

Extension for Purpose of Education

There are some that want to live in Thailand, have sufficient funds that they do not need to work, and have in essence retired in their early years, but do not want to marry a Thai in order to have a long stay in Thailand. There is an option other than frequent border runs to continue to live here. If one is in basically a full time course of study at a recognized institution, they can be granted extensions of stay up to one year. As long as they continue their studies, they can renew these extensions on an annual basis. There are several schools that teach the Thai language that advertise their course(s) of study will qualify the enrollee for an extension of stay for the purpose of education. These schools usually assist the enrollee with the necessary documentation to obtain the extension. Also, Thai Immigration allows the parent, spouse, and unmarried children under age 20 (natural, adopted, or stepchild) of the person granted an extension based on study in the Kingdom to also receive a similar extension of stay (they would need to obtain a Non-Immigrant "O" Visa from a Thai Embassy/Consulate).



If you entered Thailand using Visa Exemption or a Tourist Visa, you can use your initial stay to identify the institution and course of study you wish to undertake. You will then need to leave Thailand to obtain a Non-Immigrant "ED" Visa from a Thai Embassy/Consulate and reenter using that visa.

Requirements

To extend your stay in Thailand for up to one year at a time, you will need to meet the following requirements (the length of the extension is at the discretion of the Thai Immigration Office):

1. Hold a Non-Immigrant "ED" Visa
2. Be enrolled in an accredited institution in a course of study that requires you to remain in the Kingdom for an extended period
3. In the case of parent(s) of the foreigner with the "ED" visa, they will need to have at least 500,000 Baht on deposit. For the first extension, it needs to have been on deposit at least 30 days and for subsequent extensions, on deposit for the previous 3 months.

Documents Needed

You should consult with your local Thai Immigration Office as their specific documentary requirements for obtaining an extension for education purposes. However, based on reports from expats, you can expect to be asked for the following::

1. **Basic documents** needed for all extension applications
2. Original letter of acceptance from an accredited educational institution outlining your course of study including the time period of the course and hours of study per week (It is our understanding that accreditation means that the institution is recognized by the Thai Ministry of Education). If applying for your subsequent extension(s), you may be asked to provide evidence you have actually studied at the institution.
3. In the case of parent(s) of the foreigner with the "ED" visa, evidence of the required financial resources:
 - a. Photocopies of identify page and pages from bank passbook showing funds have been on deposit for the required amount of time.
 - b. Letter from Bank verifying the account and balance (should be dated no more than 7 days before the application date)

The following article may be of interest at it is apparently from someone who has gone through the experience:
http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/1571063/how_to_get_an_education_visa_student.html?singlepage=true