

Article 8

Any person who applies for naturalization as a Chinese national shall acquire Chinese nationality upon approval of his application; a person whose application for naturalization as a Chinese national has been approved shall not retain foreign nationality.

(Appendices 1 and 2 show you the text of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China and the "Explanations of Some Questions by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress concerning the Implementation of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR".)

Each application for naturalization as a Chinese national will be considered on its own merits but consideration will be given to:

- whether you have a near relative who is a Chinese national having the right of abode in Hong Kong
- whether you have the right of abode in Hong Kong
- whether your habitual residence is in Hong Kong
- whether the principal members of your family (spouse and minor children) are in Hong Kong
- whether you have a reasonable income to support yourself and your family
- whether you have paid taxes in accordance with the law
- whether you are of good character and sound mind
- whether you have sufficient knowledge of the Chinese language
- whether you intend to continue to live in Hong Kong in case your naturalization application is approved
- whether there are other legitimate reasons to support your application

Your application for naturalization as a Chinese national will not be approved if the information submitted is inconsistent or incomplete, or if you do not meet the eligibility criteria, or if there are other reasonable grounds, such as national security concerns.

2. The application form

Application forms are obtainable from Chinese diplomatic and consular missions or the HKSAR Immigration Department, or the Department's Home Page.

The application form may be completed in either Chinese or English, but must be in black or blue ink.

If you are aged 18 or over, you should complete form ID 922.

If you are under 18, your parent or legal guardian should complete form ID 923 on your behalf.

Which parts you should complete

You should complete all parts of the application form wherever applicable. Item(s) which is(are) not applicable should be crossed out and signed by the person making the declaration.

Before completing the application form, you are advised to note the statement of purpose for data collection printed at Appendix 3.

Notes about some parts of the form

Part 7—*Criminal records*

You must give details of all convictions by a court of law in or out of Hong Kong of any crime or offence you committed.

Part 10—*Near relatives*

They should generally be your parent, spouse, child or sibling. If your application is supported by a near relative, he/she must be:

(1) a Chinese national who has the right of abode in Hong Kong; and

(2) aged 18 or over.

Part 11—*Other reasons*

If you are not the near relative of a Chinese national who has the right of abode in Hong Kong or if you do not have the right of abode in Hong Kong, you have to complete this part. Documentary proof will need to be produced at a later stage to support your reasons.

Part 12—*Declaration*

After you have completed this form, please remember to sign and date the declaration. An application will not be valid unless it has been signed and dated. If you are unable to sign, please impress your left thumbprint.

Submission of application

Through Chinese diplomatic and consular mission

You may submit your application form together with originals and photocopies of the supporting documents to the nearest Chinese diplomatic and consular mission. The Chinese diplomatic and consular mission will verify the supporting documents and then forward the application form and verified copies of supporting documents to the HKSAR Immigration Department for processing.

Direct to the HKSAR Immigration Department

You may send the application form direct to the Nationality Sub-section, Travel Documents and Nationality (Application) Section of the HKSAR Immigration Department (Address: 2nd Floor, Administration Tower, Immigration Headquarters, 61 Po Yap Road, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories, Hong Kong) together with the bank draft for application fee and photocopies of supporting documents. In such circumstance, you need to furnish the name and address of a local referee who will be notified by the HKSAR Immigration Department to produce the original supporting documents for verification.

You may also submit your application online and upload the relevant supporting documents. You will be contacted to approach the Nationality Sub-section for interview, document verification and payment of the prescribed fee.

Documents in support of the application

(a) If you are of age 18 or over, you should submit the application together with the following documents and photocopies:

- Hong Kong identity card
- passport(s) or travel document(s) showing your travel records and length of residence in Hong Kong, or any of the following documents:
  - (i) letters from your employers certifying your periods of employment with them
  - (ii) letters from schools or other educational establishments showing the periods you attended
  - (iii) tax returns or a letter from the Inland Revenue Department showing that you have paid taxes in the past years
  - (iv) any other document showing your residence in Hong Kong
- proof of your relationship with the near relative who supports your application (if applicable), including proof of his Chinese nationality and right of abode in Hong Kong, such as a valid travel document and a Hong Kong permanent identity card
- proofs regarding "other reasons" (if you complete Part 11)

(If you cannot produce any of the above documents, please explain why)

(b) For an applicant under the age of 18, the application should be submitted together with the following documents and photocopies:

- applicant's Hong Kong identity card
- applicant's passport(s) or travel document(s) showing his/her travel records and length of residence in Hong Kong or letters from schools or other educational establishments showing the periods he/she attended
- financial proofs of applicant's parents or legal guardian (e.g. employment letters or tax returns)
- proof of relationship with applicant's parents or legal guardian, e.g.:
  (i) identity cards or travel documents of parents/legal guardian (if the applicant is married, the marriage certificate should be produced and consent from applicant's parents or legal guardian will not be required)
  (ii) proof of legal guardianship (e.g. applicant's birth certificate, parents' marriage certificate or a relevant court order to prove the legal guardianship in respect of the applicant)
- proof of relationship of applicant with the near relative who supports his/her application (if applicable), including proof of his/her Chinese nationality and right of abode in Hong Kong, such as a valid travel document and a Hong Kong permanent identity card
- proofs regarding "other reasons" (if the applicant complete Part 11)

(If the applicant cannot produce any of the above documents, please explain why)

Fees Payable

(a) <u>For applications submitted directly to HKSAR Immigration Department</u>

The application fee is HK$3,460. You are required to pay an initial fee of HK$1,730 at the time of application, and the balance of the application fee will be collected upon issue of the certificate of naturalization subject to the proof of your not retaining foreign nationality. However, the collection of fee does not constitute any guarantee or assurance that your application will be approved.

If you pay by cheque or bank draft, it should be crossed and made payable to "The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region". No cash should be sent along with the application.

For applications submitted by post from overseas, the bank draft should be drawn on a bank in the HKSAR in HK or US Dollars (HK$1,730 or US$222). If the cheque or bank draft is not drawn on a bank in the HKSAR or not in HKSAR currency, please also include a bank handling charge of HK$250 in the same cheque or bank draft.

Alternatively, you can provide the name and address of a local referee who will pay the fee on your behalf after receiving notification from the lmmigration Department.

The initial fee of HK$1,730 is non-refundable in all circumstances.

(b) For applications submitted through Chinese diplomatic and consular missions

If you submit your application through a Chinese diplomatic and consular mission, you will be required to pay a handling charge and the expenses of forwarding your application to the HKSAR Immigration Department in addition to the application fee mentioned in paragraph (a) above.

The fee paid is non-refundable in all circumstances.

3. After you have submitted your application

If your application is submitted directly to the HKSAR Immigration Department by post, an acknowledgement card will be sent to you by post.

If you need to get in touch with the Immigration Department about any other aspect of your application, please write to the Nationality Sub-section, Travel Documents and Nationality (Application) Section, Immigration Department, 2nd Floor, Administration Tower, Immigration Headquarters, 61 Po Yap Road, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories, Hong Kong, and give your full name, date and place of birth and your application reference.

The Declaration in Part 12 includes an undertaking to inform the Director of Immigration in writing of any changes which may affect the accuracy of any information provided in the application. It is important to do this while your application is being considered.

A successful applicant will be issued with a certificate of naturalization on payment of the prescribed fee. If your application is submitted through the Chinese diplomatic and consular mission, the certificate will be issued to you through the concerned mission. If your application is submitted directly to the HKSAR Immigration Department by post, the certificate will be issued to your authorized local referee. The Director of Immigration may cancel a certificate of naturalization if the Director is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the certificate was obtained by fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact. Action may be taken against that person in accordance with law.

According to the Chinese Nationality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, decisions of the Director of Immigration on naturalization applications cannot be subject to appeals and there is no need to assign any reason for the decisions.

4. What will happen to your immigration status and foreign nationality if your application is successful?

Immigration status

You will continue to enjoy the right of abode in HKSAR as long as you remain as a Chinese national.

Foreign nationality

You cannot retain your foreign nationality if your application for naturalization as a Chinese national is approved.

Appendix 1

Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China

(Adopted at the Third Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, promulgated by Order No. 8 of the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and effective as of September 10, 1980)

Article 1 This law is applicable to the acquisition, loss and restoration of nationality of the People's Republic of China.

Article 2 The People's Republic of China is a unitary multinational state; persons belonging to any of the nationalities in China shall have Chinese nationality.

Article 3 The People's Republic of China does not recognize dual nationality for any Chinese national.

Article 4 Any person born in China whose parents are both Chinese nationals or one of whose parents is a Chinese national shall have Chinese nationality.

Article 5 Any person born abroad whose parents are both Chinese nationals or one of whose parents is a Chinese national shall have Chinese nationality. But a person whose parents are both Chinese nationals and have both settled abroad, or one of whose parents is a Chinese national and has settled abroad, and who has acquired foreign nationality at birth shall not have Chinese nationality.

Article 6 Any person born in China whose parents are stateless or of uncertain nationality and have settled in China shall have Chinese nationality.

Article 7 Foreign nationals or stateless persons who are willing to abide by China's Constitution and laws and who meet one of the following conditions may be naturalized upon approval of their applications:

(1) they are near relatives of Chinese nationals;

(2) they have settled in China; or

(3) they have other legitimate reasons.

Article 8 Any person who applies for naturalization as a Chinese national shall acquire Chinese nationality upon approval of his application; a person whose application for naturalization as a Chinese national has been approved shall not retain foreign nationality.

Article 9 Any Chinese national who has settled abroad and who has been naturalized as a foreign national or has acquired foreign nationality of his own free will shall automatically lose Chinese nationality.

Article 10 Chinese nationals who meet one of the following conditions may renounce Chinese nationality upon approval of their applications:

(1) they are near relatives of foreign nationals;

(2) they have settled abroad; or

(3) they have other legitimate reasons.

Article 11 Any person who applies for renunciation of Chinese nationality shall lose Chinese nationality upon approval of his application.

Article 12 State functionaries and military personnel on active service shall not renounce Chinese nationality.

Article 13 Foreign nationals who once held Chinese nationality may apply for restoration of Chinese nationality if they have legitimate reasons; those whose applications for restoration of Chinese nationality have been approved shall not retain foreign nationality.

Article 14 Persons who wish to acquire, renounce or restore Chinese nationality, with the exception of cases provided for in Article 9, shall go through the formalities of application. Applications of persons under the age of 18 may be filed on their behalf by their parents or other legal representatives.

Article 15 Nationality applications at home shall be handled by the public security bureaus of the municipalities or counties where the applicants reside; nationality applications abroad shall be handled by China's diplomatic representative agencies and consular offices.

Article 16 Applications for naturalization as Chinese nationals and for renunciation or restoration of Chinese nationality are subject to examination and approval by the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China. The Ministry of Public Security shall issue a certificate to any person whose application has been approved.

Article 17 The nationality status of persons who have acquired or lost Chinese nationality before the promulgation of this Law shall remain valid.

Article 18 This Law shall come into force as of the date of its promulgation.

Appendix 2

Explanations of Some Questions by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress concerning the Implementation of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*

(Adopted at the 19th session of the Standing Committee of the 8th National People's Congress on 15 May 1996)

According to Article 18 of and Annex III to the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China shall be applied in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from 1 July 1997. Taking account of the historical background and the existing circumstances of Hong Kong, the Standing Committee gives the following explanations concerning the implementation in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China—

1. Where a Hong Kong resident is of Chinese descent and was born in the Chinese territories (including Hong Kong), or where a person satisfies the criteria laid down in the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China for having Chinese nationality, he is a Chinese national.

2. All Hong Kong Chinese compatriots are Chinese nationals, whether or not they are holders of the "British Dependent Territories Citizens passport" or "British Nationals (Overseas) passport". With effect from 1 July 1997, Chinese nationals mentioned above may, for the purpose of travelling to other countries and territories, continue to use the valid travel documents issued by the Government of the United Kingdom. However, they shall not be entitled to British consular protection in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and other parts of the People's Republic of China on account of their holding the above mentioned British travel documents.

3. According to the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China, the British Citizenship acquired by Chinese nationals in Hong Kong through the "British Nationality Selection Scheme" will not be recognised. They are still Chinese nationals and will not be entitled to British consular protection in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and other parts of the People's Republic of China.

4. Chinese nationals of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region with right of abode in foreign countries may, for the purpose of travelling to other countries and territories, use the relevant documents issued by the foreign governments. However, they will not be entitled to consular protection in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and other parts of the People's Republic of China on account of their holding the above mentioned documents.

5. If there is a change in the nationality of a Chinese national of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, he may, with valid documents in support, make a declaration at the authority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region responsible for nationality applications.

6. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is authorised to designate its Immigration Department as the authority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region responsible for nationality applications. The Immigration Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall handle all nationality applications in accordance with the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China and the foregoing provisions.

* *The English translation text is prepared by the Department of Justice, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It is for reference purposes and has no legislative effect.*

Appendix 3

Statement of Purpose for Data Collection

Purpose of Collection

The personal data provided in the application form will be used by the Immigration Department for one or more of the following purposes:

(a) to process your application for naturalization as a Chinese national;

(b) to administer the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China and the "Explanations of Some Questions by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Concerning the Implementation of the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 15 May 1996;

(c) to assist in the enforcement of relevant provisions of the Immigration Ordinance (Chapter 115); Immigration Service Ordinance (Chapter 331) and any other Ordinances and Regulations by other government departments through carrying out immigration control duties;

(d) in connection with any other person's applications for immigration facilities in which you are named as a sponsor or referee;

(e) for research and statistical purposes; and

(f) any other legitimate purpose.

The provision of personal data in the process of your application is voluntary. If you do not provide sufficient information, we may not be able to process your application.

Classes of Transferees

The personal data you provide may be disclosed to government bureaux, departments and other organizations for the purposes mentioned above.

Access to Personal Data

You have a right to request access to and correction of your personal data as provided for in sections 18 and 22 of and Principle 6 of Schedule 1 to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance. Your right of access includes the right to obtain a copy of your personal data provided in this form subject to a fee payment.

Enquiries

Enquiries concerning the personal data collected by means of this application form, including making of access and corrections, should be addressed to:

Chief Immigration Officer
(Travel Documents and Nationality) Application
2nd Floor, Administration Tower,
Immigration Headquarters,
61 Po Yap Road, Tseung Kwan O,
New Territories, Hong Kong
Tel No: (852) 2829 3093