

I. **Foreigners visiting Bhutan under the following categories are classified as non-tourists:**

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
1.	Foreigners married to Bhutanese and their legitimate children	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application from the Bhutanese spouse/parent 2. Marriage certificate² 3. Birth certificate for children 4. CID copy of the Bhutanese spouse/parent 5. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan. Passport/Voter card in case of nationals of India. 6. Visa/ Entry Permit application form as applicable 	<p>Applicant submits the application directly to Department of Immigration (DoI)</p> <p>DoI shall vet the application in line with the Immigration Rules and Regulations.</p>
2.	Foreign students including monks and nuns undergoing	Foreign students shall be processed in-line with the Visa/Entry Permit Guideline for	Royal University of Bhutan (RUB)- for faculty/students enrolled in

¹ The Department of Immigration may ask for additional documents during the assessment process if deemed necessary.

² Marriage certificate issued by any country, unless the spouse is entering Bhutan to seek immigrant status, in which case the marriage certificate must be issued by the Royal Court of Justice, Bhutan

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
	<p>a regular study program /exchange program in a government approved academic institute in Bhutan, and faculty on exchange program</p>	<p>Student/Student Exchange Programs, 2020</p>	<p>the colleges affiliated to the RUB.</p> <p>KGUMSB- for faculty/students enrolled in the colleges affiliated to the KGUMSB</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD)- for students enrolled in schools/TVET/Vocational institutes</p> <p>Dratshang Lhentshog- for monks and nuns enrolled in monastic institutions</p> <p>RIM, JSW Law School and Druk Gyalpoi Institute Pangpisa - for students enrolled in these Institutes</p> <p>Applicant shall process the visa/entry permit for students in line with the Visa/Entry Permit Guideline for Student/Student Exchange Programs, 2020</p>

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
3.	Foreign workers approved by Department of Labour and Department of Immigration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval from the Department of Labour (DoL), Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE) 2. Duly completed Work Permit application form 3. Duly completed Employer Undertaking 4. Duly completed Employee Undertaking 5. Copy of passport or voter identity card with employment Entry Permit/visa as may be applicable 6. Medical Fitness Certificate issued by a competent government certified medical officer in Bhutan (General Health and Drug Test) 	<p>DoL shall vet the applications including the qualifications/skills of the foreign workers.</p> <p>Once approved, the applicant shall then approach the DoI to process the work permit.</p>
4.	Direct dependents of foreign workers in the professional category	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application from the foreign worker holding a valid work permit 2. Copy of valid passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 3. Notarized copy of marriage certificate for spouse 4. Notarized copy of birth certificate for children below 18 years 5. Duly completed visa/Entry permit application 	DoI

Non-Tourist categories.

1 June 2023

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
		form as applicable	
5.	Day workers and process workers engaged in the border towns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of the Department of Labour (DoL), Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE) 2. Copy of passport/voter card 3. Duly completed Work Permit application form 4. Duly completed Employer Undertaking 5. Duly completed Employee Undertaking 6. Medical Fitness Certificate issued by a competent government certified medical officer in Bhutan (health screening shall include annual tuberculosis screening and drug screening only) 	DoL
6.	Uniformed personnel of IMTRAT and DANTAK posted to Bhutan and their direct dependents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of the Royal Bhutan Army 2. Copy of passport/Voter card 3. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 4. Copy of marriage certificate for spouse 5. Copy of birth certificate for children 	Royal Bhutan Army

Non-Tourist categories.**1 June 2023**

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
7.	Expatriate traders holding a valid business licence and trader card and their direct dependents	As per prevailing practice	DoI, Department of Trade, and MoFAET
8.	Casual visitors in the border towns. Casual visitors are nationals of India from bordering towns and districts of India who visit bordering towns of Bhutan for leisure, shopping, dining, meeting friends and any other purpose that does not involve employment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Applicable only to nationals of India2. voter identity card/Indian passport3. Must exit within 24 hours of entry	DoI, RBP
9.	Pilgrims to Gomkora (must stay within Trashi Yangtse), hindu pilgrims to Jayanti Mahakal temple (near Phuentsholing)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Applicable only to nationals of India2. Voter identity card/Indian passport	DoI, RBP

Non-Tourist categories.**1 June 2023**

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
10.	1. Intergovernmental visa waiver arrangements: a. Nationals of Thailand and Switzerland with diplomatic and official passport b. Nationals of Member states of SAARC entitled with SAARC visa exemption scheme	The visits must not be for employment be it self-employed or otherwise.	DoI
11.	Diplomatic/Official passport holders of Bangladesh, India and Maldives	The visits must not be for employment, be it self-employed or otherwise	

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
12.	<p>Diplomats/officials of resident MIOs³ and their direct dependents</p> <p>Including individuals who are visiting Bhutan for official work of the MIOs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of MoFAET 2. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 3. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 4. Detailed day wise program of the visit for individuals who are visiting Bhutan for official work of the MIOs (Applicable to individuals who are visiting Bhutan for official work of the MIOs.) 	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MoFAET)
13.	<p>Diplomats/officials of non-resident MIOs</p> <p>Non-resident Ambassadors and his/her spouse and children</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of the MoFAET 2. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 3. Duly completed visa/entry Permit application form as applicable 4. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	MoFAET

³ Missions and International Organisations (MIO): This includes all resident Embassies (Dev. Cooperation Offices), Consulates, Regional and International Organisations

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
14.	Volunteers of international organisations based in Bhutan	Volunteers of international organisations such as TICA, JICA, AVID, HVO based in Bhutan shall be processed either as foreign workers or as officials of international organisations based in Bhutan.	Respective Head of Agencies
15.	Official guests of RGoB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval from the respective head of agencies 2. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 3. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 4. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	Respective Head of Agencies

Non-Tourist categories.

1 June 2023

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
16.	Official guests of civil society, religious organisations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of the respective head of the agencies 2. Clearance from MoFAET for International CSOs 3. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 4. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 5. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	<p>Respective head of the agencies</p> <p>CSOA- for Civil Society Organizations</p> <p>Commission for Religious Organisations- for religious organisation</p>
17.	Official guests of corporations and business entities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval from the Secretary, MoICE 2. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 3. Duly completed visa application form 4. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	MoICE

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
18.	1. Participants of official meetings ⁴ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. hosted or co-hosted by RGoB b. hosted by local CSOs c. hosted by International agencies/ International CSOs based in Bhutan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of respective head of agency. The approval shall must include the list of participants 2. Political clearance for hosting the event from the MoFAET 3. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 4. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 5. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	Respective head of agencies

⁴ Includes conferences, trainings, seminars, workshops, literary festivals, sporting events, cultural events

Non-Tourist categories.

1 June 2023

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
19.	Promoters/Investors, board directors, technical/managerial personnel of FDI companies including potential investors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval from the Director, Department of Industry, MoICE 2. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 3. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 4. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	Department of Industry, MoICE
20.	1. Direct dependents of promoters, investors of established FDI in Bhutan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of valid Investor Card 2. Duly completed dependent permit application form 3. Copy of passport or voter identity card with relevant entry permit/visa as may be applicable 4. Notarized copy of Marriage Certificate (for spouse) 5. Notarized copy of birth certificate (for children below 18 years) 	Investors/promoters applies directly to DoI Invest Bhutan, MoICE

Non-Tourist categories.

1 June 2023

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
	2. Adult children, parents and parents-in-law of promoters, investors established FDI in Bhutan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval from Invest Bhutan, MoICE 2. Copy of valid Investor Card 3. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan. Passport/voter Identity Card for nationals of India 4. Duly completed Visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 5. Evidence establishing the relationship. All such documents must be notarized. 6. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	
21.	Journalists and media personnel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval from the, MoFAET 2. Accreditation from BICMA in the event the journalist/media personnel are visiting Bhutan to cover State/national events such as election, Summit meetings etc. 3. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 4. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 	MoFAET

Non-Tourist categories.

1 June 2023

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
		5. Detailed day wise program of the visit	
22	Press trips and Familiarisation Trips	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Head, Department of Tourism, MoICE 2. Copy of passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan 3. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 4. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	The applications shall be processed in line with the Standard Operating Procedure for FAM Trips and Press Trips of Department of Tourism, MoICE
23	Sports professionals – taking part in sporting events, on contract with licensed clubs, trainers etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval from the General Secretary, Bhutan Olympic Committee (BOC) 2. Political clearance from MoFAET 3. Copy of valid passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan /Voter Identity card for nationals of India 4. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 5. Detailed day wise program of the visit 	<p>BOC shall process all approval as per their Guidelines submitted to C4CS</p> <p>Football players engaged by clubs in Bhutan shall be processed in line with Visa/Entry Permit Guidelines for International Professional Football Player, 2019 of the Department of Immigration.</p>

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
24.	Crew of international flights (charters) flying to Bhutan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval from Director, Department of Air Transport, MoICE 2. Airline crew member certificate issued in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards 3. Copy of valid passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan/Voter Identity card for nationals of India 4. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable <p>Note: A foreign crew member of a chartered flight entering and exiting Bhutan on the same day shall be required to produce only the Airline crew member certificate issued in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and a valid passport.</p>	DoAT, MoICE

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
25.	Personal guests of Bhutanese	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal guests shall be limited to two guests in a year. 2. The Bhutanese must be a resident in the country. The Bhutanese must have lived in Bhutan for at-least one year at the time of application of the personal guest visa. 3. Other criteria prescribed in the Immigration Rules and Regulations shall be applicable. 	DoI
26.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal Guests of Ambassadors/Diplomats /Consul General/Heads of international agencies in Bhutan 2. Parents, parents-in-laws and adult children of professional staff of resident MIOs 	<p>For 1&2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal guests shall be limited to two guests in a year. Any exceptions to the above to be approved MoFAET 2. Approval of MoFAET 3. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan /Voter Identity card for nationals of India 4. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 	MoFAET

SI No	Category	Documentary Requirement ¹ to be submitted to Department of Immigration (DoI)	Agency Accountable for vetting the application
	3. Parents, parents-in-law and adult children of professionals working/ foreign students studying in Bhutan.	For 3: 1. Copy of valid passport. The passport must be valid for at least six months from the intended date of departure from Bhutan /Voter Identity card for nationals of India 2. Duly completed visa/Entry Permit application form as applicable 3. Evidence establishing the relationship. All such documents must be notarized. 4. Detailed day wise program of the visit	DoI
27.	Any other categories not listed in this list	Recommending agency to submit application to Cabinet Secretary for consideration of any category not listed in this list as non-tourists.	Cabinet Secretary

II. General Information:

1. The agency responsible for vetting and approving the application must ensure that the foreigners qualify under the non-tourist category. Accountability shall rest on the Head of the agencies.
2. Route Permit shall be mandatory for non-tourist categories. Agencies must ensure that foreigners process for Route Permit for movement within the country.
3. In the event of misuse, the penalty shall be double the SDF applicable on tourists.
4. Submission of false, fabricated or misleading information is a prosecutable offence and shall be liable for prosecution by a court of law and/or any penalties/fines under the Immigration Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan and any other laws, rules and regulations as may be applicable.

DEFINITIONS:

Head of Agency: Secretary level for Ministries/Director level for Constitutional Bodies/Vice-Chancellor of RUB/Highest level bureaucrat in the agency

Direct dependents: Spouse and children below the age of 18 years