



Introduction of ‘Guarantee System for Studying Abroad Expenses’ being limited for Vietnamese language trainees (D-4)

The Ministry of Justice has introduced ‘Guarantee System for Studying Abroad Expenses’ which has been on a trial test for a month (October 2019) and now fully in effect.

This new system is limited to Vietnamese language trainees who enter one of the universities not selected as accredited ones, based on IEQAS (International Education Quality Assurance System) results conducted by the Ministry of Education. ‘Vietnamese language trainees’ refers to Vietnamese nationals who come to South Korea as language trainees under Student Visa (D-4).

| Until Now | Effective From Nov 2019 |
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| <p>Vietnamese language trainees have been able to get their visas issued just by submitting a certificate of deposit balance of more than USD 9,000 under his/her name or their parents’ name.</p> | <p>Now required to purchase a financial product which uses a payment withholding system from a commercial bank with its head office and branches both in Vietnam and South Korea.</p> <p>Payment withholding system allows a partial withdrawal of KRW 5,000,000 each by 6-month term, with 1-year suspension of withdrawal in total.</p> <p>Vietnamese language trainees need to submit a relevant certificate of deposit balance after making a deposit equivalent of USD 10,000 for 1-year tuition and living expenses, etc.</p> |

This new system has been introduced to prevent so-called ‘robbing Peter to pay Paul’ practice in the visa application process. Many of local student visa brokers in Vietnam have been lending studying abroad expenses for students to submit a certificate of deposit balance under a student name and then instantly withdrawing the loaned money to lend to other students.

This ill practice has been attributed as the main culprit of the recent surges in Vietnamese language trainees and ended up in 404% increase of Vietnamese staying illegally in South Korea compared to 2016. In 2018, there were 13,945 students in total who ended up in irregular immigrants and majority of them were Vietnamese (66%).

The Ministry of Justice expects that this revised system will prevent exploitation of the student visa system for abusive applications for refugee status or as a way to work illegally in the nation.



Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team:



Jennifer Choi

Jennifer.choi@peoplefirstrelo.com

+82 10 8673 3344

Relocation Manager / Partner

People First Relocation, South Korea



Yaenah Park

Yaenah.park@peoplefirstrelo.com

+82 10 8728 1344

Relocation Consultant

People First Relocation, South Korea