



## Chulalongkorn University

2022 – 2023

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
Went smooth. Chula responded quickly whenever I had questions about the recommended documents. Only downside is that I booked my flight relatively late and expensive since I waited until I was sure all the documents were approved. You can take the guess and book earlier.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Was not much needed. Only do not forget to ask UU for a letter concerning public transport compensation that you have to send to DUO.
academic preparation
Start making your study plan and writing your motivational letter a.s.a.p. The courses you intend to study which you put into your study plan doesn't necessarily have to be the ones you register for in Bangkok.
language preparation
Make sure you can speak English 😊
finances
Standard living expenses are generally low (food, transport, accommodation), however nightlife is roughly the same as in the Netherlands. So if you are an active person at night, the expenses will add up.  Thailand as destination does not qualify for an Erasmus grant. I financed most of my living costs with my student loan, which you can keep up while abroad. However, if you want to travel around Thailand and after the semester, try to save as much money beforehand, since you want to get everything out of the experience.
<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I chose 4 courses in the EBA programme: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economics of Anticorruption: Interesting topic since this isn't a course I would have done in Utrecht. The material is applicable to Thailand so it's also nice to learn more about the country, the professor Torplus was the sweetest.</li> <li>2. Chinese Economy &amp; Politics: Probably the most interesting course I had. You learn a lot about the structure of China's economy, including the history and future. The course was taught online, twice a week for 2 hours instead of 3, and ended early November already.</li> <li>3. Economic Development: Not my favourite class</li> <li>4. Basic Thai for foreigners: I highly recommend taking this course, speaking some basic Thai can be very helpful. It's a fun way of learning more about Thai culture as well and you can get into funny situations with the local people. Teacher Kiat is the coolest.</li> </ol>
academic quality of education activities
I have experienced the academic quality of the education to be quite good. I think the class material is a bit easier than in Utrecht, and the grading is a bit more lenient.  The lectures are 3 hours long and this can become quite boring, for most courses it isn't a problem to miss a lecture or two. This depends however on your tutor.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Amazing. Whenever I had a question or concern I could reach out to the exchange coordinator on Line (Thai WhatsApp) and she would respond within minutes.

transfer of credits

Every Chula credit is worth 2 ECTS, usually a single course is worth 3 Chula credits so converted to 6 ECTS.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Try to socialize as much as you can the first weeks, you don't have to be shy! The faculty organizes an introduction day where you can meet some new people and enjoy some food. Also the faculty organized an EBA trip to Phitsanulok province, this was a bit later in the semester. I would highly recommend joining this trip.

accommodation

There are some options most exchange students stay at. I stayed at iSanook which is half hotel and half student accommodation. The neighbourhood is very nice and include great street food places, university is only a 10 minute walk. The accommodation is pretty luxurious, includes a swimming pool and jacuzzi on the rooftop, costs about 500 euros per month. There is room for doing drinks at night but you cannot throw parties. I would recommend staying here but try to find a roommate to share rooms with, so it feels less like you are living in a hotel room!

The majority of exchange students stayed at Nonsi Residence which a bit cheaper, less luxurious and lesser location, however it is a bit more social and also room for parties.

Furthermore you can always try to find an apartment with other people once you made friends.

leisure & culture

Thai culture is so special, experience and respect it. In general the people are very friendly and smile at you, so smile back! Some actions might be considered rude which are not rude in your own culture, so be careful but also don't hesitate to just ask if you are unsure about something. Thai food is also amazing.

I would advise you to schedule your courses as close to each other as possible, so you have long weekends. All my lectures were on Monday, and Tuesday so I had a 5 day weekend in which you have time to travel around Thailand. (Make sure to keep up with the homework though).

suggestions/tips

I would definitely recommend hanging out with the Thai students. I joined the faculty's football team and got to know lots of nice people. There also are different sports in which you can participate. You are assigned a Thai buddy beforehand, reach out to her/him if you want to try out one of the sports or if you have other questions.

Bangkok is huge, even after 5 months there are still places you haven't seen. Take the skytrain, boat taxi, or just a GrabBike or Bolt to an unknown neighbourhood and walk around, explore!

Don't overpack. There are plenty of local clothing markets where you can buy good quality clothes for an affordable price. I would recommend going to Chatuchak market during the weekends and check out the Bang Sue vintage market. It's also a nice place to eat or have a drink after shopping.



Chula recommends and helps you opening a Thai K-bank account. It doesn't take much effort so try to do this a.s.a.p. as you can use your phone to pay everywhere and you can get cash out without having to pay foreign bank commission. Also local people will see that you are a Chula student which of course is incredibly cool.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Definitely. Bangkok is a unique exchange destination out of your comfortable bubble, and surely worth your while.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you have any more specific question, feel free to reach out and ask the international office for my e-mail.



**2019-2020**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The application is quite easy, you need to write an motivation letter and studyplan. However, I choose during my preparation were not available when I arrived in Bangkok and I needed to choose new courses. For the application at Chula you also need to fill in some paperwork. Also, do not forget about your Visa since you will need to go to the Hague 2 times and think about your vaccinations.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht helped my choosing the right subjects beforehand however, as I already wrote those subjects differt from the actual subjects available.
academic preparation
Not necessary
language preparation
You can follow a course Thai at chula however the language is very difficult and you will be fine with speaking english.
finances

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
EBA
academic quality of education activities
The quality of education was very differt a lot across the courses. Some courses were really challenging and very time consuming others where really easy. Economic diplomacy is a course which is really challenging but I would recommend taking it if you have the opportunity. This course is thaught by a Thai diplomat, when I followed the course she invited several speakers to give a guest lecture. For example, the Singapore Chairman of Foreign Affairs and a diplomat of the United States
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
You will get a lot of guidens from the university. You can even line (the thai form of whatsapp) the international affairs Officer if you have any kind of problem and she will help you.
transfer of credits
Every course is worth 3 thai credits which will be converted in to 6 credit per course. So you need to follow 5 courses.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
There is a small EBA student international club. They organize fun activities. as the welcome trip, cooking courses, thai boxing clases and other fun activities where you can get to know other students.



accommodation

Most of the exchange students stay at Nonsi Residence which is the biggest advantage of living there. I stayed at Isanook which is closer to the university and a little bit more luxureus.

leisure & culture

I had only 3 days of class each week, this gives you the opportunity to travel a lot during the weekend. therefore,

suggestions/tips

I would really recommend to try to plan you courses on 3 upfollowing days so you have enough time to travel around.

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, there are lots of exchange students you will make a lot of new friends, you can travel around Thailand and neighbour countries and you will learn a lot!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

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2017-2018

<b>preparation</b>
exchange/placement application process
The placement and application process went smoothly. However it is a bit lengthy which isn't great for booking your airplane tickets.
counselling/support at home university
For general questions adequate although there isn't a central point and information is a bit fragmented. For specific question on the Bangkok exchange destination no help was available and no one seemed to know anything.
academic preparation
The exchange fits within your schedule if you take 5(or more) courses in Bangkok.
language preparation
As it is practically impossible to learn Thai in a short period you will be fine if you speak decent English.
finances
I had planned my finances way in advance, how much you spend depends greatly on how you live.
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
You must take 5 courses to get the appropriate amount of ECT's. The information on which courses will be offered is not available until the time that you are already in Bangkok. It can be a bit unclear which courses are at what level and you might have to try more than ones.
academic quality of education/placement activities
Like at home this varies per course, some are harder and interesting some boring or easy.
counselling/support at host institution/organisation
Quite good, you get emailed some information. However things are more chaotic then back home and you will just have to go with certain things.
transfer of credits
Easy. Each course at CU is worth 5 ECTS at UU
<b>student life</b>
welcome/orientation programme
The welcome and orientation programme is quite extensive and early. There is a trip and it helps in getting to know the other exchange students. It's a bit harder to make a connection with your Thai fellow students despite the buddy program.
accommodation
I would not recommend going for iHouse, though relatively affordable it's overly strict and I believe not great value. I stayed most of my time in iSanook residence which I would recommend.



leisure/culture
Bangkok is a cosmopolitan city and offers various forms of entertainment and culture as well as cheap and plentiful flights to destinations in South East Asia. Thai culture is relaxed and very friendly and I have come to love it during my time in Bangkok/
suggestions/tips
Do try out the local mini restaurants. Also Tesco Lotus is a great place to get both groceries and home supplies such as blankets and even household electronics if you need them.
<b>conclusions</b>
would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain
Definitely would, Bangkok will change you. It's the best 6 months of my live
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Have fun!

<b>reparation</b>
exchange/placement application process
I attended an orientation session about studying abroad and decided to apply. I made a top 3 list of the universities I wanted to go to most, based on location and available courses. Overall, there are quite some application forms that you have to hand in which also require various stamps and signatures from supervisors. These can take some time so I suggest doing them as soon as possible. Furthermore, going to the website of the universities and finding the courses that they offer for exchange students can be tricky and a tedious grind scrolling through endless websites.
counselling/support at home university
Support from U.S.E. was overall fast and helpful. However, the exchange desk has a clear understanding of how overall exchange preparation works instead of university specific knowledge. For these university specific question e.g. dorm options/application forms, it is better to contact the abroad university.
academic preparation
I participated in the exchange programme after my third year the Economics and Business Economics programme. I did not engage in any additional academic preparation.
language preparation
My English proficiency is quite decent as it is, so I did not make any special preparations. The level of English for the other exchange students was average and comparable to the level of English for most Dutch students. The level of English of Thai students was a little below that, so in general I would not worry about language preparation. I also did not take any preparations in terms of learning Thai. It is useful to know some basic words in Thai, but most Thai people understand at least a little bit English so I would not deem it necessary.
finances
I financed everything myself. There were options for scholarship available but I did not meet the requirements. Additionally, you can get OV-compensation of around 90 euros a month. However, this process



takes some time and requires you to hand in some forms and get signatures from the university, do this on time since otherwise you won't get it.

**study/placement abroad period**

study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

I took 4 courses at Chulalongkorn University. Agricultural Economics, Economic Diplomacy, Thai Economy and World Trading System. There were some organizational issues with respect to enrolling for the courses. However, these issues were solved quickly.

academic quality of education/placement activities

Overall, academic quality was a little below the level at home. Most courses have only lectures which last three hours. Lectures are overall a little slow and more focused on reproduction of knowledge than at home. None of my courses required any books that I had to purchase. One of my courses, agricultural economics had a mandatory weekend field-trip to fruit farms in an eastern province. In terms of grading, many courses have 3 of more components that contribute to the final grade such as group-projects, presentations, papers and simulation-exercises.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

support from the host university was generally quick and helpful. However, when speaking in person, some staff was not very proficient in English so describing what you needed could be a little challenging.

transfer of credits

1-2 weeks after my last exams, my grades were already available. I have not further engaged in transferring my credits so I cannot comment on this.

**student life**

welcome/orientation programme

Welcome and orientation from the EBA programme at Chulalongkorn University was extensive and well executed. There were plenty of activities with other exchange students and Thai students including Muay Thai boxing class, Thai cooking class, Thai language classes and visits to e.g. Jim Thompson house. The exchange started off with a weekend trip to Chanthaburi. The whole trip was neatly organized in terms of hotel, transportation and activities to become acquainted with the other students.

accommodation

There are basically 3 options for housing that I knew exchange students used. 1: CUiHouse 2: iSanook Residence. 3: Nonsi-Residence.

1: CUiHouse are the dormitories from the university. The location of this place is great, since it is the closest to the university grounds(15 minutes walking) and other facilities such as the MBK. Additionally, you can take a shuttle bus to class. CUiHouse :

- Free cleaning twice a month
- Mostly Asian exchange students
- Quite strict, no visiting other floors, no alcohol, not really any place to hang out in the building.
- Convenient 7eleven nearby.
- Quite uncomfortable beds.





- Around 14000 baht per month, cheapest electricity and water bill of the three.
- Says there is a TV, when there isn't

iSanook:

- Double functions as hotel, mostly European students
- More expensive than iHouse, in terms of rent and utility cost
- Good, comfortable beds
- A little further than iHouse (20 minute walk) and no shuttle service
- Has a small gym, pool and Jacuzzi. Also has room-service for food.
- Has very good, cheap and convenient dining options very close; also a 7eleven.
- Overall the place I would most recommend .

Nonsi- Residence

- Furthest away, not really convenient to go to the university. Some people opted to go by scooter, potentially dangerous due to chaotic traffic.
- Mostly European students, a lot of opportunities to go partying and drinking.
- Cheaper than iHouse in terms of rent, more expensive utility cost.
- Has a pool
- Would most recommend if you are planning to out a lot and go partying and want to hang out mostly with other European exchange students.

leisure/culture

Personally, I did not have to spend a lot of time studying so there is plenty of time for leisure, like going out and traveling around. I would recommend to cluster your courses on a few days, so you have the most time for travelling in a week. However, missing a few classes is not that severe so you should be fine. I have a very positive experience with the Thai culture. Most people are relatively laid-back, friendly and willing to help. For more in-depth nuances of Thai culture, Google is your best friend

suggestions/tips

Don't expect to do any cooking of your own. In Thai culture, everyone goes out for dinner and lunch all the time. It is generally cheap, tasty and convenient.

Use Uber and Grab instead of taxi's whenever you can. They are usually cheaper and more convenient.

Go travel around in Thailand and other countries like Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Thai people are usually never on-time. Arriving at 9:20 when you agreed to meet at 9:00 is perfectly acceptable in Thailand

**conclusions**

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend Chulalongkorn University. However, I think it is better as an exchange experience where you immerse yourself in a different culture and travel around than to go to Bangkok for its level of education.



**Utrecht  
University**

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't lose your departure card. You need this document when leaving the country, or extending your visa. Getting a new one is a pain the ass.