

# Thailand

## National Higher Education Equity Policy

### Governance

Within the Ministry of Education, the Office of the Higher Education Commission is responsible for defining national policies in higher education.

### Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- 12<sup>th</sup> Higher Education Development Plan (2017-2021)
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> 15-year long-range plan for higher education (2017-2031)<sup>1</sup>
- Twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021) [Not specific to higher education] Briefly mentions scholarships in higher education to prevent dropouts.

### Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- Not clear

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Low-income students (as recipients of scholarships), and poor students in remote areas.

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No

Thailand does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

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<sup>1</sup> The 15-year long-range plan for higher education (2017-2031) is not accessible online.

Does the country have antidiscrimination laws for higher education?

- No

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

### ***Monetary Policy Instruments***

- Needs-based scholarships and grants: Scholarships to access and stay in university
- Student loans (World Bank, page 4), Thailand Income Contingent and Allowance Loan (TICAL).

### ***Non-Monetary Policy Instruments***

What are the main non-monetary instruments to promote equity?

- Free tutoring for students sitting university admissions exams through the 21st Sahapat Admission Project (MOE website)
- Open University (Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University)

### **Financial Resources**

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

### **Quality Assurance**

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The Office of the Higher Education Commission is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures.

### **Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency**

Thailand does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

## References

Ministry of Education <http://www.en.moe.go.th/enMoe2017/index.php/home>

Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC) <http://www.mua.go.th/>

“Free Tutoring for University Hopefuls” Ministry of Education 27 August 2018  
<http://www.en.moe.go.th/enMoe2017/index.php/articles/197-free-tutoring-for-university-hopefuls>

The 12<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021) Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board Office of the Prime Minister Bangkok, Thailand

[http://www.nesdb.go.th/nesdb\\_en/ewt\\_w3c/ewt\\_dl\\_link.php?filename=develop\\_is\\_sue&nid=4345](http://www.nesdb.go.th/nesdb_en/ewt_w3c/ewt_dl_link.php?filename=develop_is_sue&nid=4345)

“Conference on Governance and Financing of Higher Education – South and East Asia: Thailand Case Study” World Bank

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATIONLP/Resources/Thailand.pdf>

(Accessed September 15, 2018)