

Legalising a UK public document

To legalise a UK public document, you have to follow the 3 steps outlined below:

Step 1: Get your document notarised by a Notary or solicitor in the UK

You should first have your document notarised by a Notary or solicitor. Visit www.facultyoffice.org.uk/notary/find-a-notary/ to find a notary public in the UK and solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk to find a solicitor in the UK.

British Embassies and Consulates are not able to notarise a UK public document.

Please note documents issued by the UK General Register Office are already a certified copy therefore you can skip Step 1. These documents include, but are not limited to: UK birth, marriage, civil partnership, death, adoption and commemorative certificates. Please visit www.gov.uk/general-register-office for further information.

If you do not have a copy of your UK birth or marriage certificate, you can order a new copy from the UK General Register Office. Please visit www.gov.uk/general-register-office for further information.

Step 2: Get your notarised UK document legalised

You can get a UK public document 'legalised' by asking the UK government to confirm that a UK public official's signature, seal or stamp on the document is genuine. You might need to do this if a local authority abroad has asked you to provide a document and they've said it must be 'legalised'.

You can do this directly through the Legalisation Office:

- Getting a document legalised www.gov.uk/get-document-legalised
- Getting a document legalised through the post www.gov.uk/pay-legalisation-post
- A premium legalisation service for businesses only www.gov.uk/legalisation-premium-service.

Step 3: Get your legalised document authenticated

Once your document has been legalised, the local authority may ask for further authentication of the legalisation documents from the Chinese Embassy in the UK.

Please visit the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre's website at https://bio.visaforchina.org/LON2_EN/generalinformation/Authentication%20knowledge/283392.shtml on how to do this.