



An exit-entry officer greets an expat. — Jiang Qichao

Digital portal to ease work and residence application process



Category A foreign workers who work in Shanghai will soon be able to apply for their work and residence permits on the Internet.

Shanghai Exit-Entry Administration Bureau

Chen Huizhi

In a bid to win the hearts of top foreign talent, Shanghai is aiming to better its exit-entry administration services, as well as to relax talent policies.

Category A foreign workers who work in Shanghai will soon be able to apply for their work and residence permits on the Internet, the city's exit-entry administration bureau told Shanghai Daily.

Since December 2019, foreign talent in this category have been able to apply for both permits at the same time to exit-entry administrators in all Shanghai districts as well as at the Minsheng

Road office of the bureau on the city level, known as the "single window" service.

Shanghai was the first city in China to introduce the service back then, and the practice was later available in more cities. The convenience for both foreign talent and their employers is well appreciated.

The development of a new web application that enables online application of the permits was finished by the end of September last year, and the system is currently under a trial run, Shanghai Daily was told.

Applicants will be able to submit their

papers on the Internet for a first examination from the administrators and then go to the exit-entry service centers in person to complete the application.

This is expected to further reduce the waiting time for applicants to have permits issued. Previously, the "single window" had reduced the processing time of an application from 17 work days to seven.

In November 2020, Shenzhen city in Guangdong Province became the first in China to introduce an Internet portal that enables online applications for work and residence permits at the same time for foreign talent.