

Guides for International Students
(Version 1.0, Effective from 01 March 2025)

North-Chiang Mai University



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Welcome to North-Chiang Mai University (NCU). Please find below guides and suggestions for living and studying here.

Immigration Regulations

International students are required to strictly follow immigration regulations while residing in Thailand. The following are your responsibilities to the immigration authority:

- Have a valid passport and unexpired student visa.
- Registered in the immigration police database and have a copy of TM30.
- If you are studying at bachelor degree level or above, you must register for at least 6 academic credits. If you are studying a certificate program, you must maintain at least 80% classes attendance record.
- Apply for student visa extension before the expiry date.
- Self-reporting to an immigration police station every 90 days.
- Obtaining a re-entry permit from immigration authority before travelling out of Thailand for a short period (students at bachelor degree level or above are exempted from this).
- Submit a visa cancellation documents to immigration when you quit or finish your study.

Purchasing a Mobile Phone/Tablet and a Sim Card

We recommend that you possess at least one working smart phone while living in Thailand. You can use the smart phone you have brought from outside of Thailand, or you may purchase one from Big C supercenter near the campus or any other store. Please make sure that the phone is capable of internet access and can support Android or iOS operating system that is not too out of date.

You may also obtain a sim card from Big C supercenter near the campus, or you may purchase one from a 7-11 convenient store. Currently, there are three mobile network operators in Thailand: AIS, True, and DTAC. To make a sim card purchase, please make sure that

- You carry your passport with you.
- The sim card you obtain is for local residents and not for tourists.
- You may choose either pay as you go (top-up) or monthly subscription package.
- The package should allow you to use some mobile internet data.

- By law, the sim card seller must register your identity and the sim card number to the Thai government telecom database (Hence you must have your passport with you when making a purchase).
- If possible, ask the seller to install your sim card and activate it for you.

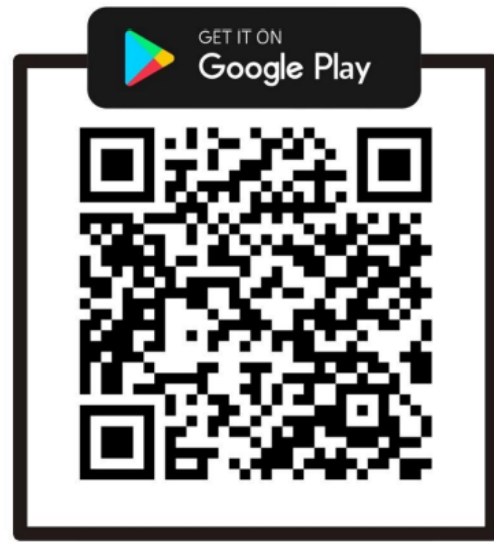
Installing NES Mobile Application

The NES mobile application is essential for utilizing NCU latest and most up to date services. Thus, we recommended that you possess at least one mobile device while living in Thailand. This application is available for Android and iOS devices. Assuming that you have already have a mobile device running one of these operating systems. Please do the followings:

- Staying within NCU campus area (so you can have our internet access later).
- Turn on your mobile phone/tablet.
- Change your device regional setting to Thailand.
- Allow for connection to the internet through the mobile network.
- Depending on your operating system, either use the App Store and Play Store to search for our NES application. Download the NES application (If you do not have the regional setting to Thailand, you may not find the NES application on App Store or Play Store).
- Do not run the NES application just yet, you do not yet have a username and password for it.
- Open you web browser, the default is Chrome for Android and Safari for iOS.
- Go to university website at www.northcm.ac.th, then click on the button NCU EAGLE SOFT(NES) (Alternatively, you can directly go to <https://nesservice.northcm.ac.th/>).
- Click 1. Forget Password.
- Enter your passport number and your birth date, click I'm not a robot, and then click SEARCH.
- The NES system will present you with your username and password. Either capture the screenshot or write the information down, and keep it private. Never share your NES username or password with anyone (If it says No Data in System, contact the Office of Registrar).
- You can now use the university NCU Wi-Fi network. Change your Wi-Fi network to NCU, use your NES username and password to login to the network.

- Update the operating system to the latest version that your device supports (NES application does not run properly on very old version of operating system).
- Open the NES application on your phone and login with the same username and password.

Download NES Application And Microsoft Teams



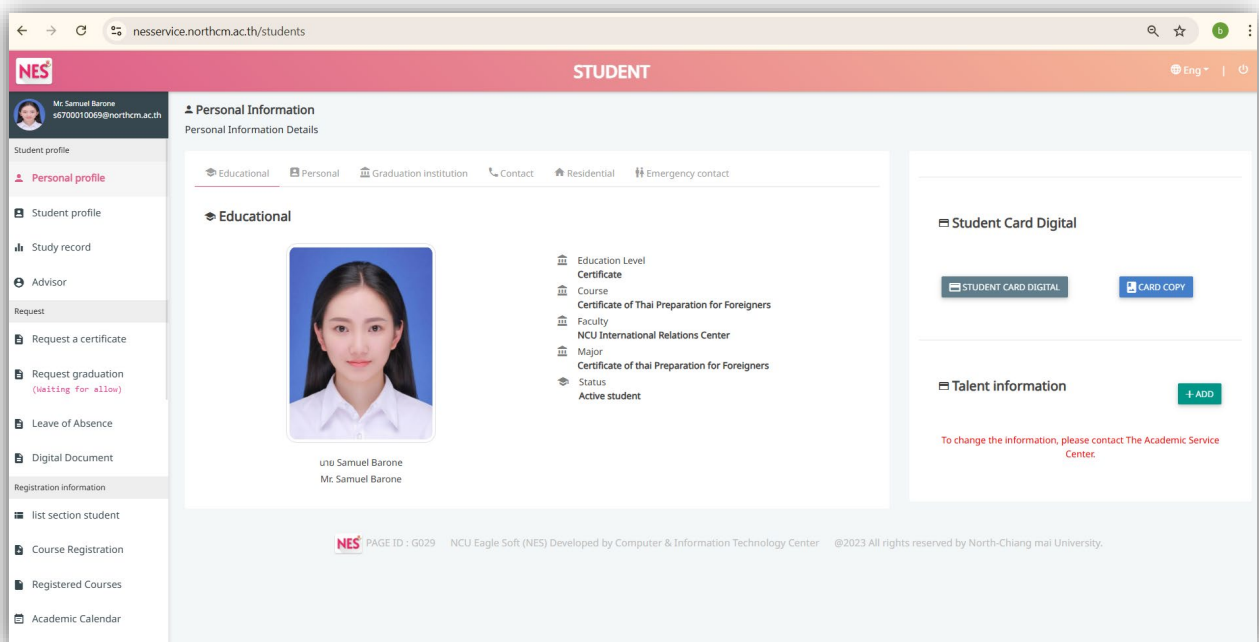
+ Using NES Mobile Application

You can utilize this application for various tasks relating to NCU academic activities or request some services. The most frequently asked are the digital student ID card and the certification letter of student status.

Digital Student ID Card

At NCU, a physical student ID card is no longer issued. To obtain the digital student ID card, **you must first use the application to take a photo of yourself and upload it.** Please make sure that your photo is presentable in a normal business setting (i.e., simple and single background color, no T-shirt). This digital ID must be generated by the NES application every time someone requests to see it. It has a time-limited QR code associated with your digital ID. Hence do not use a screenshot and use it in place of the real digital ID.

>> <https://nesservice.northcm.ac.th/students>



The screenshot shows the NES Student profile page. The header is orange with the text "STUDENT" and a language dropdown set to "Eng". The user profile is for "Mr. Samuel Barone" with email "s6700010069@northcm.ac.th". The main content area is titled "Personal Information" and includes tabs for Educational, Personal, Graduation institution, Contact, Residential, and Emergency contact. The "Educational" tab is active, showing a photo of the student and the following details:

- Education Level: Certificate
- Course: Certificate of Thai Preparation for Foreigners
- Faculty: NCU International Relations Center
- Major: Certificate of Thai Preparation for Foreigners
- Status: Active student

Below the photo, the name is listed as "u10 Samuel Barone" and "Mr. Samuel Barone". To the right, there are sections for "Student Card Digital" with buttons for "STUDENT CARD DIGITAL" and "CARD COPY", and "Talent information" with a "+ ADD" button. A note at the bottom right says "To change the information, please contact The Academic Service Center." The footer contains "NES PAGE ID : G029 NCU Eagle Soft (NES) Developed by Computer & Information Technology Center @2023 All rights reserved by North-Chiang mai University."



Letter of Certification of Student Status

A certification letter of student status maybe requested when opening a bank account, making financial transactions, or by certain government authorities. This letter can only be issued to you in physical form by the Office of Registrar, and is valid for only 60 days after the date of issue. The current fee for this letter is 100 Thai Baht.

Only after you have opened a local Thai bank account and install a banking application, then you may use the NES application to request the certification letter, upload the payment slip (100 Thai Baht plus postal fee) and have it posted to your address.

Academic Information

Information about your class schedule, exam schedule, student manual etc. can be viewed via the NES application.

If you find that the information you see from the NES application is not corrected or not the same as you received from your courses, please inform your academic advisor or the head of your study program immediately.

Open a Local Bank Account

To open a Thai bank account, you will need to present your passport along with a letter of certification of student status to a bank teller.

Students studying at Bachelor degree level or above can open a Thai bank account immediately. You may visit a local bank branch in Hang Dong area or a branch in a big shopping mall such as Central Airport.

Students studying certificate programs however must wait until they have extended their student visa and received a 12 months extension.

These students should open a bank account at [Krung Thai bank \(KTC\), Hang Dong branch.](#)



>> GPS. https://maps.app.goo.gl/wUPPVDKuQ4m4dEj47?g_st=al

As a temporarily relieve measure until you have a Thai bank account, you may ask your relatives to transfer fund directly to the official NCU account and then contact our finance department to withdraw cash from the university. Please note that your relatives must specify in the transfer slip that the fund is intended for you only. NCU finance department will not facilitate bulk transfer to multiple students in one transaction.

Living in Chiang Mai

Lodging

If you prefer not to stay at NCU dormitory or intend to move out later, there are many private flats/apartments around university area. Currently, the cost of rent is around 2,200 – 3,000 Thai Baht per month.

Whether you stay at the dormitory or private lodging, it is essential that its owner or manager register your name in the immigration police database, also known as the TM30 form. Please make sure that your apartment owner or manager gives you a copy of this TM30. If your apartment owner or manager does not know how to do it, please contact the IRC office and we will help them with this process.

>> Contact the Student Dormitory Officer Tel. 053-819999 # 9921

>> Contact the IRC office Tel. 053-819999 # 9975

Taxi Services and Public Transport

There are four ride sharing applications that you can use in place of a taxi: Grab, Maxim, Bolt, InDrive.

If you plan to go enjoy drinking alcohol in town, please utilize one of these ride sharing applications and avoid driving a motor vehicle yourself. Unlike Bangkok, a regular taxi service is virtually not in existence in Chiang Mai area, and public transit is not reliable.

Public transport within Chiang Mai area is available in the form of color-coded pickup trucks. Please keep in mind that it operates only during the day time. You can ride the yellow truck to

go in town and back to NCU. In Chiang Mai city area, the red trucks are available but it is not recommended.

You can utilize bus or minivan services to travel between provinces in Thailand or to remote districts in Chiang Mai province. There are two bus terminals in Chiang Mai city, one is located near the Central Festival shopping mall (the locals call that area “Arcade”), and another is located near Chiang Mai city northern gate (known as “Chang Puek”).

Inter-province travel by train is also available, but the train speed is very slow.

Food and Cooking

There are many small food vendors around campus offering reasonable priced local meals. Please try as many varieties as you can. Most Thai people, when they eat away from home and are short on time, usually eat made-to-order single dish meal. If you do not know what to order, start with Pad-Kra-Paw-Kai-Dow.



If you fancy western style food, the nearest place to visit is Kad Farang. Please keep in mind that in Thailand, even basic western food like pizza or hamburger are considered luxury and cost much more than Thai food.

Should you like to cook, Big C supermarket and Makro offer variety of ingredients at affordable price. For more selection or premium products, Rimping supermarket is a good place to visit.

Never used a wood fire stove indoor or in your apartment as it is a fire hazard and risks carbon monoxide poisoning.

Noteworthy Thai Laws and Customs

Illegal Businesses

There has been an intense multinational government effort to crack down on foreigners with Thailand visa engaging in illegal activities and organized crime such as scam call centers, human and drug trafficking, child pornography etc. Getting arrest by authorities or simply having an arrest warrant issued are grounds for dismissal from NCU, and thus, automatic revocation of your student visa by the immigration police.

Once arrived to Thailand, we strongly discourage you to travel across Thai-Myanmar land border to either Myawaddy or Tachileik. These two cities are known for hosting scam call center operations. You may be automatically put on a Thai immigration watch list if you cross the land border there regardless of your involvement in organized crime.

Tax Filing

It is illegal for a student visa holder to get a formal employment in Thailand.

Nonetheless, many people today have opportunities to find remote income from around the world, such as working online for a company in Japan, trading digital assets like cryptocurrencies, or be a social media content creator on YouTube or TikTok.

If you receive oversea income that is transferred to your Thai bank account, and you stay in Thailand more than 180 days in a calendar year (most of you will), by Thai law you must register for a foreigner tax identification number and fill the income tax report with Thailand Revenue Department.

To obtain a foreigner tax identification number, visit Hang Dong district office and ask for the revenue department. You will need to bring the following with you:

- Your passport.
- A photocopy of your passport and your student visa.
- A copy of your rent contract with the dormitory or your landlord/landlady.
- A copy of house registration of your place or residence.
- A bank statement of the income you received from oversea.

It is highly recommended that you bring a Thai friend with you, as the revenue department forms are all in Thai with no English language explanation. After you receive the tax identification number, you may ask the staff to help you file your tax report right away. You may also try the e-filing service but please note that no English language option is available.

The deadline for income tax filing in Thailand is always on 31st or March. For example, you need to file your tax report for income earned during the calendar year 2024 by 31st March, 2025.

Smoking and Vaping

Smoking on NCU campus premise is restricted to designated smoking areas only. There are four designated smoking areas on campus; at the shelter near the stream around building 1, at the bench near building 3, at the area near the dormitory, and at the park near the international convention center.

In general, the law in Thailand prohibited smoking in many public areas such school, hospital, temple etc. If you would like to smoke, always ask around first for a smoking area wherever you are. Do not drop cigarette butts on the floor. Always put out the cigarette fire first then dispose of the butts in a rubbish bin.

Possession of and vaping e-cigarette is still technically illegal in Thailand. Although this is loosely enforced.

Cannabis or Ganja is still classified as a control substance in Thailand. Its personal consumption is now legal but production and cultivation need a government license. Please be mindful of people around your when smoking cannabis as many people still are not appreciative of its smell.

Never smoke in a dormitory room or any private apartment. If your neighbor complains to the apartment manager about the smoke, there is a legal ground for your immediate eviction.

Alcohol Consumption

Drunk driving a motor vehicle is a serious criminal offense and may get you deported.

The law in Thailand also prohibited drinking alcoholic beverages in many public areas such school, hospital, temple etc. Hence you cannot drink alcoholic beverages in the NCU dormitory.

There are many small shops around university that sell alcoholic beverages. Please enjoy drinking outside of the campus and please drink responsibly, that is, do not get too drunk, too rowdy, or get into a fight.

Driving a Motor Vehicle

You need an appropriate driving license to operate a motor vehicle in Thailand. It must be either an international license you have obtained from your home country or a Thai license. A license for passenger car cannot be used to operate a motorcycle and vice versa.

A motorcycle helmet is required by law while driving or riding a motorcycle. Only 2 people, one driver and one passenger, are allowed on a motorcycle (not including a side car). Hang Dong Police station often sets up a traffic checkpoint to issue citations for motorcyclists that violate helmet regulations.

To obtain a Thai license, you will need to go to the Department of Land Transport office to schedule a mandatory in class lecture (or register for e-learning at <https://www.dlt-elearning.com/foreignerhome>), then take a driving exam. If you find it difficult to pass the driving exam, you may choose to attend a driving school for foreigners in Chiang Mai area.

As NCU campus is open to public access, please kindly drive slowly and be mindful of children, dogs, and cat (in Thailand, we consider stray dogs and cats our friends and guardian of 7-11 stores) while driving on campus, and observe the speed limits.

Gambling

Gambling is still technically illegal in Thailand. The law is rarely enforced on people gambling in small group among friends. At the moment, there is no legal casino in Thailand. If you would like to try your luck in casinos, you have to go out of Thailand.

We strongly discourage you to visit casinos in Myawaddy or Tachileik area.

Romantic Adventures

Technically, prostitution is still illegal in Thailand, although rarely enforced.

In Thailand, sexual activities with a minor (a person who is under 18 years-old) is a statutory rape (rape by definition of the law, regardless of intention or willingness). This law also applies to females and same sex encounters. It is a serious criminal offense with a mandatory prison time. Thus, no matter how you obtain a sexual favor, please ensure that the other party is older than 18 years of age.

Right now, Thai society attitude towards sex is very openminded. Pre-marital sex is no longer a taboo. However, public display of affection (such as kissing) is still unacceptable.

Thai society in generally has no objection to same sex relationships. You can safely and openly declare that you are not a heterosexual. Males who identify as females can dress in female clothes and vice versa. Nonetheless, dressing up as a drag queen with over-the-top makeup, in your face kind of attitude, is unacceptable.

Always engage in safe sex practices. For opposite sex encounters, always use birth control as an unwanted pregnancy while you are studying oversea will lead to many inconveniences.

Condoms can be easily purchased from convenient stores. Birth control pills and the morning-after pills can be bought from pharmacies without a doctor prescription.

Hospital, Health, and Emergency

Public Hospital

Public hospitals are available near NCU:

- Hang Dong Hospital

It is about 4.5 km or 8 minutes car ride from campus, has limited staff, and may not be a good choice if you are in a hurry.

Hang Dong Hospital Contact Information

Address: 159 Moo 5, Hang Dong Subdistrict, Hang Dong District, Chiang Mai 50230, Thailand

Phone: +66 53-441-296

Emergency Hotline: 1669

Website: <http://www.hdhos.com> (if available)

- Sa Pan Tong Hospital

It is about 10 km or 18 minutes car ride from campus, has many more resources than Hang Dong hospital. It is a good choice if you are in pain (not emergency).

San Pa Tong Hospital Contact Information

Address: 300 Moo 4, Yu Wa Subdistrict, San Pa Tong District, Chiang Mai 50120, Thailand

Phone: +66 53-311-444

Emergency Hotline: 1669

Website: <http://www.sanpatonghospital.go.th> (if available)

In case of emergency (such as major accident or life-threatening scenarios), call 1669, the ambulance will come pick you up.

Noted that the staff at public hospital may not be able to communicate with you in Fluent English. If possible, ask a Thai friend to accompany you to a hospital. Moreover, because there are many patients waiting for health care at a public hospital, you may not receive care as quick as you wish there.

Health Insurance

You will be taken care of much faster at a private hospital, but the fees are extraordinarily expensive. A simple overnight stay for observation at a private hospital may cost you around 15,000 Thai Baht.

Thus, we strongly recommend that all international students, while living in Thailand, have health insurances that cover all of Emergency Room (ER), out-patient doctor visit (OPD), hospital admission (IPD). This is so you can visit private hospitals to receive health care in timely manner without going into bankruptcy.

You may purchase a health insurance of your own choosing, or you may contact IRC office to inquire about the insurance plans that NCU have prior agreement with Thai insurance companies.

Other Emergency

In case of fire, natural disaster, or encountering venomous animals such as snake, call 199.

In case you are a victim or encounter a serious crime such as robbery, hit and run drivers, call 191.

Hang Dong Police station is the nearest one to NCU campus. However, if you would like to file a criminal complaint or give a testimony to polices, you must visit the police station that has jurisdiction over the area of the investigation. For example, if you get into a car accident in San Pa Tong district, then you cannot file a complaint at Hang Dong Police station. In this case you must do so at the San Pa Tong Police station.

Travel and Leisure

Chiang Mai province has many kinds of offering in terms of travel and leisure, festival, culture, gastronomy, spa, nightlife, shopping, outdoor activities, trekking, natural parks etc.

There are only 3 seasons in Chiang Mai, winter (December-February), summer (March-April), and rainy (May-November).

- During winter, the temperature is still very hot during the day time but can go down to mid-teens during the night time in the city, and single digit on mountain areas. The sunshine and UV index is very strong.
- During summer, it is very hot and dusty. The maximum temperature during the afternoon may go up to 40+ degree Celsius. The air is very polluted by agricultural burning, and thus, poses the risk of PM2.5.
- During rainy season, it is not as hot as summer but the humidity is very high. The humidity will cause discomfort especially before it is going to rain.

The high season for tourists visiting Chiang Mai is during the winter. However, the best time for visiting nature reserves, camping, trekking, enjoying driving or motorcycling in Chiang Mai countryside is during October and November. During this period, the temperature is not too hot, the flora is generally green, the rain is very rare, and you will not have to be bothered by other

tourists. There are about 14 national parks and nature reserved areas in Chiang Mai province. These are very popular with campers, trekkers, nature photographers from all over the world.

There are 3 big festivals in Chiang Mai:

- The floral festival in February. This is when the local flowers bloom and there is a floral parade and competition in Chiang Mai city.
- The Songkran festival in April. This is a long holiday period when many migrant workers come home to visit their family. Water splashing is a highlight of this festival.
- The Yipeng festival in November. This is to mark the second full moon of the traditional Lanna calendar, where people make offerings to spirits by floating paper lanterns in the sky and floating baskets in streams, ponds or rivers.

Although these three festivals are the most famous and participating in them is a lot of fun. You will have a lot more fun attending any local village Poy-Luang or Hair-Kua-Tan events.

Chiang Mai metropolitan area has one of the highest per capita number of temples, restaurants, coffee shops, hotels. There are about 600+ Buddhist temples or monasteries in the metro area. Because of its welcoming nature to immigrants, there are many restaurants that provide many kinds of ethnic foods including French, Italian, German, Mexican, Indian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Myanmar etc. cuisines.

Resignation from Studying at NCU

Validity of your student visa is tied to your student status at NCU. If you intend to resign from the program or you have finished your study at the end of the program, then you must:

- Inform your academic advisor or the head of your program.
- Submit a formal resignation request to the office of registrar and clearly state the date of your intended resignation.
- Obtain a student visa cancellation letter from the university addressing the immigration authority (make sure that the date of the letter issued is no more than 21 days earlier than the date you intend to resign).
- Submit the visa cancellation letter to the Chiang Mai immigration police station and obtain the visa cancellation stamp. Your visa will now valid until the date of your resignation.
- Either leave Thailand by the date of your resignation or securing another Thailand visa by that date.



Emergency Contacts



Emergency (Accidents, illnesses): Tel. 1669
North-Chiang Mai University : 053-819999
Dormitory Contact: 053-819999 #9921
Dormitory Manager (K. Roongtiwa): 084-805-5416
International Relations Center (IRC Officer) : 053-819999 #9975
Dr. Wisuwat Phosri (IRC Officer) : 085-549-1193
Baan Heal Jai – Emotional Support Service
Tel. 095-438-2595 (Monday–Friday, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM)
E-mail : info@northcm.ac.th

