

Types of School in Thailand – Pros and Cons

Thai Government Schools

Teaching in a public/government school in Thailand means working within the national system (Thai language, Thai curriculum). Class sizes may be large, resources more modest, and you'll have a deeper immersion into Thai culture and education. Salary expectations for foreign teachers can be on the modest side — typically around **THB 30,000–55,000 per month**, depending on location, experience and programme.

While benefits may be fewer than private/international schools, you'll gain valuable experience and stability.

Pros:

- ✓ Strong cultural immersion – experience authentic Thai education and daily life
- ✓ Stable, consistent work schedule (usually weekdays, daytime hours)
- ✓ Easier entry requirements compared to international schools
- ✓ Great for gaining classroom experience quickly

Cons:

- ✗ Large class sizes (sometimes 40–50+ students)
- ✗ Lower salary compared to other school types
- ✗ Limited resources and teaching materials
- ✗ Less administrative support and structure

Private Schools (Thai/Bilingual)

Private schools (Thai-owned or bilingual) offer more structure, potentially smaller classes and often better facilities compared to many purely government schools. Salaries are higher than public schools, with typical ranges for foreign teachers being roughly **THB 35,000–70,000 per month**, depending on location, qualifications and school reputation.

These might attract teachers looking for a balance of culture-immersion and increased professional support.

Pros:

- ✓ Better facilities and teaching resources

- ✓ Smaller class sizes than government schools
- ✓ Higher salaries than public schools
- ✓ More structured environment with clearer expectations

Cons:

- ✗ Still not as high-paying as international schools
- ✗ Expectations can be higher without matching salary
- ✗ School quality can vary a lot
- ✗ May still require adapting to Thai systems and management style

International Schools (Different types & Curriculums)

International schools in Thailand vary widely — some follow British, American or IB curricula; some are high-end with strong expat presence, others more modest. At the top end you'll find salaries of **THB 80,000–150,000+ per month** for well-qualified, experienced teachers in major cities. Even mid-tier international schools might offer THB 60,000–100,000+ depending on subject, credentials and school. Because expectations tend to be high (credentials, licence, experience) the role is more demanding — but the reward can be substantial.

Pros:

- ✓ Highest salaries and best benefits packages
- ✓ Modern facilities and excellent resources
- ✓ Smaller classes and professional teaching environment
- ✓ Recognised curriculum (IB, British, American) – great for career growth

Cons:

- ✗ Strict requirements (degree, teaching licence, experience)
- ✗ More pressure and higher expectations
- ✗ Competitive hiring process
- ✗ Less cultural immersion (more expat-focused environment)

Language Centers (Play-based vs IELTS etc.)

Language centres cater to Young Learners as well as adults (conversation, exam

prep such as IELTS) and often have flexible scheduling — afternoons, evenings, weekends. For play-based children’s programmes the environment is more relaxed; for exam-prep (IELTS, TOEFL) or adult business English you’ll find different demands. Full-time salaries might be around **THB 30,000–40,000 per month**, while part-time/hourly rates vary widely (e.g., THB 400–1,000+ per hour) depending on experience and clientele.

This sector is ideal for those wanting flexibility, additional income or to specialise in certain learner groups.

Pros:

- ✓ Flexible working hours (great for side income)
- ✓ Opportunities to teach different age groups (kids to adults)
- ✓ Less formal teaching environment (especially with young learners)
- ✓ Good hourly pay potential

Cons:

- ✗ Irregular schedules (evenings & weekends)
- ✗ Lower full-time salary compared to schools
- ✗ Less job stability in some cases
- ✗ Can feel repetitive depending on curriculum

Private Tutoring

Private one-on-one (or small group) tutoring is commonly used by teachers in Thailand to supplement income or even work independently. Hourly rates for private tutoring in Thailand often fall into the range of **THB 400–1,000+ per hour**, depending on your experience, the student’s level and location. It offers flexibility and control, but less stability and fewer benefits compared with contracted school employment.

Pros:

- ✓ Highest earning potential per hour
- ✓ Full flexibility – choose your own schedule
- ✓ One-on-one teaching is more rewarding and effective
- ✓ Opportunity to build your own client base/business

Cons:

- ✗ No guaranteed income (can be inconsistent)
- ✗ No benefits (visa, insurance, etc. usually not included)

- ✗ Requires self-marketing and networking
- ✗ Travel between students can be time-consuming

Sector	Typical Monthly Salary	Notes & Region-Variations
Government (Thai public schools)	~ THB 25,000-35,000 /month. For example: non-native foreign teacher in a secondary school in Sukhothai province offered THB 25,000; native speaker THB 35,000.	Entry level; rural locations often at lower end; Bangkok may edge higher but costs also higher.
Private Thai schools (bilingual or enhanced English-programs)	~ THB 40,000-60,000 /month (or more) in many cases.	Better facilities and pay than typical public schools; location, curriculum (e.g., English-program) influence salary.
International Schools (various curricula: IB, British, American)	Broad range: Entry-level ~ THB 50,000-80,000 /month; Mid-range ~ THB 80,000-120,000 ; Elite/leadership roles > THB 100,000 /month. For example, one source lists >THB 100,000 for well-qualified teachers.	Major cities (Bangkok) and premium schools offer higher salaries plus benefits (housing allowance, flights) which can significantly increase effective compensation.
Language Centres / Institutes (children & adult learners, exam prep etc.)	Full-time: ~ THB 25,000-40,000 /month; Hourly rates: ~ THB 400-1,500+ per hour depending on location & specialization.	Pay generally less than full school contracts; flexibility is higher; premium rates apply for exam-prep (IELTS/TOEFL) or adult classes.
Private Tutoring (one-on-one / small groups, independent teachers)	Hourly: In Bangkok central areas ~ THB 800-1,500+ per hour for qualified tutors; in regional/outer areas somewhat lower (THB 500-1,000/hour)	Highly variable: dependent on tutor qualifications, demand, subject (e.g., children's conversational vs adult exam prep), travel costs, location.