

Report Summer Semester 2023 (January – May)

I spent my semester abroad in Thailand at SIIT (Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology) from January 03 to May 20 2023. It was a great experience and I can recommend the University and the country for your semester abroad.

Application phase

The application phase is not too stressful, I applied through TUM SOMex where you choose your favourite three universities so the possibilities of being accepted is high. In a document you can see if it was easy or difficult for the students of the last semesters to get accepted to a certain university so you can estimate your chances of being accepted. You should put thought in your motivational letter but you also get guidelines on what you should include in the letter.

Preparation

About the preparation I can say that you receive structured information in an excel sheet about what you have to hand in with deadlines, so you will not miss anything. I applied for an e-visa 1.5 months before going abroad and that was enough time. The visa will be valid for 90 days and then you will have to extend it on site, but your supervisor will support and help you to do it on site. I recommend checking which vaccines you need before going abroad and also getting an international health insurance.

The host university will give you information about possible accommodations with prices and reviews of the students, so you can decide which accommodation you prefer. The coordinator or your buddy (which will contact you before the start of the semester and will answer all your questions) will help you get the accommodation you choose. I stayed at Golf View and I am happy with my choice as it is at a low rent and there are supermarkets, laundry places and a food court around. But most other exchange students stayed at Dcondo and I heard they also liked it there. The accommodations the university recommends are all not too far from campus, it takes around 10-15 minutes to reach the main campus from the accommodations. From the Golf View accommodation you have to take a van (it takes you from Golf View to the main road for free and goes every 15 minutes) for 5 minutes and then walk for 10 minutes. From Dcondo or Accompark you can walk in 10-15 minutes to main campus Rangsit. If you are taking MT (Management Technology) courses as I did, you will have to take the bus from main campus (Rangsit) to another campus (Bangkadi) which takes around 30 minutes. The buses are scheduled and for free. There was also a student staying more inside Bangkok, it will take about 30-60 minutes to get to the main campus from inside the city.

Arrival

I checked in at Golf View on January 3rd, there was one staff who was talking English and showed me the room. But there are not many employees speaking English. The orientation week was from January 3rd until January 6th. You meet your buddy and the other exchange students and get a tour on Rangsit Campus and Bangkadi Campus. The next days the buddies organise games to get to know each other and there is a trip to Thaprachan campus of Thammasat university which is more central in Bangkok.

Studies

I took three courses, "Introduction to Research Methodology in Management Technology", "International Trade and Business" and "Self Development and Management". But only for the first two of them I got the credits transferred. The courses were okay and the exams were not too difficult as you could take a sheet of paper with you in the exam in most of the courses. There are mid term exams end of February/beginning of March and the finals are in May. It is mandatory to attend the courses at least 70% of the time. I took a Thai language course as well, it is not mandatory and there is no exam. It takes place two times a week for two hours each and you learn the basics of Thai language. If you register for the language course you have to attend it at least 70% of the time as well. I enjoyed the course as I liked the atmosphere, got to know the full time exchange students and learned some Thai basics in a nice way.

Student life/cultural experience

The facilities at university are good, SIIT is located on Rangsit campus of Thammasat university which is a very huge campus with gym and swimming pool which can be used for free! On campus there are many food places and cafés and you can move on campus by feet or bike. There are night markets on campus nearly everyday, sometimes with live music. Cost of living is not high as one meal often only costs around 1-2 euros and fresh fruits or smoothies also only cost around 1 euro. I payed around 100 euros per month for my accommodation. I opened a Thai bank account, your buddy can help you with that, it makes it much easier to pay because you always just have to scan a QR code to pay. Opening that bank account is for free. Withdrawing cash from the ATM costs 200 baht fee which is around 5 euros. That is why I used Revolut for exchanging money and sending it to my Thai bank account.

Going from Rangsit Campus which is located a bit outside of Bangkok to Bangkok inside the city (f.ex. Victory Monument) costs around 1-2 euros and you can take the van. The van departs close to SIIT campus. There is of course a lot to see and to do in Bangkok, with SIIT we took a trip to the Grand Palace and I can recommend visiting also some of the other temples. We were informed about cultural events in the chat group in the app LINE which was created by our coordinator from SIIT. As an activity

I would definitely take a cooking course! It is so delicious and you learn a lot, it costs around 30 euros but in my opinion worth it. If you like museums, I enjoyed the museum of contemporary Art in Bangkok a lot. Many museums and temples are free or cheaper for students, so always take your student card with you. I also recommend visiting the historic city of Ayutthaya as it is not too far away from campus and very famous and plays an important role in the history of Thailand. In Bangkok I can recommend visiting Bang Kachao, as it is more calm with a great park and more nature than inside the busy city. You can rent a bike and cycle through the area. Of course the national parks and islands are stunning to visit as well.



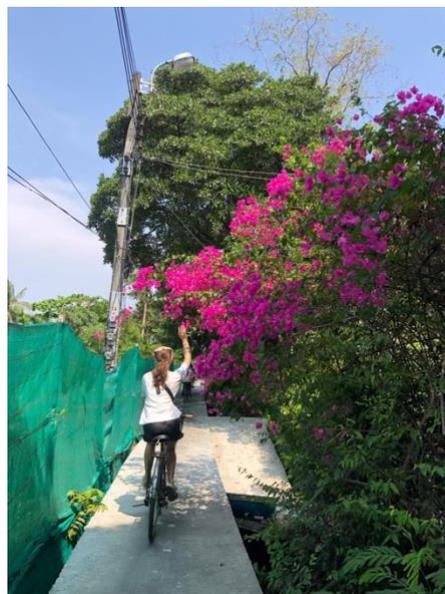
Room in Golf View



University SIIT in Rangsit



Cooking course



Bang Kachao