

I Teach TEFL



Travel, Learn and Earn
Phuket

Internationally Accepted and Accredited

Can I survive or live well in Thailand on 30,000 Baht a month?

This will always be a difficult question to answer because each person has different needs.

However, if you decide to take up the challenge of teaching English in Thailand, you will have to embrace the Thai Culture and Thai Lifestyle. It will certainly be a life changing experience!

For the purpose of this discussion, we assume that you just completed your TEFL certification course and have successfully secured an initial teaching position at a public or language school for a semester, earning a monthly salary of **30,000 Baht**. No private One on One Tutoring income has been considered for the purpose of this discussion.

Obviously the location where you will teach and stay will determine the cost of accommodation and scooter rental! Therefore we assume you have been placed outside of the main centers of Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket etc!

Anticipated Monthly Expenditure

1. Accommodation/Rent

Accommodation for a furnished apartment that consist mainly of a double bed, TV, Air-con, fridge and Wi-Fi, will set you back between 4,500 – 6,000 Baht per month. This is more than likely a room of about 30m² plus a shower and toilet. If you need more than that, you'll have to decide how much more you can afford.

2. Utilities (Electricity and Water)

Electricity will mainly depend on how much you make use of your air-con. If you are going to use it 24/7 it can be a bit pricey! Assuming that you will use it in moderation, your bill should not be more than 1,000 Baht per month!

Water will not be more than 250 Baht per month!

3. Transportation (Scooter rental/Public Transport/Fuel)

Transportation costs will mainly depend on how close your accommodation will be in relation to the school where you will be teaching! Public transport across Thailand is dirt cheap!

In the event that you decide to rent a scooter full-time, the rental should not cost you more than 2,500 Baht per month.

As these scooters are extremely economical on fuel, your fuel bill should not be more than 500 Baht per month!

4. Cell phone and Data

We suggest that you get yourself an AIS starter pack and sim card for only 50 Baht and then purchase an additional 250 Baht airtime. After you have uploaded that on your phone, you simply call and activate a 1 gig data package for only 213 Baht the first month. Thereafter, it automatically recharges every month for only 199 Baht!

5. Food

Very sensitive topic! One has to realise that once you arrive in a foreign country, things will change! Things that you take for granted back home will become apparent very quickly!

To survive in Thailand you will have to embrace the local cuisine, get to know the area you live in, where the local markets are, where you can get the best food from, where the best prices are etc!

You have to realise that the food that you are accustomed to at home might not be accessible or available here!

It is much cheaper to eat at the markets or the numerous street cafes all over the rural Thailand towns than to try and make your own food at home! A Thai favourite "Friend Rice" with either Chicken or Pork will cost no more than 80 Baht! A meal on its own! Initially the local 7 Eleven shops (convenient stores - they are all over) are a *Farang's favourite shop in Thailand. There you can buy a hamburger for 35 Baht and a coke for 10 Baht!

You should easily be able to survive on 200 Baht per day or 6,000 Baht per month!

Cecily and I survive comfortably for a month on 6,000 Baht and that includes the purchase of coffee, sugar, milk, margarine, bread, eggs etc!

However, if you are going to insist on eating Western food primarily, you have to budget substantially more!

**Farang* – Thai name for Foreigners!

6. Personal Necessities

As this is a very personal matter the amount one will spend here will differ from person to person. We suggest you budget an initial amount of 2,000 Baht for personal necessities!

7. Entertainment

Again a personal choice! If you love socialising then you will obviously have to budget more than the 1,500 Baht we suggest you budget for!

8. Other

Maybe you feel the need for medical insurance, therefore, we have allocated a suggested amount of 650 Baht. Entirely your decision!

Total projected expenditure:

20,100 Baht

Some money saving tips!

Piggy bank for change

You will soon realise that you gather a lot of change in the form of coins. Get yourself a piggy bank or a container where you drop your small change into every day. You will be amazed at how quickly you accumulate a fair amount of money! We use our piggy bank savings each month to spoil ourselves to a decent treat like either going to eat at a restaurant or a treat like ice-cream!

Fan vs air-con

Thailand, being known as a country where temperatures are always in the 30's or higher, creates the problem of getting used to the heat! Yes an air-con is the answer, but it is really not economical with regards to the amount of electricity it consumes.

One has to be very aware of finding a balance between using the air-con and a fan! ONLY use the air-con when it is really necessary! If not, you will have to alter you budget on the utilities section! You can buy a decent fan for less than 400 Baht at * Big C!

- *Big C* - major chain store across Thailand.