



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**.

## 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



Food for the Future



Automation and Robotics



Aviation and Logistics



Biofuels and Biochemicals



Digital



Medical Hub

# Types of SMART Visa



## 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	Privileges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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</li><li>2. The investment must be maintained throughout the validity period of the smart visa.</li><li>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.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Maximum 4-year visa</li><li>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.</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

I

Investors



**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</li></ol> <p>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.</p>	<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

**E**

Executives

## SMART “S”: Foreign startup entrepreneurs who wish to invest in the targeted industries in Thailand



SMART

S

Startups

Qualifications	Privileges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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</li><li>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.</li><li>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</li><li>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.  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.</li><li>5. The applicants must set up a company in Thailand within one year. The business or investment activities must be certified as being in the targeted industries by relevant government agencies such as the National Innovation Agency (Public Organization), the Digital Economy Promotion Agency. The applicants must hold no less than 25% of the company's shares or assume a position of a director of the company.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 1-year visa for the first time, renewable for <math>\leq 2</math> years if requirements are met</li><li>2. No work permit required for working in the endorsed companies or projects  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>

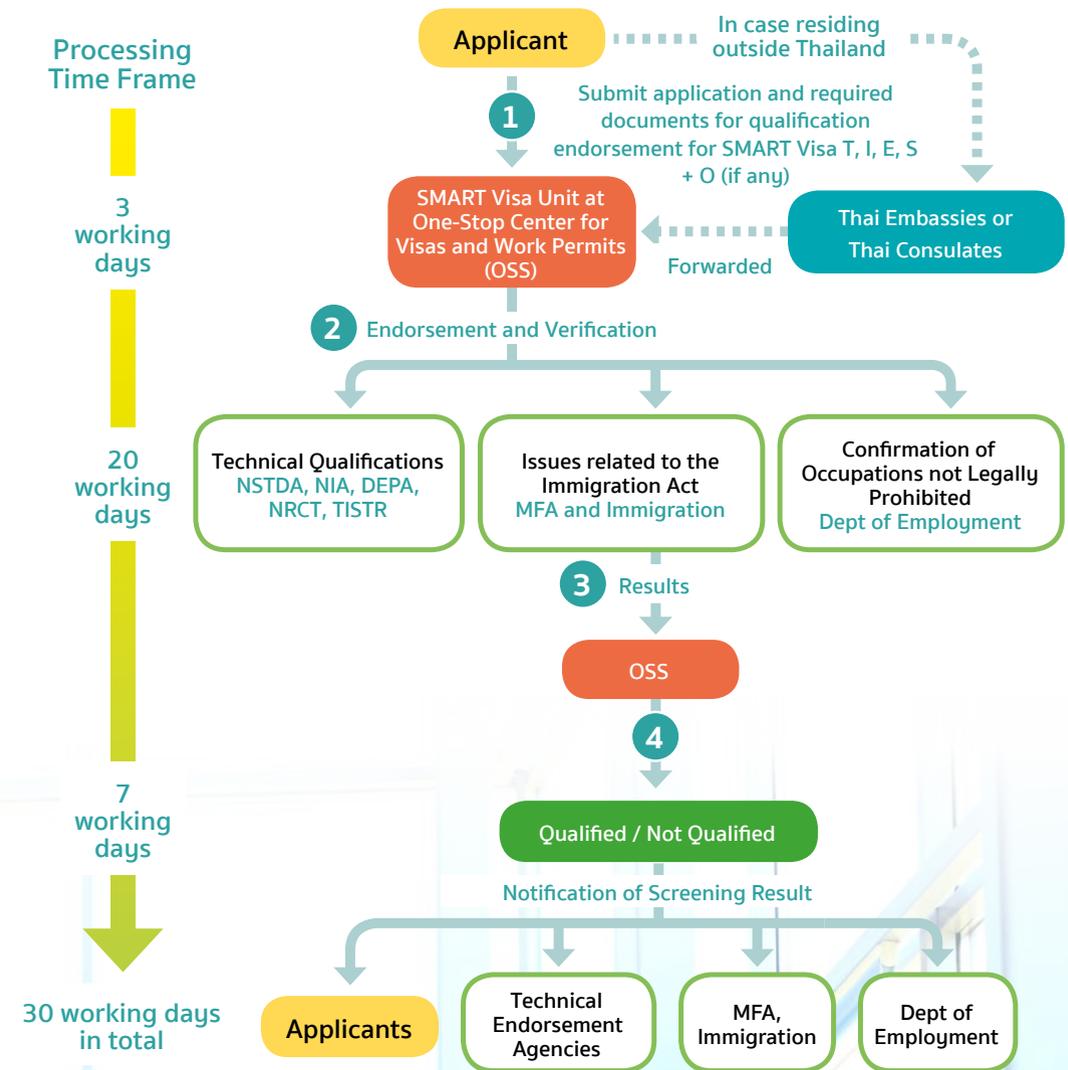
## How to apply?

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.	
	- In case the expert working for a private firm	NSTDA/ NRCT/ TISTR/ DEPA
	- In case the expert working for a government agency	Sponsoring government agency
	• Employers being in the targeted industries.	
	- In case the expert working for a private firm	NIA/ DEPA
	- In case the expert working for a government agency	Sponsoring government agency
Smart I	• Investing in technology-based manufacturing or service company in the targeted industries	NSTDA/ NIA/ DEPA
Smart E	• Working for technology-based manufacturing or service companies in the targeted industries	NSTDA/ NIA/ DEPA
Smart S	• 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



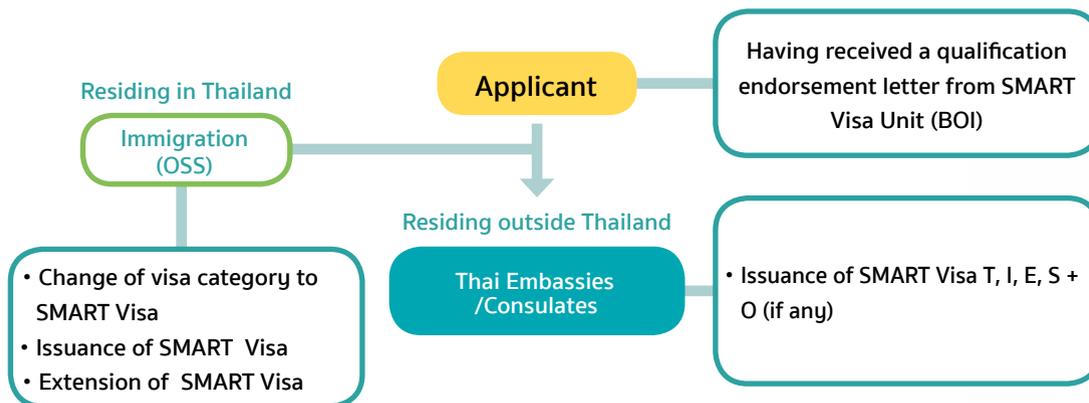
## Explanation of Procedures for Applying for Qualification Endorsement

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 (BOI) 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.

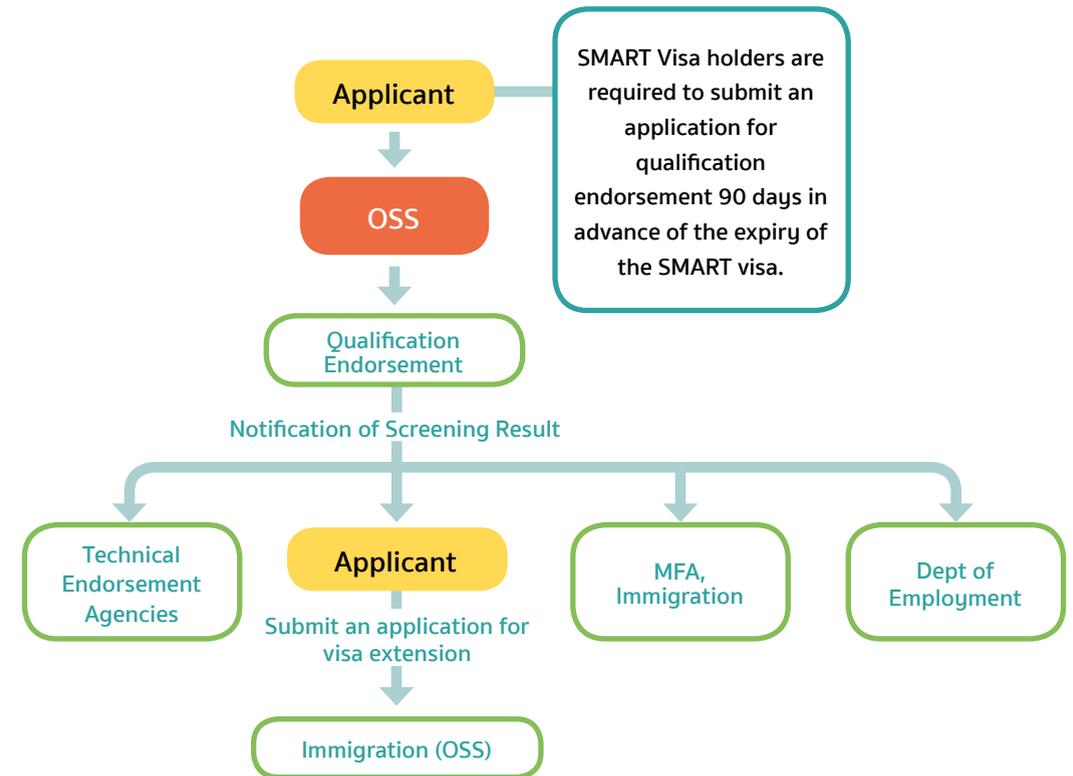
## Visa Issuance

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.



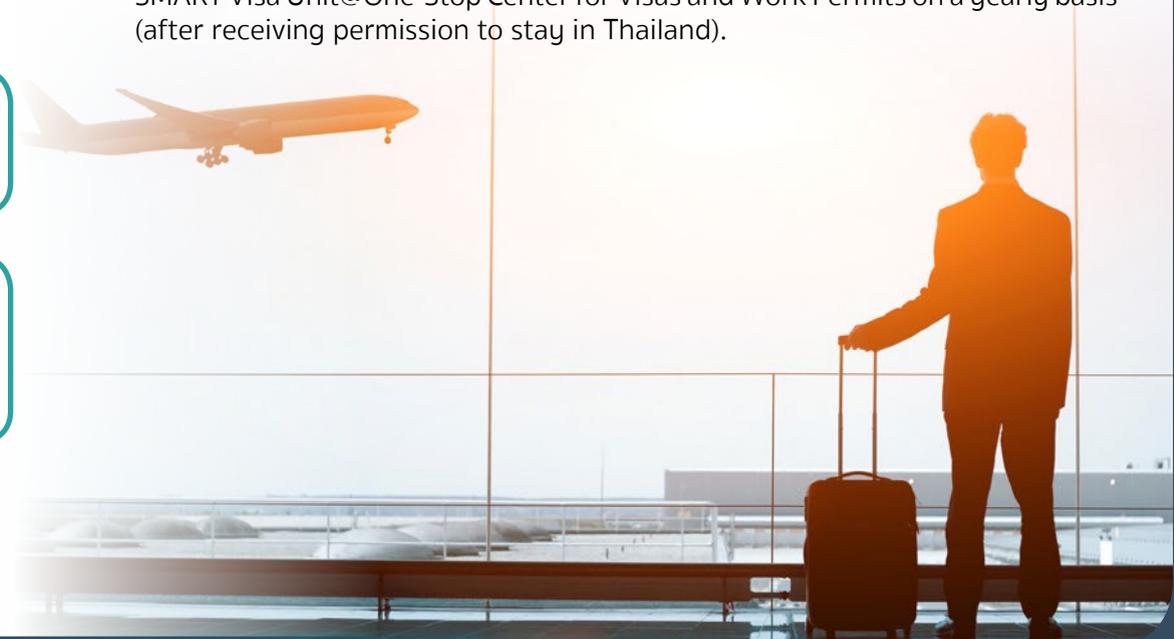
## SMART Visa Extension

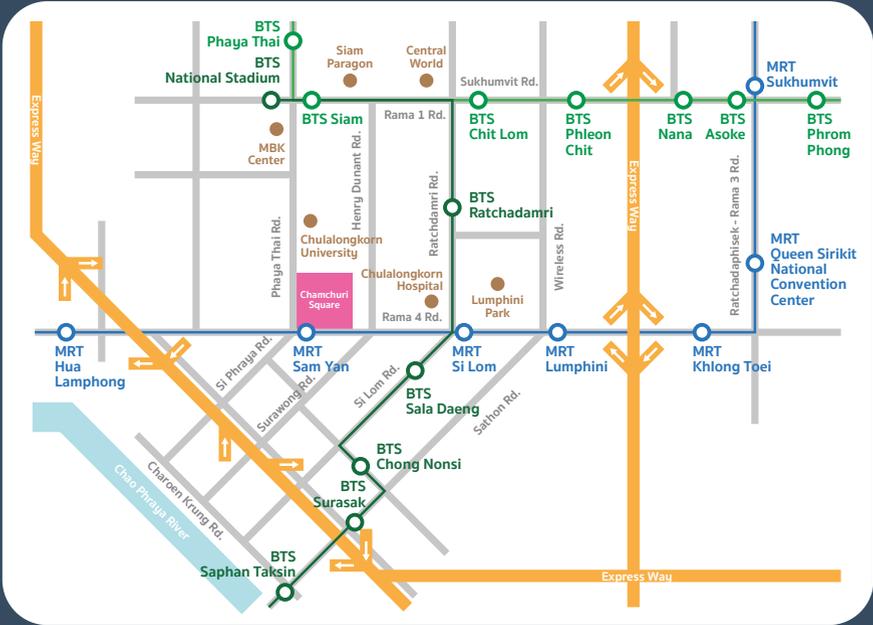
Holders of SMART visa must apply for a renewal of qualification endorsement at least 90 days before its expiry.



## 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)

18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chamchuri Square Building,  
Chamchuri Square Building, Phayathai  
Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330

Tel: +66 (0) 2209 1100 ext. 1109-1110

Fax: +66 (0) 2209 1194

E-mail: [smartvisa@boi.go.th](mailto:smartvisa@boi.go.th)

**YouTube** Think Asia, Invest Thailand



January 2018