Bureau of Immigration: Foreigners to Secure Visa before Studying in PH

Bureau of Immigration reminds foreign students to get hold of student visas before enrolling in Philippine schools. Local Schools Should Secure Accreditation from BI for Accepting Foreign Students

The Bureau of Immigration (BIT) is reminding all foreigners who are planning to study in the Philippines to get hold of a visa or study permit prior to entering or enrolling in any school or university in the country.

In a statement issued by Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David, Jr., foreign students are most likely to flock schools as most classes will open on June 6. On the other hand, foreign students should be able to secure their student visas or study permits before they can enroll in any Philippine school.

On the part of schools, they should not accommodate foreigners for enrollment if they have not secured the visa or study permit requirement from the student desk of BI.

In addition, schools admitting foreigners should be accredited by the BI prior to accepting foreign students. Otherwise, schools that are not accredited will be fined against violation of BI's regulations.

According to the current immigration laws of the Philippines, foreigners who intend to study in the country should get student visas.

Chief of the student desk Atty. Grace Lara said that foreigners who plans to enroll in the elementary and high school levels or take special classes including language tutorials should have special study permit (SSP). The student desk is responsible for processing as well as evaluating applications for student visas and Asps. It is also in charge of forwarding such applications to the commissioner for approval.

The basic requirements for student visa application include submitting a notice of acceptance from the school. The applicant should at least be 18 years old and should secure a written endorsement for the status of the applicant signed by the school or university registrar.

The applicant should also submit a medical certificate coming from a government medical institution to ensure that the applicant is not suffering from any contagious or detrimental illness. The medical certificate should also state that the applicant is mentally fit.