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# GUIDE STUDIES

Your Guide to Smarter Study Abroad Success



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# SMARTER STUDY ABROAD

## COURSES AND COURSE SELECTION

You can choose your courses from various faculties at Kasetsart University. Asia Exchange recommends you choose courses that fit your academic background. The schedules of the classes will be handed out during the first days of the semester, at the latest. The KUIC staff and university lecturers will help you choose your courses and make your class schedule. Please note that there might be some overlaps in lecture times in courses provided by different faculties.

You can choose suitable courses from several semesters and levels. For some courses, you must prove your knowledge of the topic to take part in the course. This is typically done in the beginning of the semester on-site in Bangkok. All the courses are part of KU's official degree curricula. This means that Asia Exchange students attend courses together with local and international students pursuing a full degree. There are also some courses available that are designed particularly for international students (e.g. Thai language). KU expects students to choose at least three courses.



The **Thai language course** is mandatory for all exchange students. Knowing some basic Thai will help you run everyday errands more smoothly, and you'll probably get even friendlier service and lower prices for your purchases. Outside tourist areas, communicating in any other language except for Thai is difficult. Nearly all our students return to Thailand at some point in their lives and Thai language skills can prove to be very beneficial for the rest of your life. Thailand is, for example, an increasingly popular destination to have a second home in.

Most of the course descriptions can be found on the Asia Exchange website. As everywhere in the world, detailed syllabi will be typically circulated in the lectures. You can read about transferring Thai credits to ECTS credits on the Asia Exchange website.

You should make sure that you can transfer credits and add the courses to your degree in your home university before leaving for Thailand. This will make the process of transferring credits after your return much easier. The practice of transferring credits varies from institution to institution. Home universities make the final decisions about transfer credits and whether they complement the student's degree at home.

Make a study plan and have your courses pre-approved by your home institution's exchange coordinator, academic advisor or a professor; whoever oversees credit transfer at your home institution. Remember to use the course catalogs and syllabi on the Asia Exchange website when making your study plan. You will also most likely be required to show the syllabi to the person in charge of credit transfer, so they can determine how many credits you will receive for your studies abroad.

Kasetsart University reserves the right to changes in the course offering and schedules. Like everywhere in the world, course changes are possible. Asia Exchange updates the latest available information on courses in study programs on its website. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information published on Asia Exchange's website. Please be patient with this issue and discuss with your home university what happens if a course you have chosen initially is not offered after all.

## CLASS SCHEDULES

The semesters start with an orientation, after which you will attend classes usually on 3-4 days a week. The university requires students to take at least 3 courses during a semester. All the courses have an attendance requirement of at least 80%.

Students failing to comply with this requirement risk having their student visas canceled by the university. Some of the courses also include business and cultural visits. The visits are equally obligatory as normal classes. Lecturers teach the courses with international experience and typically degrees completed abroad.

## ATTENDANCE

As in most of the universities all over the world, class attendance is required in Thailand. KU and other Thai universities have a class attendance requirement of **80 % - RESPECT AND FOLLOW THIS**. If you know that you will be absent from a class, you should make arrangements with your lecturer in advance.

University studies give you beneficial daily routines which still leave lots of time for free-time activities. It is recommended to schedule trips and travels for either the weekends or the period after your semester.

If you miss a class, it is highly recommended to ask your classmates about homework assignments and other such things. The lecturer might be very busy (she/he might even teach in many universities) and asking the lecturer what happened a week ago is an additional burden for them to handle. In Thai culture, the teacher is a highly respected figure, and students should avoid asking the lecturer the questions they could easily ask their classmates. You might be used to contacting the lecturer directly in your home university, but this is one of those cultural differences you face in Southeast Asia. So, unless your lecturer encourages you to talk to her/him directly about missed class assignments, please be pro-active and contact a classmate of yours. Maybe befriend a local student from your class, too?

Don't forget to take part in the site visits because they are included in some of the courses. These visits are especially arranged for students to give them an opportunity to visit places that tourists do not have an opportunity to visit

## OTHER STUDENT AND INTERNALIZATION

Approximately 20-70 Asia Exchange students take part in the study programs at KU depending on the semester. Usually, majority of the Asia Exchange students come from Nordic and German speaking countries. Also, students from other European countries as well as from Australia and the United States have done their study abroad semester through Asia Exchange. We aim to increase the number of international students.



It's mainly up to you how much you interact with different nationalities. Asia Exchange encourages you to get to know exchange students from different countries as well as local students who will help you to gain more insights into the local culture and customs.

You can search for other Asia Exchange students on Facebook in the group created for your batch. Feel free to join the Facebook group for KUSEP students, which includes many non-Asia Exchange international students at Kasetsart University.

KU offers its international students many activities during the semester, for example trips within the Bangkok metropolitan area, Thai cooking and language classes, sport days and the KU Buddy Program, which means that international students can get a local 'buddy' student who helps them with practical matters and spends time with them.

## **TIPS FROM ASIA EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

### **1. LEARN HOW TO DO THINGS INDEPENDENTLY AND BE RESPONSIBLE.**

Maybe you were used to having everything done for you. Now is the best time to start learning how to do laundry, cooking, or doing the dishes otherwise you will have a rough time learning this once you are away. A lot of things that may come your way while studying abroad, but it is also important to behave responsibly. Try not to get in any situation that might get you in trouble.

### **2. DON'T MISS A CHANCE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS.**

Try not to skip the orientation week as this is the best time to meet other new students and build friendships. Join a few clubs and find the international student network and get to know other students. This will help you socialize and have a good network of friends while studying abroad.

### **3. LEARN THE LANGUAGE.**

Since you will be living and moving to a country where you don't speak the first language, it would be a great opportunity to learn the local language. This will help you interact with local students and make lectures and seminars even easier to understand. Learning a new language is an advantage to be more impressive to your future employers.

### **4. SAY YES AND TRY SOMETHING NEW.**

Studying abroad is a unique opportunity to discover different cultures and experience a new destination. There may be language barriers, differences in



teaching styles that might be a challenge to settle in. The trick is to say yes and throw yourself into it! Take part in everything the school has to offer, but also whenever you can experience the new city, field trips, or excursions.

### **5. Do it!**

Your time abroad is a rewarding experience familiarize yourself with the city and the university. Get organized before leaving and it is important to consider having yourself covered with health insurance, budget planning, accommodation arrangements, weather, and airport pick-up. Immerse yourself in a lot of new experiences by saying yes to as many new things as you can, you'll take home a different set of skills you have not imagined.





# YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences  
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

*Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student*

