

Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Experience Report - Toni Maetze

1. Application routine at host university

The described program is a double degree program between the Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg and the Chiang Mai University (CMU) Thailand.

The application will be processed by the ILM (institute of logistic and material handling systems) at the faculty of engineering and the responsible person Dr.Ing. Henning Strubelt.

The double degree program is aligned to industrial engineering students subject logistics.

2. Travel to destination – particularities?

Thailand, especially Chiang Mai can be reached by plane. There is no direct flight to Chiang Mai, it is necessary to do a stopover/transfer in Bangkok, Thailand.

3. Reception at host university

We got full support by the CMU students, starting from the airport pickup and registration procedures at the university, through to finding an accommodation in Chiang Mai. There was never a situation in which we did not get support by the responsible persons and CMU students.

4. Enrollment / general course offers

Caused by the double degree program the courses at the CMU and OvGU are set. The courses deal with logistic topics. In addition to that a Thai language course is being offered. It is difficult to enroll in other courses because only the double degree courses are offered in English.

5. Studies

We attended to five logistic courses and one additional Thai language course. The course size was all the time the same, which was around 20 students. The teaching language was always English.

The workload was time-consuming and every course requires 1 to 2 presentations in front of the class, which were mainly hold in groups, consisting of Thai and German students.

6. Exams

Every course had 2 exams, one midterm exam and one final exam. The duration for every exam is 3 hours. Some of the exams were open book exams.

7. Living conditions

Chiang Mai offers a wide range of apartments and condominiums. It is possible to find a really cheap accommodation for 70-100 € in a student dormitory (separate for male and female). But it's also possible to spend up to 300 € for a high standard serviced apartment. Some of them are even offering a pool.

8. Campus / city

The campus of the CMU is located on the foot of the Doi Suthep, the biggest mountain in Chiang Mai. The areal includes 20 faculties and measures 249 hectares. The campus includes a wide range of facilities like a stadium, gymnasium, swimming pool, various sport fields and a supermarket. Furthermore there are many food courts and canteens.

The city of Chiang Mai is very relaxing. The people are calm and friendly. It is feasible to get food at every corner and shopping malls offer a wide range of Asian and European shops and goods. In nearly every mall is a cinema, which offers all new movies in original soundtrack.

9. Tips for leisure time or traveling

Chiang Mai provides a large number of laid-back coffee shops, which are perfect for resting but also for working and studying.

The northern region of Thailand offers beautiful landscapes with numerous waterfalls, caves and hot springs.

Due to the low plane ticket prices, it is possible to fly to the south of Thailand to visit beautiful white beaches. Destinations for a beach trip in Thailand could be e.g. Krabi, Koh Phi Phi and Koh Samui.

10. Summary

All in all the semester abroad in Thailand is 100% recommendable. The environment at the university is very pleasant. Due to the double degree agreement the study plan is completely structured. The relationship to the teachers and professors are more intensive than in Germany. Thailand is a good place to get in touch with the Asian culture and to discover South East Asia. For other students than industrial engineering logistic students it could be a possibility to go as free mover to CMU and enroll in one of the over 20 international programs. However administrative processes at the University and other authorities in Thailand could take some time. Finally it is to consider that English is not a spoken language in all parts of Thailand.



Rice field near Chiang Mai



Our Thai classmates