THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY, THAILAND (January 2009 May 2009)

I really encourage those who are considering participating in an exchange to apply right away. It was the most fulfilling and inspiring experience I've had. I am an English and Publishing student and applied because there is a lot of knowledge you can get outside of the classroom, and I thought this was a perfect way to become a more well rounded individual while completing school.

GETTING THERE

Getting your non immigrant Thai visa is quick and easy, you can pick it up the next business day. The Thai embassy is located at 1040 Burrard Greet. If advise applying for the multiple entry visa; if you want to spend a week in one of Thailand's neighboring countries, it is a real pain to keep applying for entry and re entry visas. If booked during high season so my plane ticket cost 1,900. Punctuality in Thailand is never important; time does not matter. This is true in restaurants, meetings, activities and school. If did not receive my acceptance letter from Thammasat until December 22 and I flew out of Vancouver on January 3.

ARRIVING IN BANGKOK

Thammasat advisors can arrange for airport pickup and accommodation at Charlie's Guesthouse in Pinklao (about 20 minute drive to Thammasat). Im not sure I would recommend this as no one showed up at the airport and while the Guesthouse is beautiful

FOOD

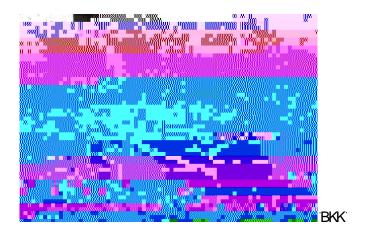
The food is Thailand is both flavorful and plentiful. It seems as though Thai's

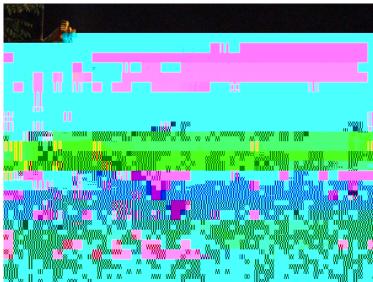
time applies to class schedules and in most aspects the classes are run very casually. My class sizes ranged from 20 50 students. Showing up 20 minutes late, talking during class as well as texting and even answering your phone are common. It is a common belief that international schools are much easier; however, BE students found the classes much more in depth than what they were used to at home. In fact, a few students including myself had to drop a course because we realized by the second week that we were in over our heads. A few teachers at Thammasat had said that after teaching in North America they realized that course curriculum in Thailand was difficult for some exchange students to adapt to. The semester runs from first week of January till mid May and there is a lot to go over. Most classes are 1.5 hours/ 2 times a week. Most course grade weightings were based very heavily on the final (worth 60 80%) Books are very cheap

- 5) Tanjung Putting National Park, Borneo, Indonesia the coolest thing Ive ever seen and the hardest to get to. Rented a wooden boat to float down the river and see rehabilitated orangutans up close in the jungle. \$\$\$ but well worth it.
- 6) Dalat & Hoi An, Vietnam Vietnam was one of my favorite countries. So rich with culture and history.
- 7) Sem Reap, Cambodia Angkor Wat. Enough said.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions: k_okabe20@hotmail.com or kjo1@sfu.ca

Good Tuck!



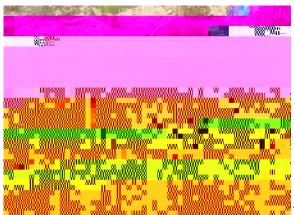


Kings Holiday, BKK

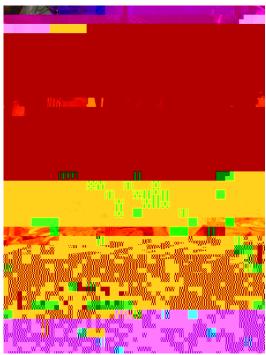
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Ko Phi Phi, Thailand



Bephant Nature Park, Chiang Mai



Market, BKK