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GUIDE STUDIES

Your Guide to Smarter Study Abroad Success



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SMARTER STUDY ABROAD

COURSES AND COURSE SELECTION

Prince of Songkla University follows a trimester schedule. The amount of the courses provided in English language varies. The most updated information about the courses can be found on our website. On our website you will also find information about [credit transfer](#). International students can choose to participate in the same classes with the degree students from Thailand and other countries.

There are a few courses appointed mainly to exchange students (ISPP). We recommend you choose the courses fitting your study background from ISPP courses and to study with the local degree students. Courses from the 3rd or 4th year are recommended the most. In these classes local students are closer to your age and their English skills are better. Getting to know local students will help you to get deeper into the Thai culture.

You should present your course selections to PSU before the start of the semester. (PSU will ask you to do so.) The course registration will be made at the same time with local students, and it is important to make your selections when requested. You might be able to make some changes to your selection still during the orientation week, however. We recommend you choose courses most befitting your study background and corresponding to your knowledge level in the subject. PSU requires each student to enroll for a minimum of four courses.



PSU reserves the right to changes in the course offering. As everywhere in the world, course changes are possible. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information published.

Here are some of the courses recommended by our students: Social Psychology, Intercultural Communication, Strategic Management, Fundamental Thai, International Finance, International Business, Human Resources Management. Knowing some basic Thai will help you run every day errands more smoothly, and you'll probably get even friendlier service and lower prices for your purchases. Outside the tourist areas, communicating in any other language except for Thai is difficult. Nearly all of 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. If you are interested in language courses, e.g. in Japanese or Chinese, please contact the university coordinator for more information.

CLASS SCHEDULES

The class schedule and detailed information of the courses will be sent to students by email or handed out at the orientation and during the first classes.

ATTENDANCE

As in most universities all over the world, class attendance is required in Thailand. PSU 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 will however also leave lots of time for free time activities.

Don't forget to take part in the site visits, since they are an essential part of some of the courses. These visits are arranged especially for students in order to give them an opportunity to visit places which most tourists never visit. PSU makes arrangements for the visits in advance, so participation on the part of all students is very important.

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 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?

OTHER STUDENT AND INTERNALIZATION

There are typically 30-80 students participating in the study program in Phuket in the autumn and spring semesters. Most of the students come from Scandinavia and German speaking countries. There have been participants from other European countries as well as Australia and United States too. In addition, local students participate in basically all the courses with the exception of Thai language and ISPP courses.

It's mainly up to you how much you interact with different nationalities. We encourage you to get to know exchange students from different countries and local students who will help you get more insight into the local culture and customs.

Internationalization is one of both our key objectives of Prince of Songkla University. We are currently expanding our services to include more and more students from different countries. Spread the word! HINT: "The Café" restaurant near the university has been popular among Asia Exchange students. The Café is the place to go and there you will certainly see other students

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

