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Global Immigration alert

February 2026

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Chinese Mainland

New visa-free policy for nationals of Canada and the United Kingdom

Executive summary

Effective 17 February 2026, nationals of Canada and the United Kingdom may enter the Chinese Mainland without a visa for business, tourism, family visits or participation in exchange programs, or transit through the jurisdiction. This policy will remain in effect until 31 December 2026.

Key developments

The visa-free policy applies to holders of ordinary passports issued by Canada and the United Kingdom, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. These individuals will be permitted to enter the Chinese Mainland without a visa for stays up to 30 days. Those who do not meet the eligibility requirements or who intend to stay in the jurisdiction for more than 30 days are required to obtain the appropriate visa prior to entry.

Impact on employers

The new policy is expected to benefit employers who send nationals of Canada and the United Kingdom to the Chinese Mainland for business purposes by reducing the time and costs associated with the visa application process.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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