



# ข่าวสารนิเทศ • Press Release

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No. 24/2018

## The SMART Visa

On 25 January 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand together with the Board of Investment of Thailand, the Immigration Bureau, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour, jointly organized press conference on the SMART Visa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Royal Thai Government hopes that the SMART Visa, which will come into effect on 1 February 2018, will encourage foreign talents and investors to invest in the 10 targeted industries of Thailand. It is hoped that it will enhance knowledge transfer and increase the competitiveness of Thailand in the global economy.

The SMART Visa is a new type of visa specially designed to encourage highly-skilled professionals and talents to work or invest in the 10 targeted S-Curve industries, namely (1) next-generation automotive, (2) smart electronics, (3) affluent, medical and wellness tourism, (4) agriculture and biotechnology, (5) food for the future, (6) robotics, (7) aviation and logistics, (8) biofuels and biochemicals, (9) digital, and (10) medical hub.

The four categories of people who are eligible to apply for SMART Visa are (1) Talent (2) Investor (3) Executive (4) Startup and (5) Others (i.e. legal dependents, namely spouse and children, if any).

The SMART Visa provides more benefits and privileges than any other types of visa. These benefits include:

- (1) Visa validity up to 4 years (instead of the usual 1 year)
- (2) No requirement of work permit
- (3) Extension of reporting of stay to Immigration Bureau – from every 90-day to every year
- (4) The right of legal dependents (spouse and children) of the SMART Visa holder to live and work in Thailand equivalent to SMART visa holder (only SMART T type allows dependents of SMART Visa holder to work in Thailand).

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25 January 2018



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ที่ ๒๔/๒๕๖๑

## การตรวจลงตราประเภทคนอยู่ชั่วคราวเป็นกรณีพิเศษสมาร์ทวีซ่า (SMART Visa)

เมื่อวันที่ ๒๕ มกราคม ๒๕๖๑ กระทรวงการต่างประเทศ โดยกรมสารนิเทศ และกรมการกงสุล พร้อมด้วยหน่วยงานที่เกี่ยวข้อง อาทิ สำนักงานคณะกรรมการส่งเสริมการลงทุน สำนักงานตำรวจแห่งชาติ กระทรวงมหาดไทย และกระทรวงแรงงาน ร่วมกันแถลงข่าวเกี่ยวกับการตรวจลงตราประเภทคนอยู่ชั่วคราวเป็นกรณีพิเศษสมาร์ทวีซ่า (SMART Visa) ณ ห้องแถลงข่าว กระทรวงการต่างประเทศ

รัฐบาลไทยได้อนุมัติให้มีการตรวจลงตราประเภท SMART Visa เพื่อดึงดูดบุคลากรทักษะสูงและนักลงทุนจากต่างประเทศที่สนใจเข้ามาทำงาน หรือลงทุนในอุตสาหกรรมเป้าหมายในไทยซึ่งจะมีส่วนช่วยเร่งการพัฒนาอุตสาหกรรมเป้าหมายของประเทศ รวมทั้งเสริมสร้างขีดความสามารถของไทยในการแข่งขันในเวทีโลก โดยมีกำหนดเริ่มกระบวนการยื่นขอรับการตรวจลงตราได้ตั้งแต่วันที่ ๑ กุมภาพันธ์ ๒๕๖๑

SMART Visa เป็นวีซ่าประเภทพิเศษสำหรับชาวต่างชาติ ๔ กลุ่มประกอบด้วย ผู้เชี่ยวชาญ นักลงทุน ผู้บริหารระดับสูง ผู้ประกอบการวิสาหกิจเริ่มต้น ที่มีคุณสมบัติพิเศษตามหลักเกณฑ์ และผ่านการรับรองจากหน่วยงานภาครัฐที่กำหนด โดยจะต้องเข้ามาทำงาน ลงทุน หรือดำเนินกิจกรรมในอุตสาหกรรมเป้าหมาย ๑๐ ประเภท ได้แก่ (๑) อุตสาหกรรมยานยนต์สมัยใหม่ (๒) อุตสาหกรรมอิเล็กทรอนิกส์อัจฉริยะ (๓) อุตสาหกรรมการท่องเที่ยวกลุ่มรายได้ดีและการท่องเที่ยวเชิงสุขภาพ (๔) การเกษตรและเทคโนโลยีชีวภาพ (๕) อุตสาหกรรมการแปรรูปอาหาร (๖) อุตสาหกรรมหุ่นยนต์ (๗) อุตสาหกรรมการบินและโลจิสติกส์ (๘) อุตสาหกรรมเชื้อเพลิงชีวภาพและเคมีชีวภาพ (๙) อุตสาหกรรมดิจิทัล และ (๑๐) อุตสาหกรรมการแพทย์ครบวงจร

คุณสมบัติผู้ที่ประสงค์จะยื่นขอรับการตรวจลงตราประเภท SMART Visa มีดังนี้

- (๑) ผู้เชี่ยวชาญทักษะสูง
- (๒) นักลงทุน
- (๓) ผู้บริหารระดับสูง
- (๔) Start-ups

สิทธิประโยชน์ที่ผู้ที่ได้รับการตรวจลงตราประเภท SMART Visa จะแตกต่างจากวีซ่าชนิดทั่วไป ดังนี้

- (๑) อายุวีซ่าสูงสุด ๔ ปี
- (๒) ไม่ต้องขอใบอนุญาตทำงาน
- (๓) ขยายเวลารายงานตัวจากเดิมทุก ๙๐ วันเป็นทุก ๑ ปี
- (๔) สามารถเดินทางเข้า-ออกได้โดยไม่ต้องขออนุญาตกลับเข้ามาใหม่
- (๕) คู่สมรสและบุตรได้รับสิทธิพำนักเท่ากับผู้ที่ได้รับสิทธิหลัก และสามารถทำงานที่ประเทศไทยได้

ทั้งนี้ ต้องไม่เป็นการทำงานต้องห้ามในบัญชีแนบท้ายพระราชกฤษฎีกา กำหนดอาชีพและวิชาชีพที่ห้ามคนต่างด้าวทำ พ.ศ. ๒๕๒๒

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๒๕ มกราคม ๒๕๖๑



Thailand Board of Investment  
[www.boi.go.th](http://www.boi.go.th)



Thailand's  
**SMART  
Visa**



Attracting Foreign Talents and  
Technologies

## SMART Visa Program

Thailand has been making a series of efforts in driving the economy through innovation. The Thai Government has taken another step to attract talents and technologies with a view to further developing its targeted industries or the so-called S-Curve industries. The SMART Visa program has then been designed to enhance Thailand's attractiveness in drawing science and technology experts, senior executives, investors and startups. The program is due to be launched on **February 1, 2018**.

## Types of SMART Visa



## What is SMART Visa?

The SMART Visa is a new type of visa designed to attract highly skilled manpower and investors to help accelerate the development of the country's targeted industries. SMART Visa is offered to foreign experts, executives, entrepreneurs and investors who wish to enter into the Kingdom of Thailand to work or to invest in the following "10 S-Curve industries" or the country's targeted industries.

## Targeted Industries

- Next-Generation Automotive
- Smart Electronics
- Affluent, Medical and Wellness Tourism
- Agriculture and Biotechnology for the Future
- Food
- Medical Hub
- Automation and Robotics
- Aviation and Logistics
- Biofuels and Biochemicals
- Digital



## Qualifications and Criteria

### SMART "T": Highly skilled professionals in the fields of science and technology wishing to work in the targeted industries

Qualifications	Privileges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Minimum salary of no less than 200,000 Baht or equivalent per month (exclusive of other benefits and welfares)</li><li>2. Having an employment contract or service contract with an entity in Thailand with the remaining term of at least 1 year</li><li>3. Having expertise in science and technology relevant to the targeted industries and endorsed by a government agency (Except for experts who work for a government agency)</li><li>4. Employers in Thailand must be certified for being engaged in the targeted industries by a relevant government agency such as the National Innovation Agency (Public Organization) and the Digital Economy Promotion Agency. In case of employers being a government agency, the certification of being in the targeted industries shall be done by that agency.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Maximum 4-year visa, but not exceeding the remaining employment/service contract term</li><li>2. No work permit required for working in the endorsed companies or a Thai government agency Prior to any changes or additions of jobs, an official approval must be obtained.</li><li>3. 90-day reporting to the Immigration extended to 1 year</li><li>4. No re-entry permit required</li><li>5. Spouses and children granted the right to stay and work in Thailand with no work permit required (Children wishing to work must be at least 18 years. The jobs must not be on the prohibited list of occupations and professions for foreigners.)</li></ol>

SMART  
**T**

Talents



## SMART "I" – Investors in companies using technologies in manufacturing or delivering services and being in the targeted industries

### Qualifications

1. Directly investing in one or more companies in Thailand using technology as a base in manufacturing or delivering services and are in the targeted industries as an individual investor in the total amount of at least 20 million Baht
2. The investment must be maintained throughout the validity period of the smart visa.
3. The business to be set up or invested in must be certified as being the ones using technology in manufacturing or delivering services and being in the targeted industries by the relevant agencies such as the National Innovation Agency, Digital Economy Promotion Agency and National Science and Technology Development Agency.

### Privileges

1. Maximum 4-year visa
2. No work permit required for working in the endorsed companies  
Prior to any changes or additions of jobs, an official approval must be obtained.
3. 90-day reporting to the Immigration extended to 1 year
4. No re-entry permit required
5. Spouses and children granted permission to stay in Thailand
6. Spouses granted permission to work with no work permit required (The jobs must not be on the prohibited list of occupations and professions for foreigners.)

SMART

I

Investors



**SMART**  
**E**

**Executives**

**SMART "E": Senior executives working in the companies using technology in manufacturing or delivering services and being in the targeted industries**

Qualifications	Privileges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minimum salary of no less than 200,000 Baht or equivalent per month (exclusive of other benefits and welfares)</li> <li>2. Holder of a bachelor's degree or higher with at least 10 years of work experience in the relevant field</li> <li>3. Having an employment contract with a company in Thailand or in a foreign country with an assignment to work in Thailand. The remaining period of the employment contract must be at least 1 year.</li> <li>4. Holding a senior management position such as Chairman or Managing Director The employing companies must be certified as being the ones using technology in manufacturing or delivering services and being in the targeted industries by the relevant agencies such as the National Innovation Agency (Public Organization), Digital Economy Promotion Agency and National Science and Technology Development Agency.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maximum 4-year visa, but not exceeding the employment contract term</li> <li>2. No work permit required for working in the endorsed positions and companies Prior to any changes or additions of jobs, an official approval must be obtained.</li> <li>3. 90-day reporting to the Immigration extended to 1 year</li> <li>4. No re-entry permit required</li> <li>5. Spouses and children granted permission to stay in Thailand</li> <li>6. Spouses granted permission to work with no work permit required (The jobs must not be on the prohibited list of occupations and professions for foreigners.)</li> </ol>

## SMART<sup>®</sup>S: Foreign startup entrepreneurs who wish to invest in the targeted industries in Thailand

### Qualifications

1. Having a fixed savings account in Thailand or in a foreign country with a balance of not less than 600,000 Baht or equivalent and the remaining maturity term of at least 1 year
2. In the case of being accompanied by spouses and children, an additional amount of fixed savings of at least 180,000 Baht per person or equivalent is required.
3. Having health insurance policy covering the entire course of stay in Thailand for the applicants of the SMART Visa, and for the accompanying spouse and the children
4. Participating in an incubation or accelerator program, or a similar program endorsed by a government agency such as the National Innovation Agency (Public Organization), the Digital Economy Promotion Agency. The programs must also be in the targeted industries.
5. In case of not participating in an incubator or a similar program, the applicant must receive joint venture funding or endorsed by a government agency such as the Digital Economy Promotion Agency.

### Privileges

1. 1-year visa for the first time, renewable for ≤ 2 years if requirements are met
2. No work permit required for working in the endorsed companies or projects
3. Prior to any changes or additions of jobs, an official approval must be obtained.
3. 90-day reporting to the Immigration extended to 1 year
4. No re-entry permit required
5. Spouses and children granted permission to stay in Thailand
6. Spouses granted permission to work with no work permit required (The jobs must not be on the prohibited list of occupations and professions for foreigners.)

SMART  
**S**

Startups





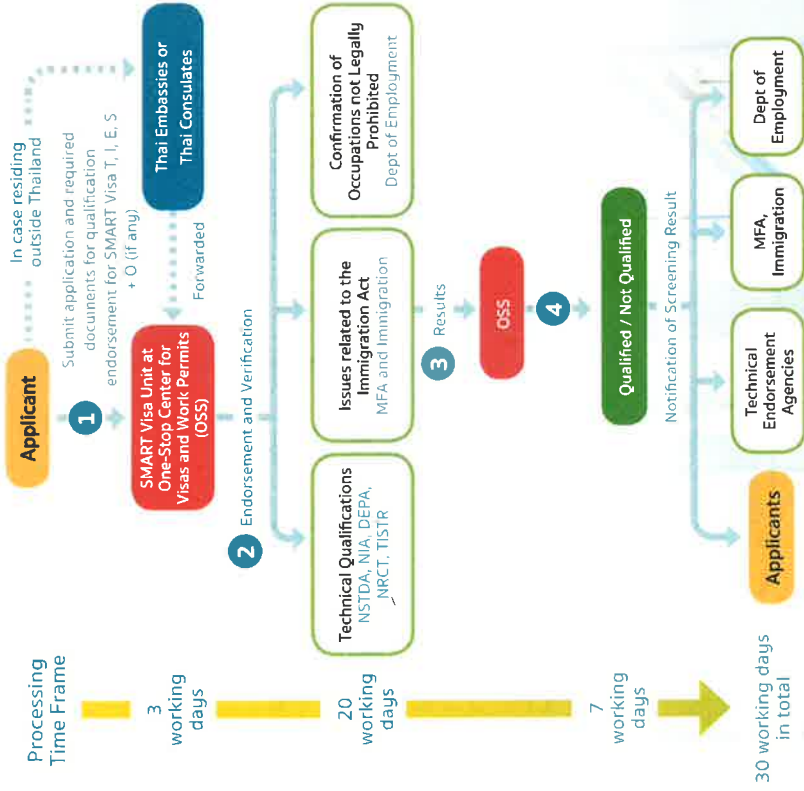
## How to apply?

The applicants for the SMART Visas must have qualifications according to the criteria specified by the government. Their qualifications will be verified by designated agencies. For example, a qualification of high expertise in science and technology must be verified and endorsed by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The list of certifications/endorsements required and the relevant agencies is detailed below.

Visa Type	Qualifications/Status	Certifying Bodies
Smart T	• Being highly skilled experts in the fields of science and technology.	NSTDA/ NRCT/ TISTR/ DEPA Sponsoring government agency
	- In case the expert working for a private firm	
	- In case the expert working for a government agency	
	• Employers being in the targeted industries.	NIA/ DEPA
Smart I	- In case the expert working for a private firm	Sponsoring government agency
	- In case the expert working for a government agency	
Smart E	• Investing in technology-based manufacturing or service company in the targeted industries	NSTDA/ NIA/ DEPA
Smart S	• Working for technology-based manufacturing or service companies in the targeted industries	NSTDA/ NIA/ DEPA
	• Participating in an incubation or accelerator program or similar programs endorsed by a relevant government agency or	NIA/ DEPA
	• Having a joint venture with or endorsed by a government agency (in case of not participating in an incubation or accelerator program)	DEPA
	• Companies that have been set up being in a targeted industry	NIA/ DEPA

After these technical endorsements have been obtained, the SMART Visa unit (under Thailand Board of Investment) will then proceed with screening the other requirements before issuing a letter of qualification endorsement which the applicant will use in applying for SMART visa at either the Thai Embassies or Consulates (in case of residing outside Thailand) or the Immigration Bureau at the One-Stop Center for Visas and Work Permits.

## Procedures for Applying for Qualification Endorsement



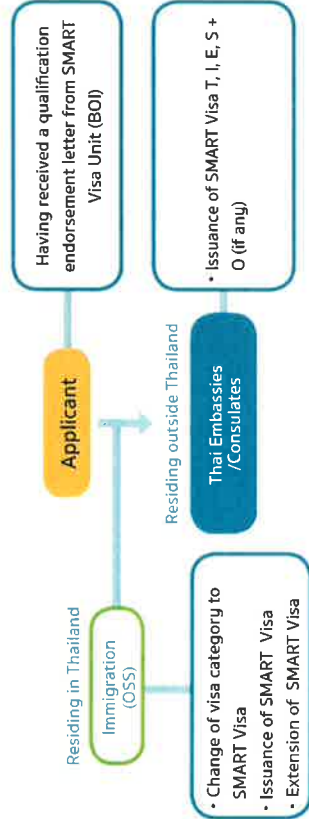
## Explanation of Procedures for Applying for Qualification Endorsement

1. The foreigners can submit an application for qualification endorsement for SMART Visas at One Stop Service Center for Visa and Work Permit (OSS) located at Chamchuri Square Building (in Bangkok). Alternatively, they can lodge their documents at the Royal Thai Embassies /The Royal Thai Consulate Generals.
2. Within 3 working days after having received complete documents, OSS will coordinate with related agencies to verify and certify the qualifications of the applicants.
3. The agencies in 2 will notify the OSS of the results of the evaluation/examination within 20 working days.
4. OSS (BO) will notify the applicant, the Immigration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the relevant agencies of the result of qualification endorsement application within 7 working days.

The total processing time frame is **30 working days from the date of OSS's receipt of complete documents**. Holders of non-immigrant visa must apply for the qualification endorsement at least 90 days before the expiry of the non-immigrant visa.

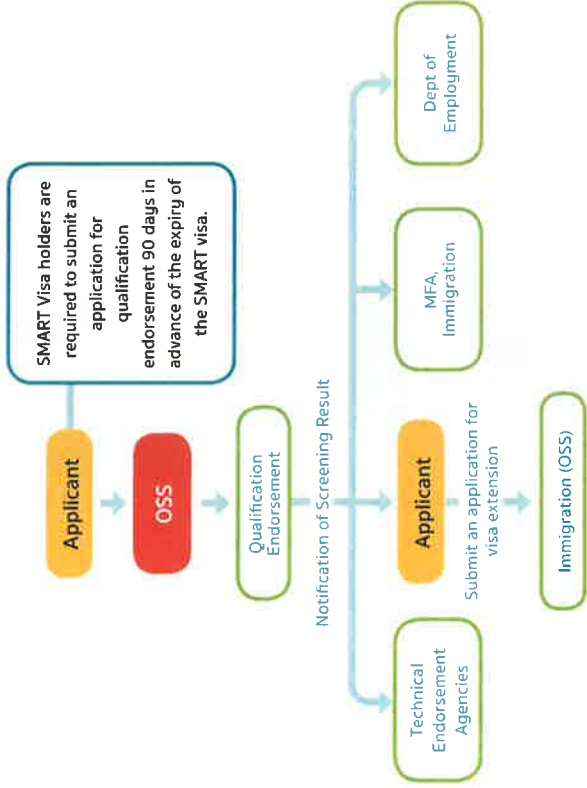
## Visa Issuance

The qualified applicant can then proceed with applying for smart visa at the Thai Embassies or Consulates. The endorsement letter issued by the Office of the Board of Investment will be valid for 60 days. If the applicant resides in Thailand, he or she can file for the smart visa at the Immigration at the One-Stop Center for Visas and Work Permits.



## SMART Visa Extension

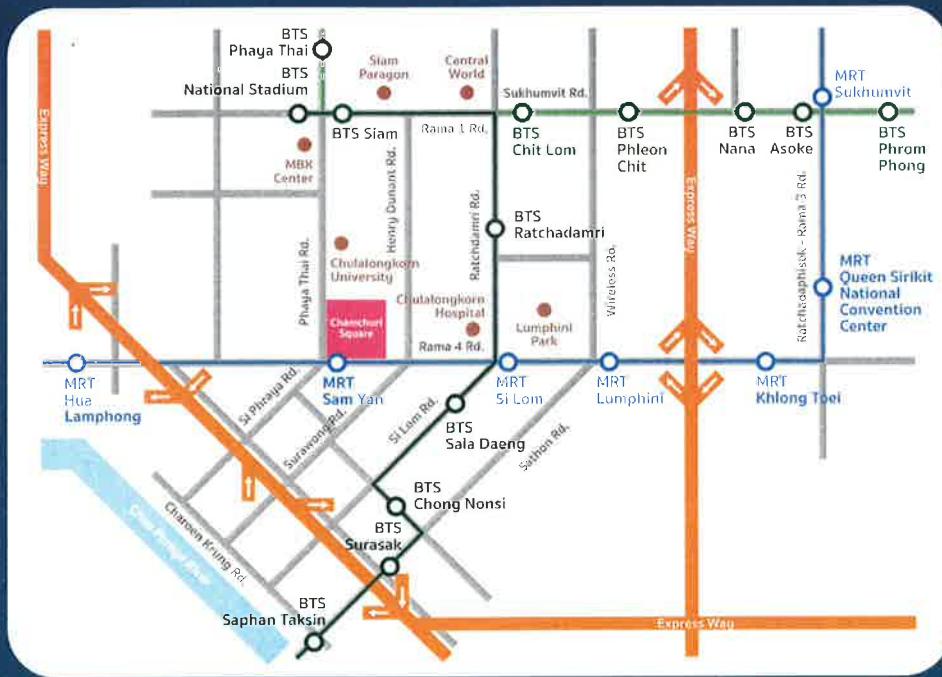
Holders of SMART visa must apply for a renewal of qualification endorsement at least 90 days before its expiry.



## Reporting Requirement

SMART Visa holders must submit documents stating their current status to the SMART Visa Unit@One-Stop Center for Visas and Work Permits on a yearly basis (after receiving permission to stay in Thailand).





## SMART Visa Unit

One Stop Service Center for  
 Visa and Work Permit (OSS)

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 Chamchuri Square Building, Phayathai  
 Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330

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**You Tube** Think Asia, Invest Thailand



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