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GUIDE

VISA ESSENTIALS

Navigate the Visa Process with Ease

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YOUR VISA COMPANION

The information in this chapter is sensitive for changes, especially during the pandemic, so please double-check the current situation beforehand and keep yourself updated.

Most countries require a passport and a visa for long term residency and studying. The information given on this document is general. Please contact the Thai embassy in your home country before applying for a visa. Applying for a student visa is a part of your study abroad experience. Student visa holders are required fulfill the minimum study requirements set by the destination country and the host university. We recommend you have a look at the visa instructions.

Students must keep in mind that the visa procedures vary from country to country, between different embassies in a country, and sometimes even depending on the clerk at the embassy. Asia Exchange recommends that students take care of visa-related matters before leaving for the destination. Check the latest updates on applying for visas, on the required documents, as well as on the opening hours of the embassy on the embassy's website, or by calling the embassy directly. The embassies are open according to the public and religious holidays of the country they represent, as well as the holidays of the country they are in.

STUDENT VISA IN MALAYSIA: STUDENT PASS

In Malaysia, student visa is called “Student Pass”. The Malaysian Embassy grants single and multiple entry visas (6 or 12 months) for the purpose of studying in Malaysia. In Malaysia, a Student Pass is an official permit granted to international students to study at an approved educational institution within the country. This pass is essential for foreign nationals who intend to pursue educational programs, whether it's a exchange program, language course, diploma, undergraduate, or postgraduate degree.

A passport with validity of 18 months after the end of the students semester has been required when applying for a Multiple Entry Visa. Check the latest requirements directly with the Malaysian embassy in your country. The requirement per embassy varies.

VISA APPLICATION AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

To apply for a Student Pass in Malaysia, international students need to follow a structured application process facilitated by their educational institution and Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS). Here’s a step-by-step guide:

Step 1: Get Accepted into a Malaysian Educational Institution

- You must first apply and receive an offer of acceptance from a Malaysian institution approved by the Ministry of Higher Education to accept international students. This includes universities, colleges, language centers, and other educational establishments.

Step 2: Gather Required Documents

- Once accepted, gather the necessary documents for the Student Pass application, including:

1. Letter of Offer: Proof of acceptance into a full-time course at an approved institution.
2. Passport: Must be valid for at least 12-18 months from the application date.
3. Passport-sized Photos: Recent color photos according to Malaysia’s visa photo requirements.
4. Confirmation Letter: A letter that certifies you are an active student in your home university and will be enrolled during your semester in Malaysia.
5. Health Declaration Form: The host university will be sending you this form and no need to go to a hospital you can answer this form on your own because there will be a medical exam anyways when you arrive in Malaysia.

Step 3: Submit Application Through EMGS

- The educational institution will typically submit your Student Pass application on your behalf through Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), the official body overseeing student visa applications.
- You will need to pay the application and processing fees, which vary by institution and program.

Step 4: Application Processing

- EMGS Processing: EMGS reviews your application and coordinates with the Immigration Department of Malaysia. Processing times can vary but typically range from 4-6 weeks.
- Immigration Approval: Once the application is reviewed, EMGS will forward it to the Malaysian Immigration Department for final approval.

Step 5: Receive a Visa Approval Letter (VAL)

- If your application is approved, you will receive a Visa Approval Letter (VAL) from EMGS. This letter allows you to enter Malaysia legally to obtain the Student Pass.

Step 6: Obtain Single Entry Visa or Evisa

- Once you receive your Visa Approval Letter (VAL) from EMGS you need to call your chosen Malaysian Embassy for instructions on how to obtain your Single Entry Visa (SEV) or Evisa.

Step 7: Before entering Malaysia

- If you have your SEV and EVAL you are good to go in Malaysia.
- You will be receiving multiple email notifications from EMGS to submit your passport and other documents to the host institution. Kindly take note of this but no need to worry because this step will be done when you arrive in Malaysia.
- As long as you have your EVAL, SEV/Evisa & your proof of insurance in English you're good to go.

Step 8: Enter Malaysia and Obtain the Student Pass

- With the VAL, you can enter Malaysia. Upon arrival, visit your institution's international office to finalize your Student Pass application.
- You may also need to complete a mandatory medical screening within Malaysia within a specified period after your arrival.
- The institution's office will assist you with final steps to obtain the Student Pass sticker, which will be placed in your passport.

Step 9: Health Insurance and Ongoing Requirements

- Health insurance coverage is mandatory for all international students in Malaysia, so be sure to enroll in a recognized insurance plan.

Additional Tips

- Ensure your passport remains valid for the entire duration of your studies.
- Check specific requirements with your institution, as they may vary slightly depending on the program and level of study.

Following these steps ensures a smooth and legal process for studying in Malaysia as an international student.

VISA APPLICATION AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

When travelling abroad, always carry a copy of your passport with you. It's also a good idea to have electronic copies of all your official documents in your email.

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YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student