

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

I am really happy and glad that I experienced one semester abroad at first I really wanted to go to Shanghai or Seoul but I couldn't be happier here to be honest, I am really happy I got accepted at Mahidol. I would choose this university and this country over anything. The campus is beautiful, the people are really nice and it is easy to live in Thailand.

GRADE : 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

You need a student visa to study here like every country outside of Europe and the Erasmus program I think, it is not that complicated to manage, you must get your flight and your accommodation beforehand, they can also ask you additional documents but no worries about that. To get into Thailand you only have to fill the TDAC like the ESTA to get into the US, you must fill this document like in many country in Asia (Malaysia, Taiwan and more), it is at least 3 days before you get into the country but it is super easy to fill, you can do that at the airport, even just before getting to the security in Thailand. With your student visa you can travel everywhere you want, for example I think in South Korea and in China you can't leave the country while studying or at least during your semester abroad, but here you can do whatever you want you just need to feel a re-entry permit enabling you to get your student visa back, because when you leave the country it cancels your visa but with this re-entry permit it keeps your visa "alive", but everything is super easy if you have any issue you can go to the exchange student office they will help you and guide you. After 3 months, you will have to renew your visa, only for 15 days, so you must go to the Immigration Office in Nakhon Pathom, which is pretty far away (like 40min), its easy to get all the document and do the visa renewal the only concern is that its far from Mahidol and from your accommodation, also you must be careful about the national holydays it wont be open (for example its close for 3 days during Songkran).

2. The flight

I made the easiest choice, I booked a direct flight with Air France, from Montpellier to Bangkok with one stop at Charles de Gaulle, anticipate booking your flight and get the cheapest, I got mine at like 800€ just one way and I could have get it for cheaper. My flight was one January 1st and school started on January 5th if I remember correctly so maybe you can go earlier than that to get familiar with the environment and most importantly to meet people before and get friends on the integration day.

3. My luggage

You only need basic stuff, things you really need, but I got everything I needed to leave there like for my kitchen, my bathroom etc....So you don't need to get your luggage full because you will buy a lot of things here.

4. Bank account

I didn't had to change bank account but here, in many places, you can only pay by QR code so I would recommend making a Thai account, you can do one here and you will be able to pay by QR code but to fill this account you need Euro or USD in cash, no Baht or anything I think, you can only use it by depositing Euros in cash. I would really recommend making a Thai account though.

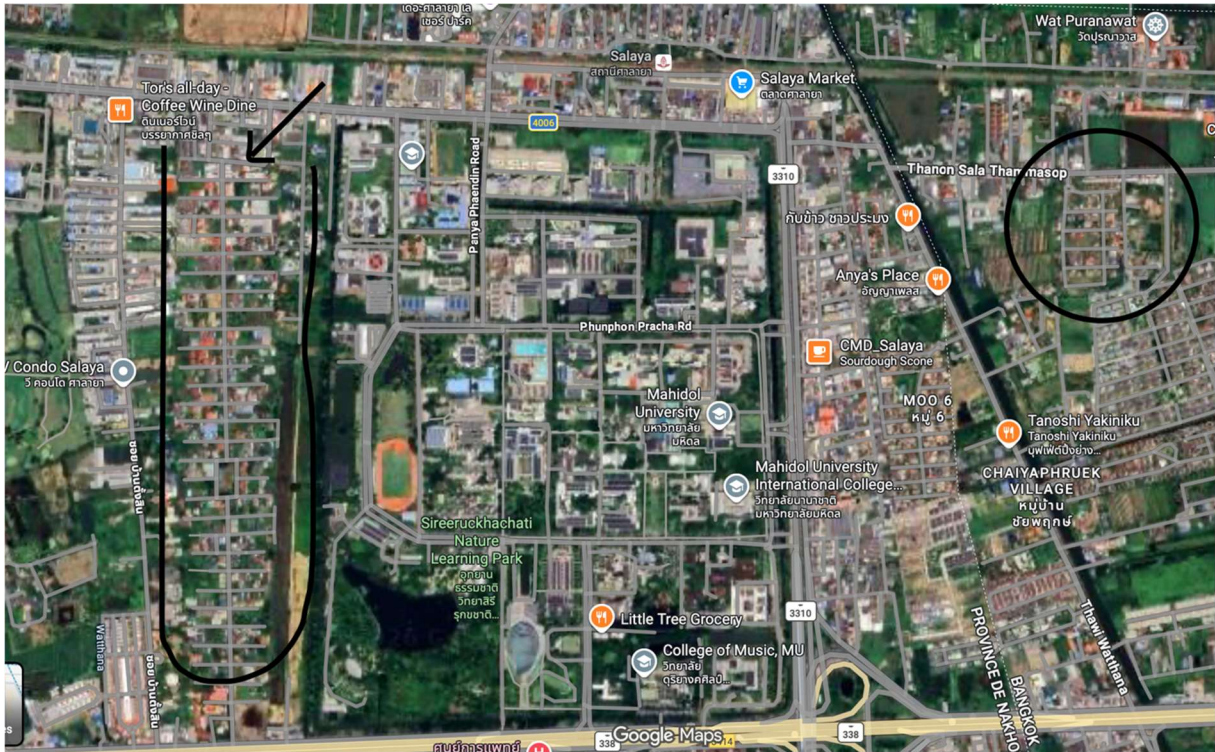
5. Insurance

I subscribed to Chapka insurance, the university also gave us an insurance, but I didn't need anything during the semester.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

I live at Salaya International House, the closest to the university entrance, next to a huge street with food etc just in front of the university entrance, many people live next to this street (you can see the buildings) and there are many things to do and there is a market nearby to by fruits, vegetables and food. But I think the best place is where there is the arrow, its where most of the students live, so if you want a more dynamic environment and many people and most foreign students it's the best place to live, September Salaya is pretty good I think that's where Juliette lived and many Germans as well. My place with still pretty good and pretty calm, it wasn't the fanciest place but still pretty good and decent placement but far from everyone.



2. Find a flat or a room

I find my apartment through the links Mahidol gave us, all the condos are nearby the university.

3. Cost

Around 250€

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

The university sends you an email, you have to send some documents, BUT for Juliette and I, we had some issues, first the TOEIC is not accepted here so you need either to pass another test or to have a document from the French university saying you have a B2 level in English, then you need a full English transcript of all the classes you had during all the years in your French university. At first, we have been rejected because we didn't know about these documents, and we were a bit panicking but in the end nothing is really complicated you must just follow all the instruction and if you have any issue or misunderstanding you can email the office.

B. Information on the university

1. Class



I tried to explain every class quickly in the answer 3, but globally class is pretty easy and stressless, everyone is chill you can take a break whenever you want during the class. At first its disturbing because it is completely different than in France, you don't have any pressure and everyone is here to help you and no one is stressed by anything. The building is amazing you have food, 7-11 and beverages. You have AC in the class so you might need a sweater because you might get cold.

2. Organization of the Class

Each class lasts 1h50, you have to work weekly on your different projects and assignments, so depending on the class you may have a lot of work plus you need of course to study for your midterms and exams. Teachers are nice and are here to help you pass, they will always help you for any problem, they are not here to be bad with you. The atmosphere is really chill and stressless, you have no pressure, you can come and go during the class if you want a break or anything.

3. List of courses and recommendation

I had 5 courses, which is a lot here, they have between 3 and 6 courses but many of them have 4, depending on the class it can be intense, for my part it was as I had a lot of work for most of the classes I had. Here are my 5 classes :

-International Business Management : its all about international management, really interesting I enjoyed the class but a lot of work combine with the other courses, for the first weeks its ok then it becomes intense, every week you must do a MQC, during the trimester you have 2 groups presentation one is about 1 chapter of the class and the other about a case study it's a 30min presentation, then you have one solo presentation about a current event it's a 10 min presentation, you also have to write a report about the implementation of a brand in a specific field in a country, then you have the final exam, the content of the class is not that hard but you must work every week, if your goal is to enjoy life in Thailand explore etc. maybe you shouldn't take this class. The teacher from section 1 was really nice and helpful

-Business Finess for Entrepreneurs : its basic finance that you have from L2 to L3, so pretty easy, but you apply it in real life, through exercises and project, I enjoyed this class, you have to work weekly though, you have one midterm, MQC to fill, one group project and one final exam, the project is about creating a business and making all the financial statement, like a real life business, with a group of 6 members that will become your main friends in this class, the project is pretty complicated as you need to line up with everyone, misunderstanding, misinterpretation and more you work on it through all the trimester, you have several consultation in front of the class (like mini presentation about your project) during each step of the project and at the end before turning in everything you have a presentation to finalize everything, then you must write a report about your project, it's a lot of work but I think its ok, the teacher from section 2 was really nice

-Principle of marketing : its basic marketing so pretty easy, you have a group for your whole trimester, you have a turn in weekly assignment with your group, you have one group project, no midterms, one final exam and a business game to do. It is easy, the

assignments are ok and you have to work on it with your group, its not too much work but you still have to work every week

-Business events essentials : it is all about how to create an event, it was pretty interesting, really easy, you have one assignment, one group project and one final exam, the group project is about making an event, not too much weekly work, you still need to study and make your project

-Leadership of effective leaders : it was the easiest class, the teacher is really nice, really easy, its basically like the management class we have but easier, you only have few assignments in class, one presentation at the end and one exam with MQC and small questions to answer. I would recommend this one it was easy.

4. Exam

Everything is explained in the former answer.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

It is really safe especially around university when you will be most of the time, people are really nice it's a mix of locals and students, everyone is helpful and its really good. You must still be careful when you go to Bangkok, I never had any problem but be careful, always go with someone but it remains safe and Thai people are always nice and helpful/

B. Phone and Internet

I used Free for the whole time, and you have wifi at university and at home.

C. Events

On the different Instagram account of the university you have several accounts for several things I don't really know them but it is really easy to find.

D. Sports

You can do many sports : football, basketball, tennis, go swimming, go to the gym and more.

E. Eating

You have food everywhere, street-food, markets, 7-eleven etc. So food is the first thing you will find here, in the university you have many places to eat, in front of the university on the other side of the street you have a whole street of food places and behind the university you have many places to eat as well.

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

You have bus, or bike with grab which is really fast

G. Travels

Don't forget to fill your re-entry permit and travel as much as you can either during your semester or just after if you can but the good thing about South-East Asia is that nothing is really expensive compared to Europe and the U.S, so I recommend to travel a lot. I went to Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia and it was all amazing, Chang Mai, Chang Rai and everything next to Krabi is amazing with al the islands etc, if you want to really discover a country maybe its better to wait after the final exams and travel when you have the time. When I travelled during the semester it was only for few days so I couldn't do all Vietnam for example.

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

I would go to see and talk to more people directly and get as much friends as I can, the most people I met, I met them 1 or 2 months after the beginning I was really shy but don't be, go to talk to people Thai people are the nicest. Also if you can, go to the integration day, you will meet all the other exchange students. I would recommend to either take a lots of different clothes for different weather or nothing and be prepared to buy everything here Bangkok is a very good place to do shopping and if you go to Vietnam it is amazing for it to. I didn't have enough sweater because you will get used to the warmth and in class you will need a sweater. And for traveling I didn't had any raincoat and I needed one to go to Taiwan but you can buy so many clothes here, there are malls everywhere.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

I would like to have a master degree I like.

B. Did you apply for master?

I don't have the result yet.

[remember to fill in the excel : <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11-vB4ABdkzIJR1AQ82drWyAVXfnCpRYr8COkeKihnlS/edit?usp=sharing>]

