

I want to marry a Thai. What should I know?

A foreigner can legally marry a Thai National. Any foreigner is eligible to legally marry a Thai national although this does not automatically entitle you to a Thai marriage visa

Here are the requirements to marry a Thai national:

1. A couple must be of legal age (17 years) upon filing for marriage registration, otherwise permission must be granted by a court.
2. Permission from the parents is required for parties under legal age.
3. Both parties must not be registered as married to anyone else (Multiple marriage registration is prohibited).
4. The parties must not be direct blood relatives nor be sister or brother through either parent.
5. Adopting parents shall not be permitted to marry their own adopted child.
6. A widow or divorcee will be permitted to remarry not less than 310 days after the previous marriage has expired, unless
 - o Has given birth to a child.
 - o Remarrying the same person.
 - o Not pregnant, as certified by doctor. (in case of early remarriage)
 - o Approval to remarry from a court is obtained.
7. No service fee is required whatsoever.

Required Documents

1. Identification Cards of both parties.
2. The House Registration Certificates of both parties.
3. If an alien is registering to be married to a Thai citizen or another alien, he or she is required to submit following documents.

- o A copy of their passport.
- o A Letter of Certification, issued by an Embassy or Consulate or a Government Organization from their country, regarding the marital status of the person. The Letter must be translated, and then certified by the relevant Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **To be eligible for a Thailand Non-Immigrant Type "O" marriage visa you must meet the following requirements:**

To obtain a Class "O" visa on the basis of marriage, you will need to provide a copy of your marriage certificate, a signed copy of wife's ID card and house registration. With that, you will be issued a non-immigrant entry permit, which will initially be valid for 90 days.

To obtain a long term extension of stay: To obtain a long-term extension to that entry permit on the basis of supporting a Thai spouse, then what you need to do is open Thai bank account bearing your passport name, and remit into that account from overseas an amount of at least 400,000 baht - and do so each year. Money overseas does not count. Money withdrawn via ATM does not count. All that counts (unless you have legal income from legal employment within Thailand) is - exactly - documentation of 400,000 baht remitted from overseas into a Thai bank account bearing your passport name. In advance of applying for annual renewal of your extended entry permit, you will be required to wire another 400,000 baht to your Thai account. This process must be repeated for each extension of stay. **Official Immigration contact:**

The Commissioner for Immigration, Immigration Office,
Soi Suanplu, Thanon Satorn Tai, Bangkok 10121."

Reference: <http://www.lawyer.th.com/>

Type of Visas in Thailand

Type of Visas	Duration of Stay (upon arrival)	No. of Entry(s)	Validity of visa (as from date of issuance)
Transit	30 days	Single	3 months
		Two	6 months
Tourist	60 days	Single	3 months
		Two	6 months
Non-immigrant	90 days	Single	3 months
		Multiple	1 year
Non-immigrant Category O-A (retiring)	1 year	Single	3 months
		Multiple	1 year

A Non-immigrant visa is a visa issue to a person under the conditions of applying for a temporary stay in the Kingdom as follows:

I. Conducting business (not including employment), the visa applicant must include with his or her visa application any such documentation the Consulate deems necessary for consideration of the visa application which includes the following:

- * An original letter of invitation on company letterhead from the business host in Thailand;
- * A copy of the host's Registration of Trade which states the amount of capital investment which is issued by the Department of Commercial Registration with certification by the Department not more than six months earlier;
- * Certified documentation of the payment of taxes by the business host of the past two years.
- * Certified approval Letter from the Labor Department by the Department of Consul, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand.
- * Any documents that prove you are traveling for business purposes;

II. Employment

Approval from the Alien Occupational Control Division, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

III. Teaching and studying

* For teaching and studying in private schools or private colleges. Approval from the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of University Affairs (When the applicant has been approved by the above-mentioned offices, the school or college would then send the approval document to the applicant and to the Consulate for consideration in issuing the visa.) * For teaching and studying at a government school or government university. Approval from the Ministry of Education/Ministry of University Affairs or the University's administration. (When the applicant is approved by the Ministry of Education / Ministry of University Affairs or the University's administration, the school or college will then send the approval document to the applicant and to the Consulate for consideration in issuing the visa.)

IV. Research

- * The original invitation letter from the institution concerned.
- * The approval from the Ministry or the Government University concerned;

V. Religious purposes

* approval from the Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Education. (When the applicant is approved by the Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Education, the religious institution would then send the approval document to the applicant and to Consulate for consideration in issuing the visa.)

VI. Visiting family

- To visit as a spouse of a Thai national
 - a valid and effective marriage certificate (original)
 - a certified copy of the Thai national's passport/ I.D. card of the spouse.
 - a certified letter from the Thai spouse stating that he or she is still married to the applicant
 - Fiančs or fiančes are not included in this category
- * To visit as a relative of a Thai national ; documents proving such relationship.

VII. Retirement in Thailand ([Retirement Visas](#)), the applicant must be at least 50 years old and must submit documents as follows :

- * documentation showing proof of retirement
- * bank statement or monthly/year income.
- * a copy of the applicant's criminal record from the local police department
- * a certificate of health.

REMARKS : Extension of stay can be done at Immigration Bureau.

- * Tourist Visa, up to 30 days extension.
- * Non-immigrant visa, up to 1 year extension.
- * Non-immigrant visa category O-A (retiring), 1 year extension.

Free movement and Residency rights of undocumented spouses of EU nationals

The Irish Regulations regarding the rights of citizens of the EU and their families to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States may have to be amended by the Irish government, following a recent decision by the European Court of Justice. Regulation 3(2) of the European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) Regulations 2006 states that the regulations shall not apply to a family member unless s/he is lawfully resident in another Member State. However, the recent finding states that an EU state cannot deny a non-EU family member of an EU national residency in the State if the non-EU national spouse was undocumented at the time they got married. Click on the following link for more info:<http://curia.europa.eu/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=en&Submit=Rechercher&alldocs=alldocs&docj=docj&docop=docop&docor=docor&docjo=docjo&numaff=C-1/05%20%20&datefs=&datefe=&nomusuel=&domaine=&mots=&resmax=100>

Ref: MRCI e-bulletin – January 2007

Bridging Visa for migrant workers who have become undocumented

The MRCI believes that a humane and flexible response to migrant workers who have become undocumented is required. We have been advocating for the introduction of a “bridging visa” in the upcoming Immigration, Residency and Protection Bill, as a practical and effective means of responding on a case by case basis to situations where migrant workers can demonstrate that they have been exploited or have become undocumented through no fault of their own. This bridging visa would allow a migrant worker to change or seek employment within a defined period. The worker becomes documented, in a position to make an official complaint against a rogue employer and seek new employment while also reducing the number of undocumented migrants in Ireland. The Bridging Visa is referred to in a recent report by NESC and has been supported by the Equality Authority in their submission on the Immigration & Residence Bill Discussion Document, ‘Embedding Equality in Immigration Policy’. The MRCI is currently carrying out research on routes into irregular migration and the experience of migrant workers who have an irregular status. It is hoped that this research, to be published early in 2007, will highlight the experience of undocumented migrant workers and the different routes into irregular that are outside of their control. See www.mrci.ie (‘Policy Work’ section) for MRCI’s Briefing Paper on undocumented workers and the Bridging Visa.

Ref: MRCI e-bulletin – January 2007

A large number of tourists chose to knowingly enter Thailand through the “Nothing to Declare”

custom channel despite carrying tobacco or alcohol far in excess of the amount allowed by Thai laws and regulations. As a result, they could afterwards be subjected to inspections and fines Please be informed about Tobacco Act of Thailand as follows :1. A large number of tourists chose to knowingly enter Thailand through the “Nothing to Declare” custom channel despite carrying tobacco or alcohol far in excess of the amount allowed by Thai laws and regulations. As a result, they could afterwards be subjected to inspections and fines by the Thai Excise Department, which is responsible for domestic enforcement of Thailand’s tobacco and alcohol regulations.2. According to Articles 19, 28 and 49 of Thailand’s Tobacco Act of B.E. 2509 (1966), visitors to Thailand are permitted to bring in not more than 500 grams or 1 carton of tobacco products (1 carton = 10 packs). Violators would be subjected to fines ten times the amount of the regulatory tobacco stamp that would normally be applied to the product, with a minimum fine of 100 Baht.3. According to Ministerial Regulation No. 27 of the Ministry of Finance of Thailand, the regulatory tobacco stamp on a tobacco pack would be valued at 79% of the price of the pack, which is currently set at 45 Baht per a pack of 20.4. In accordance with the details outlined above, visitors bringing into Thailand more than 1 carton of tobacco would be subjected to fines of approximately 3,555 Baht per carton for the excess tobacco.***** <http://www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk/>

All Ireland Free Travel For Pensioners

If you are 66 or over, you can travel all over Ireland for free, from April 2nd, 2007. The Free Travel Scheme is being extended to allow travel within Northern Ireland. Pensioners from the Republic of Ireland who wish to travel unrestricted within Northern Ireland are asked to apply for a Senior SmartPass Card. Please contact my office if you require an application form. Alternatively, you can phone: LoCall: 1890 20 23 25 (phonenumber is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week);

or drop into your local Social Welfare Office or Citizens Information Centre.

The scheme heralds a new era in North-South co-operation, and provides travel opportunities for tens of thousands of older people in every part of the island of Ireland. Ref: <http://www.maryhanafin.ie/feb202007.htm>

The Early Childcare Supplement:2007

The Early Childcare Supplement is a State payment to families in Ireland with children under six years of age. The purpose of the Supplement is to financially assist families with the cost of raising children, providing childcare, etc. The Early Childcare Supplement is worth 1,000 euro per child, per year. You will get 250 euro for each child every three months (that is, each quarter). Payments will be issued early in the month following the end of each quarter. **Four payments will be made for 2007 .**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Months covered</u>	<u>Payment due</u>
First quarter	January - March	9 April 2007
Second quarter	April - June	9 July 2007
Third quarter	July - September	8 October 2007
Fourth quarter	October - December	10 December 2007

Buyers beware if you're heading home to Ireland

MORE people than ever are taking the plunge by selling their homes in Britain and returning to live in Ireland. But buying a house in Ireland can be a lengthy and complicated process if you have been living in Britain for most of your working life. There are many things to consider such as the state of the property market in Ireland, stamp duty and tax relief. Property prices are still rising in Ireland but the market is experiencing somewhat of a slowdown. The average price paid for a house in February 2007 was &EURO;311,078 (STG210,568), compared with &EURO;310,632 (STG210,266) in December 2006. Marketing manager with Irish mortgage brokers IFG Suzanne McGuinness said the property market in Ireland is not growing as fast as it once was but she doesn't predict a crash in prices but more of a soft landing. She said: "A slowdown has to happen at some time but it's not going to be as bad as everyone thinks." There has been a massive surge in the use of mortgage brokers in Ireland and they can provide a good first stop for anybody considering the move across the water and not familiar with Irish banks. Mortgage brokers such as IFG Mortgages and Simply Mortgages can offer advice on the best mortgages available in Ireland. Things you will need to show will be proof of salary if you are starting a new job in Ireland, proof of loans and savings, bank statements for the last six months and proof of identification such as a passport. Ms McGuinness said: "Be conscious of what you need and make sure you are well prepared." She added that people who have owned a property in Britain will not qualify as a first-time-buyer in Ireland so they will have to consider the cost of stamp duty. The rates of stamp duty differ depending on the price of the property and whether or not you are a first time buyer. Also anybody looking to purchase a property in Ireland while continuing to work in Britain and pay taxes there will not qualify for a tax relief on their mortgage. Also it is not possible in Ireland to fully go through the purchase or sale of a home or property without legal advice and assistance, as this is quite a specialised area of law known as conveyancing. Conveyancing describes the legal work involved in the purchase or sale of land or property such as the transfer of rights, interests and liabilities. It will require the appointment of a solicitor by the parties to the transaction.

For more information on buying a house in Ireland contact the Citizens Information Centre at 00 353 1605 9000 or visit www.citizensinformation.ie. Source: *Irish post may 2007*