

## 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.

- 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

Visa Type	Category	Purpose
SMART	T	Highly-Skilled Experts (Talents)
	I	Investors
	E	Senior executives
	S	Startup entrepreneurs
	O	Spouse and Children of SMART Visa holders

### Qualifications and Criteria

- 1) **SMART "T" (Talent) : 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> </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> </ol>

Qualifications	Privileges
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.	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.)

**2) SMART "I" (Investor) : Investors in companies using technology in manufacturing or delivering services and being in the targeted industries**

Qualification	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 for the whole</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 (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</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>

**3) SMART "E" (Executive) : Senior executives working in 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>	<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 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</li> </ol>

Qualifications	Privileges
5. 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.	prohibited list of occupations and professions for foreigners.)

#### 4) SMART "S" (Startup) : Foreign startup entrepreneurs who wish to invest in the targeted industries in Thailand

Qualifications	Privileges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Having a fixed saving 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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>6. 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, 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 &lt;2-year if requirements are met</li> <li>2. No work permit required for working in the endorsed companies or projects (The jobs must not be on the prohibited list of occupations and professions for foreigners.) 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?

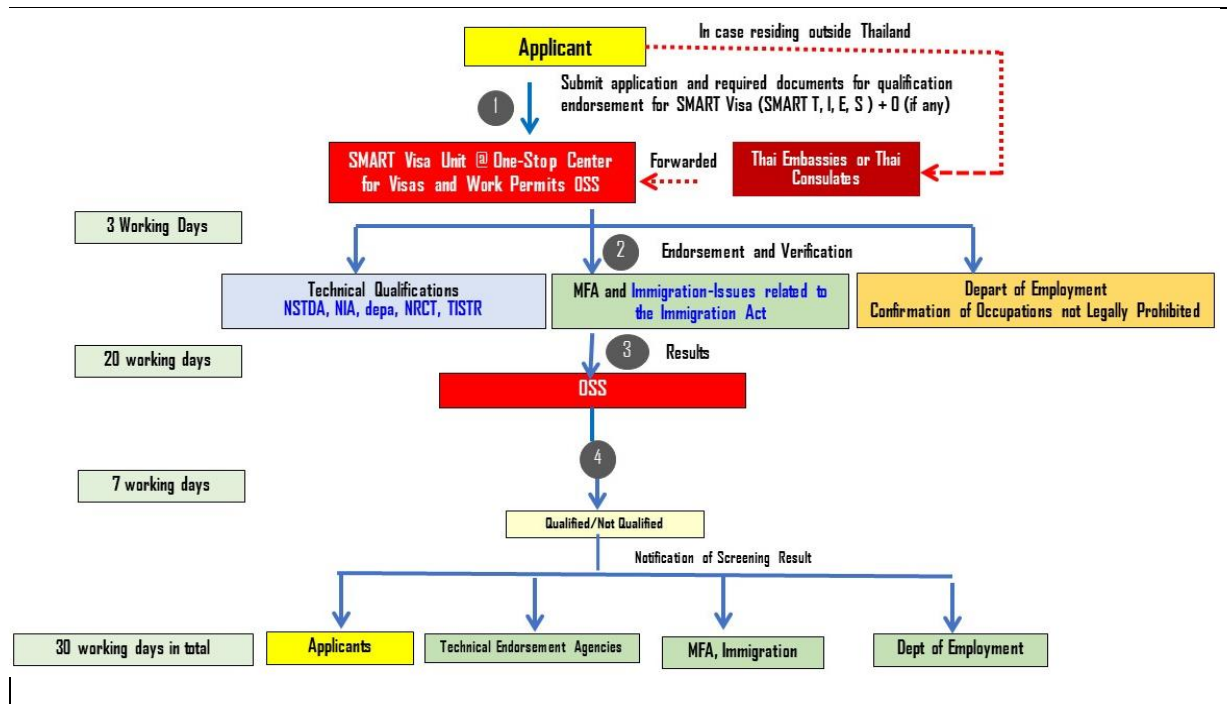
Both foreigners residing outside Thailand and foreigners already residing in Thailand can also apply for the change of visa type to SMART visa if qualified.

As the first step, applicants must obtain a qualification endorsement letter from the SMART Visa Unit (under Thailand Board of Investment) located at the One-Stop Center for Visas and Work Permits. Qualification endorsement applications can be lodged at the One-Stop Center for Visas and Work Permits or at the Thai Embassies or Consulates. The screening will also involve the technical endorsement by the 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 designated agencies is detailed below.

Visa Type	Qualifications/Status	Certifying/Endorsing Agencies
Smart T	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Investing in companies using technology in manufacturing or delivering services and being in the targeted industries	NSTDA,/NIA/ DEPA
Smart E	<input type="checkbox"/> Working for technology-based manufacturing or service companies in the targeted industries	NSTDA/NIA/ DEPA
Smart S	<input type="checkbox"/> Participating in an incubation or accelerator program or similar programs endorsed by a relevant government agency <u>or</u>	NIA, DEPA
	<input type="checkbox"/> Having a joint venture with or endorsed by a government agency (in case of not participating in an incubation or accelerator program)	DEPA
	<input type="checkbox"/> Companies that have been set up being in a targeted industry	NIA, DEPA

After these technical endorsements have been obtained, the SMART Visa unit 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.

## Qualification Endorsement Procedures



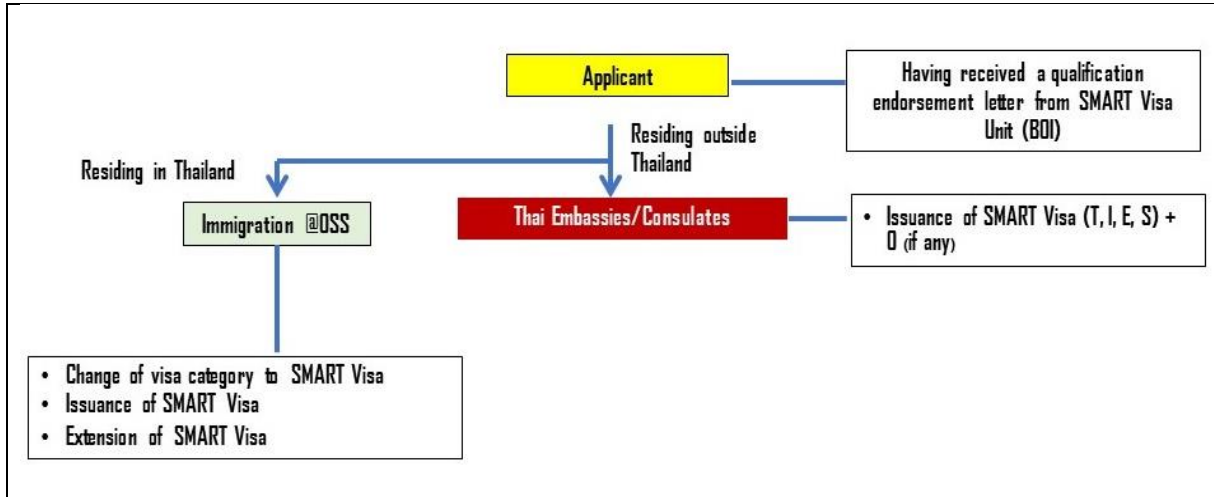
1. The foreigners can submit an application for qualification endorsement for SMART Visas at One Stop Service Center for Visa and Work Permit (OSS) located at Chamchuri Square Building (in Bangkok). Alternatively, they can lodge their documents at the Royal Thai Embassies /The Royal Thai Consulate Generals.
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.

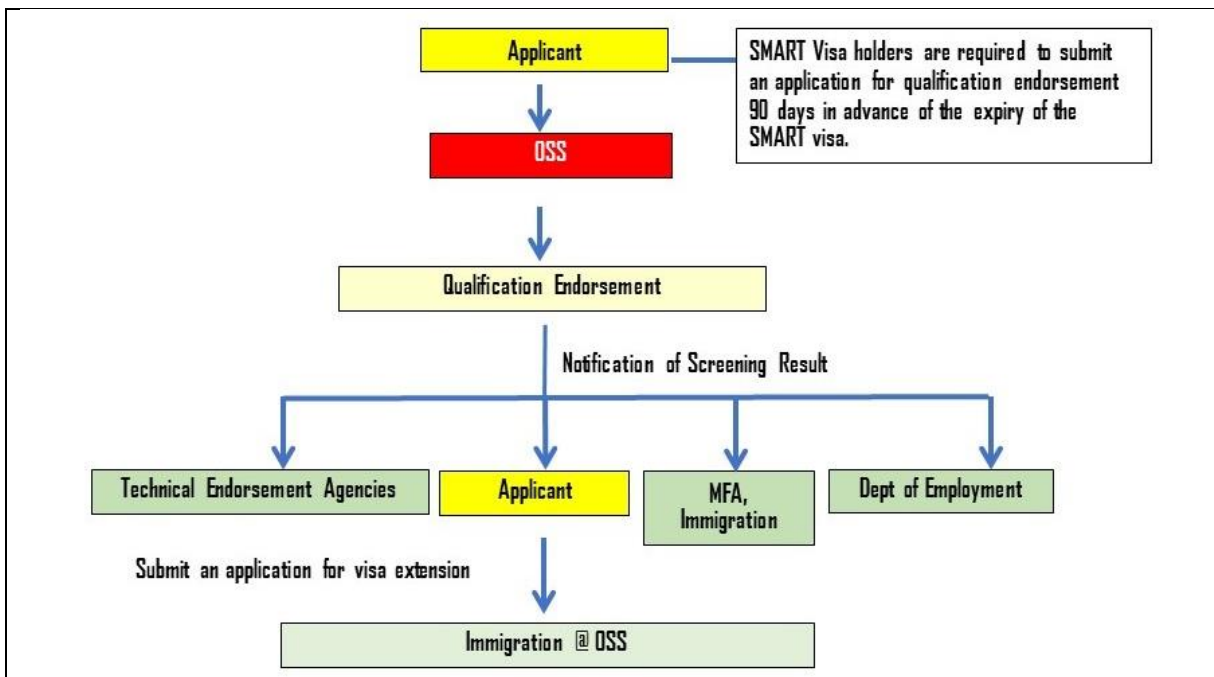
## SMART Visa Issuance Procedures

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 Procedures

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).

## Where to Contact?

### 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: 02 209 1100 ext. 1109-1110  
Fax: 02 209 1199

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

Website: [www.boi.go.th](http://www.boi.go.th)

