

## **Introduction**

Hi! I am third year business student and I just completed my exchange to Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. I participated in the Spring 2014 exchange period and was gone for approximately 6 months (I left at the end of December and returned middle of June).

## **Preparation for Exchange**

A very important aspect of traveling and living in Thailand is the Thai visa. It is essential to have a valid one, to monitor it and understand how it works. I applied at the Thai Consulate in Vancouver for a 3 month study visa. You must go with a copy of your passport, passport pictures along with your letter from both Chula and SFU. The visa that the Consulate supplies is a single re-entry. That means that after entering Thailand, if you choose to leave within those 3 months, you automatically forfeit that visa and must get a new one. What I did was I got a multiple re-entry

## **During Exchange**

I lived at the less popular residence, CU I House (Chulalongkorn University International House). I had a fantastic experience living at CU I House. I rented a studio apartment (1 bed / 1 bath). The studio had a desk, a double bed and a couch/lounge. The building is brand new, so I was the first to live in my apartment. There was also security 24/7 along with a reception office open at all hours (so when I forgot my key card, they allowed me in). Below our tower, there is a 7/11 (insanely convenient), True Coffee, a laundromat (฿30/kg. She had it washed, dried and folded; ready to go) and a hair salon. So those are the building specifics. As the location, oh my god it was great! It's on campus so I always walked to school; it took about a 12 min walk to the BBA faculty. It's also a 10min walk to the BTS (skytrain) platform and 15min walk to Siam (which is the shopping mall centre of Bangkok). Not to mention, behind CU I House is an area called Sam Yan. It's very local as in not many Thais speak English there but it has amazing and fresh street food.

Moving on, Chulalongkorn University is incredible! It's regarded as the top school in Thailand and you will hear people refer to it as the "Harvard of Thailand." It's quite prestigious and it does deal with those of a higher income bracket. For example, there are celebrities who attend Chula such as Yaya Urassaya (a famous young actress whose billboards and ads are everywhere) and Peach (he's an actor whose the face for Pepsi). Overall, it's simply a phenomenal and super cool school.



