

## Experience report Chiang Mai University

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Study: Double Degree program between OVGU (Otto-von-Guericke-Universität) and CMU (Chiang Mai University)

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### General

The study at the CMU totally satisfied my expectations and offered a great experience, both personal and academic. This exchange program was just newly established, so that I and another fellow student had the pleasure to participate in the program in the first year. I am glad that I could be part of this program and thankful for this great experience. I highly recommend it to the next students in the upcoming years.

### Arrival & Enrollment

After we arrived at the Chiang Mai airport, a Thai employee from the 'Supply Chain and Engineering Management Research Unit' (SCEM) of the CMU picked us up and brought us to the Engineering home, which is located right next to the Faculty of Engineering on the campus grounds. Our advisor from the CMU has arranged this dorm for one week, so that we can stay there until we find an own place to live.



The next day we had a meeting with our contact person and professor who kindly welcomed us and gave us a brief tour of the university. The enrollment process is easy and uncomplicated. We only had to provide a copy of our transcript of records and sign a few sheets.

Since the study is an exchange program and regulated in the double degree agreement between both universities, all courses for the first semester at the CMU are preselected. This made it easy for us,

because we didn't have to think about which courses to enroll in or which are acknowledged by the German university. In the second semester at the CMU we were only required to write a review paper which will be published in an international journal. This is a requirement from the CMU in order to get the Thai degree. In addition, we could voluntarily choose (as we did) to enroll in other courses we are interested in. The only prerequisites are that the courses are offered in this semester and that they are

conducted in English. Nevertheless, we didn't have to write exams and didn't get grades for these courses.

### **Supervision and Support during the semester**

The relationship between students and professors at the CMU is very close, which is very advantageous and creates a relaxed and casual study environment. Students are encouraged to contact their



supervisors/professors whenever questions appear – either personal or via email. Their offices are closely located to the lecture rooms. That allows close supervision and uncomplicated communication. Our professor assigned us two working places in the SCEM where we could do our homework and study. This gave us the possibility to communicate, work together and establish friendships with the Thai students and employees from the SCEM.

### **Study at CMU**

Thai students are very open-minded and easy to get in contact with. It was easy and fun to get to know everybody and study with them. The atmosphere in the class room is very casual and everybody is treated with respect. The study system at CMU uses a different approach from how I know it from German universities and classes are conducted differently. For example, the final grade is composed not only of one final exam at the end of the semester, but of one midterm exam, possibly papers or tests, participation, and the final exam. For the participation part of the grade students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and express their opinions and ideas. The professors often assign groups to work on specific topics or hold presentations.

Beyond the class room students have a lot of opportunities to enjoy the student life. For example, there are free electric vehicles operating on the campus grounds allowing students to get around in the big campus area and between faculties. Small stores, canteens and coffee shops are located within walking distance and invite students to eat healthy food during the lunch break or take a break from study. Moreover, students can participate in several sport activities like football, basketball, badminton, or just work out at the gym.

## Living in Chiang Mai

Chiang Mai is a great city to spend time in. The university is about 5 kilometers from downtown and the



main tourist areas. However, the campus grounds are surrounded by two main streets where students can find everything they need for living without having to go somewhere else. There are a lot of opportunities to spend time around the university, e.g. in the zoo, department stores, bars, or at one of the public markets where you can buy everything from food to clothes and gifts. Nevertheless, it is easy to

get to downtown or the surrounding by using a taxi (red cab) or even an own scooter. There are scooter rental shops everywhere around the university as well as downtown.