

## [THAÏLANDE] – [Mahidol University International College]

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<sup>1</sup> To update the agenda just click right on your moose



## I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

My semester abroad was an incredibly enriching experience, both academically and personally. Studying in a new environment allowed me to step out of my comfort zone, discover a different culture, and develop greater independence. I had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, which really broadened my perspective and improved my adaptability and communication skills.

Academically, the courses were interesting and often more interactive than what I am used to. It helped me improve my English level, especially in professional and academic contexts. Outside of university, traveling and exploring the region made this experience even more memorable.

What I particularly appreciated was the atmosphere at the university. The environment was very positive and stress-free, which made learning much more enjoyable. Professors were very supportive, attentive, and approachable.

If I could go back in time, I would definitely choose this university again. The international atmosphere, the student life on campus, and the overall experience made it a unique and valuable part of my academic journey. The welcoming and supportive environment is definitely one of the main reasons why I would come back.

**GRADE : 5/5**

*=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) - 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)*

## II. Before the travel

### A. Preparation

#### 1. Visa

Yes, you will need a visa to study in Thailand. You should apply for a Non-Immigrant ED (Education) visa before your departure. The application is usually done online and requires several documents provided by your host university.

You will need to prepare and upload multiple documents (passport, photos, university documents, etc.), so it is important to start the process early. Once your application is submitted, the processing time is generally around 2 to 3 weeks, but it can vary, so it is better not to wait until the last minute.

After arriving in Thailand, you will also need to complete additional administrative steps with immigration, such as reporting your address and possibly extending your visa depending on your length of stay. The university's international office is very helpful and will guide you through each step, which makes the process much easier to handle.

## 2. The flight

I took a flight with Air France from Paris to Bangkok, arriving at Suvarnabhumi Airport. I booked my ticket approximately 1 to 2 months before the beginning of the semester.

I would recommend arriving in Thailand at least one to two weeks before the start of classes. Personally, I arrived about two weeks early, which gave me enough time to settle in, get familiar with the environment, and adapt to the climate and time difference. This made the beginning of the semester much smoother and less stressful.

## 3. My luggage

When preparing your luggage, it is important to adapt to the local climate. Bring lightweight and breathable clothes, as the weather is hot and humid most of the time. Comfortable shoes are also essential.

For academic purposes, you mainly only need a laptop or an iPad, as most courses are digital. It is not necessary to bring a lot of school supplies such as notebooks or pens.

Do not forget important items such as a power adapter, basic medication, and copies of your important documents (both digital and printed). A small backpack is also very useful for daily life and traveling.

Overall, it is better not to overpack, as you can easily buy anything you need once you arrive. Traveling light will make your experience much easier and more comfortable.

## 4. Bank account

You do not necessarily need to open a Thai bank account before your departure. In my case, I kept my French bank account (Banque Populaire) and used an international bank card, which allowed me to withdraw money and pay without excessive fees.

However, in Thailand, many daily payments are made using QR codes (local payment system), especially for food stalls, small shops, or transportation. In these situations, a regular international card is not always accepted.

To make payments easier, I got a prepaid Thai card (without opening a full bank account). This type of card allows you to deposit money and use it for QR code payments or withdrawals.

You can obtain this card at exchange counters, such as those operated by KBank (Kasikorn Bank). To load money onto the card, you must deposit foreign currency (such as euros). It is not possible to directly deposit Thai baht. Therefore, it is important to keep some euros with you to use this service. The deposit is done directly at the counter.

This solution is very practical for daily life and avoids the need to open a full Thai bank account.

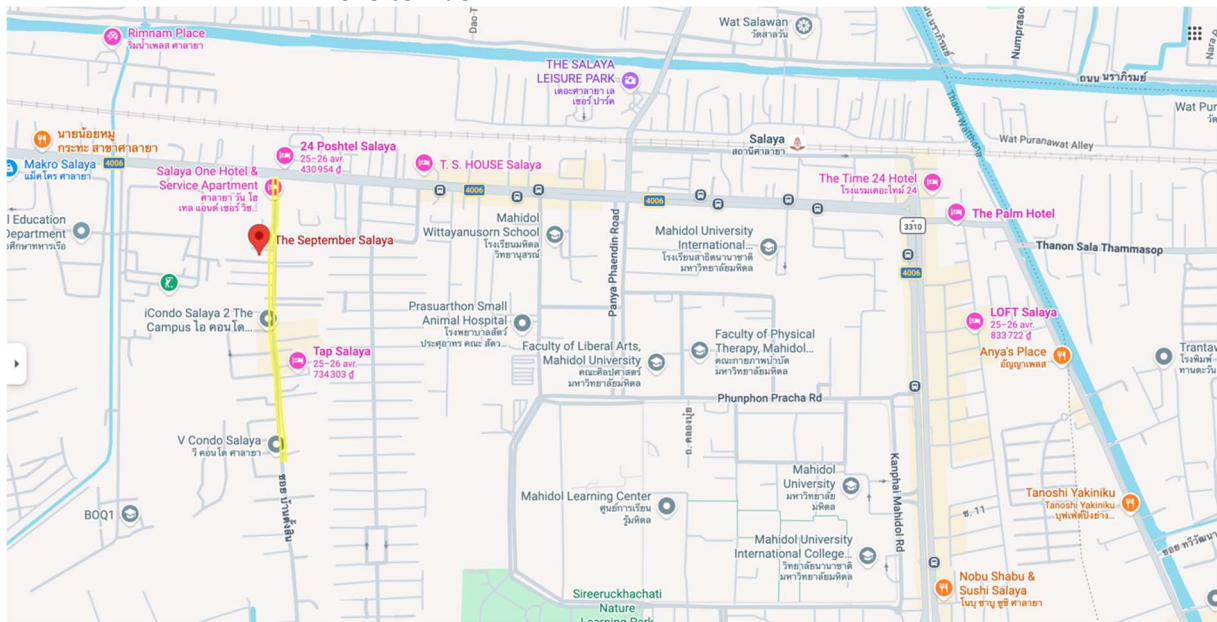
## 5. Insurance

I subscribed to Allianz insurance before my departure, which covered me during my stay abroad.

In addition, once I arrived at the university, I received a local insurance card provided by the university. This insurance included basic coverage (around 10,000 baht) in case of accidents. It is a useful complement, but it is still important to have your own international insurance for full coverage.

## B. Housing

### 1. Where to live



The only area I would really recommend is the main street (in yellow on the map) where most of the condominiums are located near the university. This is where the majority of international students live, which makes it much easier to meet people and enjoy your experience.

This area is also very convenient because everything you need is available within walking distance: street food stalls, 7-Eleven for daily shopping, pharmacies, coffee, restaurants, and even places like McDonald's.

Living in this area allows you to be close to both the university and student life, which makes your daily routine much easier and more enjoyable. I would not recommend living far from this street, as you would miss out on both convenience and the social aspect of the experience.

## 2. Find a flat or a room

I found my accommodation through the list of residences provided by Mahidol University. I contacted them directly via the LINE application, which is commonly used in Thailand.

The residences offered are mostly condominiums, which provide many facilities such as a swimming pool, gym, study areas (libraries), and a shuttle van service to the university. This makes daily life very convenient and comfortable for students.

It is very important to start looking early, as the best accommodations fill up quickly. If you wait too long, you may only find options that are further away from the university.

## 3. Cost

In my case, I chose a larger apartment because my family came to visit me. It was a condominium with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and 1 living rooms. I paid around €400 per month, excluding water and electricity (which are not very expensive).

However, there are also more affordable options: smaller apartments or studios can cost around €100 - €200 per month, while still offering access to the same facilities (pool, gym, shuttle, etc.).

# III. When I arrive at the university

## A. Inscription at the university

When you arrive at the university, you need to confirm your course selection. You usually have around two weeks to modify your choices if needed. This allows you to attend different classes at the beginning and adjust your schedule depending on your preferences.

The process is quite simple and well organized, and the university staff is available to help if you have any questions.

## B. Information on the university

### 1. Class

The classroom environment was very positive and interactive. Students were generally engaged and willing to participate, especially during group work and discussions.

There is a strong international atmosphere, with students from many different countries, which makes exchanges very interesting and enriching. It also helps to improve communication skills and openness to different cultures.

Classes are often based on interaction rather than traditional lectures, which encourages participation and makes the learning experience more dynamic.

Overall, the atmosphere in class is relaxed, supportive, and motivating, which makes it easier to feel comfortable and involved.

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## 2. Organization of the Class

Classes usually last around 1 hour and 50 minutes. They are spread throughout the day, and there is no common lunch break for all students. Therefore, it is important to organize your schedule carefully and make sure you have at least a one-hour break to eat.

However, professors are generally flexible and allow short breaks during class when needed, so students can get food or rest.

Teachers are very kind, supportive, and attentive. They do not put pressure on students, which creates a positive learning environment.

The workload is reasonable. Professors provide the slides, so the main goal during class is to listen and participate. Notes and materials are usually shared with students.

## 3. List of courses and recommendation

### 1. E-Business (4 credits) – 5/5

This course covers the basics of online business from different perspectives, which makes it very interesting and useful to discover a new field. The professor is very engaging and teaches in an interactive way. There are no traditional lectures: each class includes quizzes, group work, or mind maps, which makes the course dynamic and practical. The level is overall easier than courses at MOMA. I highly recommend it.

### 2. Principles of Marketing (4 credits) – 4/5

This course provides a solid foundation in marketing and covers many aspects of the subject. There is practical work at the end of each class, usually in groups. It is a very useful course, although a bit more classic in its structure. The level is also easier than at MOMA.

### 3. Business Event Essentials (2 credits) – 5/5

This course introduces the basics of event management. It is a great way to discover a new field. The classes are dynamic, and the professor is very kind, supportive, and close to students. The level is easier than at MOMA, which makes it very accessible. I highly recommend it.

### 4. Navigating the Market Landscape (2 credits) – 4/5

This course helps you understand market dynamics from an international perspective. It gives a good overview of how markets function. The professor is very friendly and makes the class interesting. The level is slightly easier than at MOMA.

### 5. Fashion and Society (2 credits) – 5/5

This was my favorite course. If you are interested in fashion, you will love it. The professor is passionate and enjoys explaining the history of fashion across different periods. It is very

enriching and engaging. The level is easier than at MOMA, making it enjoyable without being too demanding.

#### 4. Exam

Regarding assessments, there are midterms and final exams, but some professors choose continuous assessment instead, meaning there is no final exam. In most courses, there is at least one presentation (group or individual) and a small assignment.

Exams usually last 1 hour and 50 minutes and are often written on paper. Grades are given in letters, which can make it a bit difficult to convert them into numerical grades.

Students are required to wear a uniform, especially for presentations and exams. Some professors are more flexible, but others strictly require it.

## IV. When I life there

### A. Safety

Yes, Salaya is very safe, and Bangkok is also generally safe. I did not experience any major issues during my stay. As always, it is important to stay aware of your surroundings, especially at night, but overall it is a very safe environment for students.

### B. Phone and Internet

There is Wi-Fi available in most public places such as cafés, shopping malls, restaurants (like McDonald's), and also in student accommodations.

For mobile data, I personally used my French plan (Free), which included around 35GB of data in Thailand. This was very convenient. However, I was not able to make regular phone calls with my number, but apps like WhatsApp worked perfectly for communication.

### C. Events

There are many ways to stay informed about events. The university regularly organizes activities, and information is usually shared through emails, social media, or student groups.

You can also hear about events directly from other students, which is very common in such an international environment. There are often cultural events, student gatherings, and activities organized both on campus and in Bangkok.

### D. Sports

There are many sports facilities and clubs available on campus. You can practice a wide variety of activities such as gym, tennis, swimming, football, and basketball.

The choice is very diverse, and it is easy to find an activity that suits your interests.

## E. Eating

You need to be careful about where you eat to make sure the food is fresh, especially when eating street food.

On campus, there are many food stalls offering a wide range of meals. You can then eat in the food courts, which are shared spaces with tables, chairs, and everything needed to eat comfortably.

Outside campus, it is important to know that most apartments do not have a fully equipped kitchen. You can either buy a small cooker (around €10) or eat outside. There are many food stalls near the condominiums that are very good and generally safe.

## F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

Most condominiums provide a shuttle van service to the university. You usually need to register your schedule (start and end times), and they will take you to campus and pick you up.

Alternatively, apps like Grab or Bolt are very cheap and convenient for transportation.

## G. Travels

I recommend exploring both the north and the south of Thailand, in addition to Bangkok, as they are very different and offer a complete experience of the country.

You can also easily travel to neighboring countries such as Vietnam or Laos, which are great destinations for short trips.

There are many affordable flights within Asia, which makes traveling very accessible during your exchange.

## H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

It is important to know that the culture is very different, with new habits, flavors, and ways of living. It may take some time to adapt, but this is also what makes the experience so enriching.

Being open-minded and adaptable will help you fully enjoy your stay.

## V. After your semester abroad

### A. What are you planning do to?

Next year, I would like to continue my studies by pursuing a Master's degree in Marketing. If I am not accepted, I am considering taking a gap year. During this time, I would like to gain professional experience, and possibly return to Asia for an internship.

### B. Did you apply for master?

Yes, I applied to several Master's programs in Marketing. I am currently waiting for the results.