

Experience Report

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General Information

Program: Thai German Double Degree Program (Master)
Universities: Chiang Mai University (CMU), Thailand
Otto-von-Guericke-University (OvGU), Germany
Duration: Seven Months
Contact: Dr. Henning Strubelt (OvGU)

The Thai German Double Degree Program is based on the cooperation between the OvGU and the CMU. OvGU students of *Industrial Engineering Logistics* can take part in it. Therefore the student has to study one semester at the CMU in the study program *Logistics and Supply Chain Management*. At the end of the program the student will get two degrees: Master of Science by the OvGU and the Master of Engineering by the CMU.

Arrival and first impressions

When we (four students from OvGU) arrived at Chiang Mai Airport, two students of the CMU picked us up. They brought us to our temporary accommodation, the “Engineering Home”, which is located on campus next to the faculty. The university arranged this accommodation for us and we could live there during the first week.

Right from the beginning I felt very comfortable in Chiang Mai and I was impressed by the friendliness of the Thai people. The students of CMU were very kind and helped us with everything. Especially because of the Thai language and the fact that not everyone can speak English this was very supportive. Throughout our whole stay in Thailand they supported us and I am very thankful for all they did for us.

During the first days in Chiang Mai it was very difficult to handle the climate, which is completely different to Germany. We arrived in the rainy season. Therefore it was very humid and warm. But with the time I got used to it.

Accommodation

After our arrival we had to find an accommodation. There are many different opportunities to stay in Chiang Mai, from cheap (80€/month) to more expensive ones (300€/month). With the help of some Thai students we found a really nice serviced apartment where we stayed for the rest of our studies.

Study at CMU

We had all courses together with about 20 Thai students and the courses were held in English. The subjects were due to the cooperation with the OvGU preselected and therefore acknowledged by the OvGU. In all courses we had to do Midterm and Final Exams, but also smaller tests like presentations, reports and group works.

The campus of CMU is huge and has many canteens, some coffee shops and many sport facilities. So it offers everything a student needs. Sometimes there were some bigger events on campus where many Thais took part in. This was always very interesting to see.

In my opinion the community of students is of great importance at the CMU. The exchange between students of different semesters is supported by some events, like dinner parties or going to a resort together. The professors take also part in these kind of activities. Therefore the relationship between students and professors is very close.

Mobility

There is barely public transport in Chiang Mai. The only public way to get around is by cab or tuk-tuk. Therefore we rented a scooter, which is common in Thailand and also very convenient. (60€/month)

Cultural Experiences

Staying in a country where Buddhism is the main religion was very interesting for me. Their culture is very different to ours and I think in a way they seem to be more respectful with each other. I am very thankful that I got the opportunity to make such a good experience.

Travelling

As flights are relatively cheap it is very simple to travel in South East Asia. We had the opportunity to see some other countries around Thailand, which was very impressive. There was also one study trip with the university, where we flew to South Korea.

Conclusion

Going a semester abroad to Thailand was one of the most impressive things I did in my life. Getting to know such a different culture broadened my mind. I would definitely recommend this program to other students.