

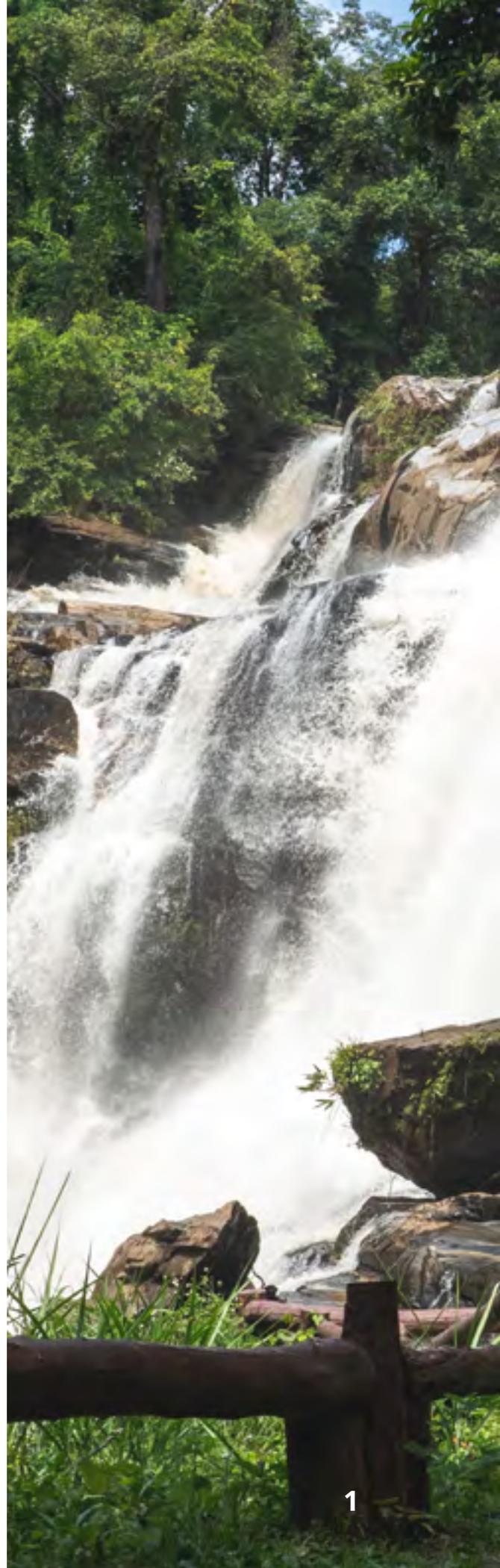
Thailand

Study



Introduction/ Philosophy

A key component of the Semester in Development Thailand program are the university courses, offered through our partner university in Chiang Mai, Chiang Mai University (CMU). As a participant in the Semester in Development, you will be enrolled as a student at CMU, one of the top ranked universities in Thailand. Your CMU registration fees, tuition, course materials and transcripts are all covered within the SID program cost. The academic portion of the SID program allows you to engage with relevant topics, taught by local professors, while earning transferable upper level course credits.





The Semester in Development's academic component emphasizes small class sizes, instruction from local professors, as well as curriculum tailored to the program themes and location.

The courses are specifically designed for the SID program, and include seminar-style discussions and projects that relate to the internship component of the program. After successful completion of the courses, you will receive an internationally accredited transcript from Chiang Mai University, ensuring your credits can be transferred back to your home university.

Courses through the SID Thailand program are focused on development issues relevant to the context, specifically in the areas of international relations, human rights and ethnic conflict. While the courses are offered within the university's Faculty of Political Science, the content is designed to be accessible to students from all academic backgrounds.



Classes at Chiang Mai University

As a participant in the Semester in Development: Thailand program, you'll be automatically enrolled in two courses at Chiang Mai University, located in central Chiang Mai. You'll spend each Friday on campus at CMU with your fellow cohort members.

The first week of classes at CMU will include an overview of the course outlines and assignments for the semester, as well as a quick introduction to campus. The courses will include both individual and group essays and presentations, rather than a final exam.

The two SID Thailand courses offered by Chiang Mai University are *IR 433: Human Rights and Humanitarian Works in International Relations* & *GOV 433: Seminar on Ethnic Politics*.



Human Rights and Humanitarian Works in International Relations is focused on providing foundational knowledge related to the meaning and the importance of human rights. The course will explore the origin and history of human rights, international mechanisms and covenants on human rights, as well the major human rights problems within the international relations arena. The course content will especially emphasize the new human rights issues and democratization development in Asia.

The Seminar on Ethnic Politics will provide students with an introduction to ethnic politics and conflict. Students will examine the causes of ethnic conflict, the emergence of ethno-nationalism and violence, as well as the effects of ethnic conflict. The course will also look at methods for ethnic conflict resolution, negotiation and post-conflict development.

Classes are 2-3 hours in length and are structured as a lecture-seminar hybrid. The classes are arranged specifically for Insight participants which means that class sizes are small, and professors get to know you on a first name basis.



Transportation to Campus

Chiang Mai University's campus is located about a 15 minute drive from the Insight student accommodation. Most participants travel to CMU via motorcycle taxi or by sharing a Grab Taxi, amounting to \$2-5.





A day in the life

07:30
am

Wake up, shower, make breakfast and get ready for school!

08:30
am

Start heading to class. The time you leave will be dependent on your preferred mode of transportation or, during the rainy season in particular, the weather.

09:00
am

You spend the morning attending your first course, Human Rights and Humanitarian Works in International Relations. Today you're analyzing a documentary about the roles of ASEAN governmental organizations in improving human rights standards in Southeast Asia.

12:00
pm

Lunch time! You spend your quick lunch break at the canteen, conveniently located just beside the Political Science building where your classes are being held. The canteen has basic snacking and meal options.

01:00
pm

The afternoon is spent attending the Seminar on Ethnic Conflict. Today's class is focused on a discussion about gender, security and religious freedom in post-conflict societies

04:00
pm

You head home from campus, and stop by at MAYA Shopping Centre for a workout at the gym upstairs.

07:00
pm

You join your fellow SID cohort members for dinner, followed by live music and drinks in the Old City to celebrate the weekend. Weekends are free for you to plan as you like - you might spend some weekends relaxing in Chiang Mai, or if you're feeling adventurous, you might take advantage of all Thailand has to offer and take a weekend trip out of the city.





Credit Transfer & Transcripts

Each academic institution has different instructions on how its students can obtain course credits from an overseas institution. It is extremely important that you connect with your academic advisor as soon as possible to inquire about the steps you need to take in order to ensure that the courses you will take at CMU can transfer back to your home university.

For many universities, the typical method for obtaining international course credits is through a 'Letter of Permission' (LOP). Your academic advisor will be able to provide details of the exact requirements and deadlines for the credit transfer process at your home university. Should you require the CMU course outlines as part of your university's credit transfer process, your SID Program Director will send it to you prior to your arrival in Thailand.

Following the successful completion of your courses at CMU, Insight will arrange to have your official transcript sent directly to the relevant office at your home university. This will take place the week immediately following your completion of the SID program.



FAQs

Q: Will the courses transfer back to my home university?

A: We recommend that every student contact their academic advisor to confirm whether they will be able to transfer credits from Chiang Mai University. The transfer process is outlined in more detail in the previous section, titled 'Credit Transfer & Transcripts'. Please note that these are upper level courses, and some universities have regulations around when upper level courses can be taken during your university career.

Q: Will I study alongside local students?

A: Insight's program schedule does not align with CMU's academic calendar for each semester. This means that our courses are set up specifically for the SID program, and will only include SID participants. However, there are a number of opportunities to engage with local CMU students – whether it be through attending events hosted by the university or by joining CMU student clubs.

Q: How are the courses graded?

A: The Chiang Mai University courses offered through the Semester in Development are evaluated through a numerical grading scheme. The courses do not include exams; instead, graded assessments take the form of essays, class engagement/ participation, and presentations.

A vertical photograph of a wooden desk. At the top, a pair of sunglasses with dark lenses and thin frames lies on the surface. Below them is a white coffee cup on a matching saucer, filled with a latte and topped with a dusting of brown powder. To the right of the coffee is a white card with a pattern of orange polka dots. In the lower half of the image, a silver laptop is open, and a person's hands are visible typing on the keyboard. At the bottom, a smartphone with a pink and white polka-dot case is lying on the desk.

FAQs

Q: I'm not an International Development student. Can I still take the classes?

A: While the subject matter is focused on development-related issues, the courses are designed to be accessible to students from a range of academic backgrounds and disciplines. The CMU professors are more than willing to offer additional assistance if required, and small class sizes mean that you'll be given one-on-one attention and support. The credits you are able to earn will transfer to your home institution as elective credits.

“ The Semester in Development made me really stand out to potential employers.

Thanks to the program, all of my interviews went really smooth. Living in Fiji was a big conversation topic during my interviews. The experience made me seem like a more interesting and well-rounded person. I was able to get a job with the company of my dreams soon after returning home, and I credit a lot of that to my experiences abroad, and my abilities to convey what I did in Fiji. In the last year since coming home, I've done so many more things that I would have never tried before. I am more adventurous. I used to say no to things a lot. I now say yes to opportunities a lot more than I ever used to or could have imagined. //

- Nadine Maier

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