

## **Erfahrungsbericht**

**Universiti Putra Malaysia – Faculty of Educational Studies**

**Siam university Bangkok, Thailand – Business Courses**

**Laura Ibishi – 6th Semester / SS 21**



About myself:

My name is Laura and I study “ Health and Social Services“ in Nordhausen. Since the beginning of university I always wanted to study one semester abroad. One year ago I attended the information session of my university on studying abroad in Asia. After all the information I chose Malaysia. The offer of social courses at UPM Malaysia and also the diversity of this country helped me choose my decision.

The big adventure of studying abroad began. One week after applying at the website of Asia Exchange I got the acceptance letter. After choosing my courses and preparing everything, my fear came true. Due to covid situation Malaysia closed borders for international students. I was disappointed and sad. But we got another possibility from Asia Exchange. They sent us an email which said we can still attend the online courses of UPM and visit the campus of Siam University, Bangkok. Even though I was confused at the beginning, I chose this possibility. I always wanted to visit Thailand. I chose two business courses in Siam University and the rest educational courses from UPM I was attending online while living in Thailand. After getting my visa, getting my health insurance, buying the flight tickets the day finally came. I said goodbye to my family and friends and started a new journey in Thailand.

Unfortunately I had to spend two weeks in quarantine. Arrived at the airport, got picked up from my hotel staff and got driven to my quarantine hotel. During my quarantine I had enough time to look for apartments in Bangkok. I found an apartment (the so called „Condo“) on Airbnb. My roommates who were already out of their quarantine went to look at the apartment, sent me videos and pictures and we decided to move there. I was counting the days to go out and feel the warmth of Bangkok.



This was our apartment. We had three sleeping rooms, living room, kitchen, two bathrooms, lobby, receptionist, pool and gym. It was like a dream! I was so motivated to get up early every day, hit the gym and take a dip by the pool in the warm Bangkok weather.

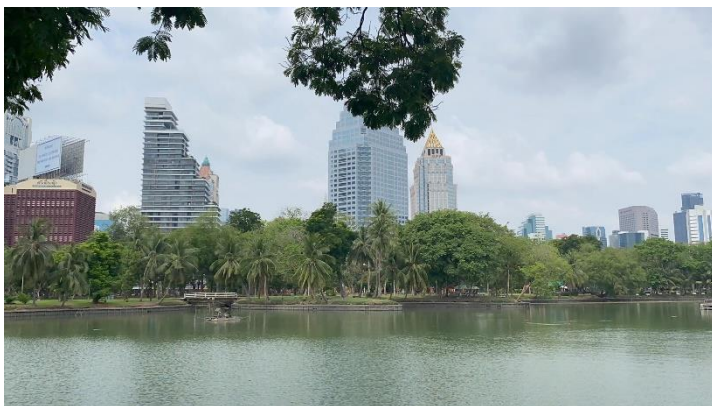
Average rent in Bangkok is between 200€ and 800€ per person without water and electricity. We paid for our condo in total 900€ (each of us 300€). If you have to go to the campus

everyday I would recommend to stay close to the university or at least close to a BTS station because it can take very long to go there due to the traffic.

### Siam University



Comparing to Germany, the student life in Thailand is more like school. Students have to wear uniform. Girls have to wear a black long skirt and white tshirts and boys black pants and a white shirt. You'll see students wearing their uniforms outside the university too, e.g at train/metro stations, city etc... I bought my uniform at a shop close to the campus and really liked the look. The campus is very nice. You have there a 7/11 store, canteen, coffee shops, copy shops, bank, a doctor, a library, a gym, a post office and sports hall. Due to Covid, we had two possibilities to attend the courses. One was presence and the other one was online. I had to attend the courses of Siam University only once a week and preferred to do it in presence. Like this, I met many other thai and international students.



Bangkok has a lot to offer. Starting with the parks, the architecture, shops, delicious food that you can find in every corner, people, floating markets, vibes and up to the night life.



One Month later the covid situation got a bit worse in Bangkok and we could attend the courses only online. The best thing of having online lessons was that we could travel a lot.

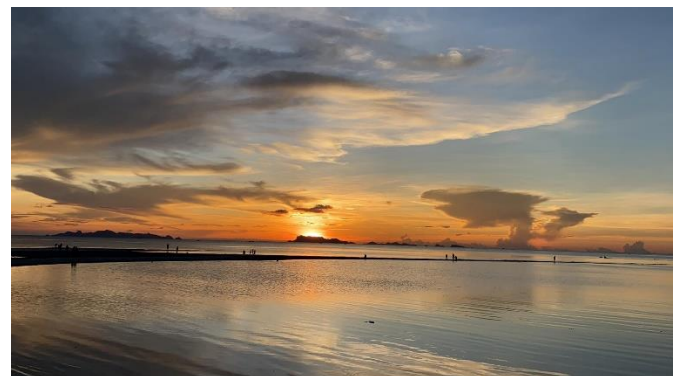
Usually we needed a negative Covid Test to travel from Bangkok to the islands or other cities but this was not a big problem.

Traveling in Thailand is cheap and easy. The best way to travel to other destinations is by train or plane. Usually I traveled by plane and overnight train too. The overnight train will cost about 15 - 20€ and you'll get a 2nd class air-conditioned and a bed. I could sleep very good on the bed.



During the 5 months I attended the online courses of UPM, Siam and travel a lot. I traveled with friends but also I enjoyed traveling alone too. It was a very good chance to meet other Thai people, learn more about their culture and challenge myself. I traveled to many islands of the south and to the north of Thailand too. I learned to ride the motorbike and got my international driving license. I usually rented a motorbike in every place I went. It costs about 4€ a day or if you rent it for one month it will be much cheaper. If you don't like driving scooter then you can book an Uber taxi/bike but not in every island.

Thai people are one of the friendliest people I've ever met. They're very helpful and kind. First some of them might seem a bit shy to talk in English. I've got many Thai friends that I still talk to and looking forward to meet each other soon again.



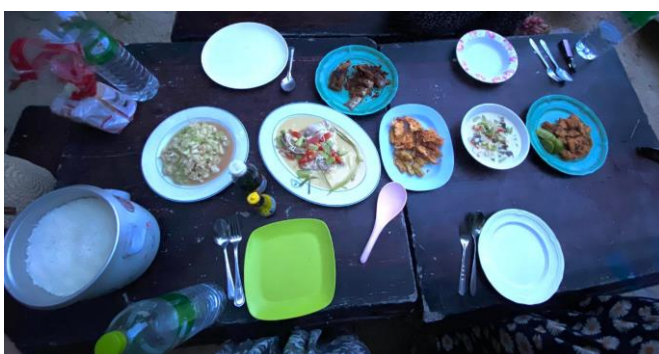
I tried and learned many new things in Thailand. Went to an elephant sanctuary in Chiang Mai and saw elephants for the first time. I went Scuba Diving in Ko Phi Phi Island, did parasailing in Phuket, learned to drive the scooter, tasted different type of dishes and learned some thai words :D



Thai food is so so so delicious. You have different dishes. Usually the food is spicy, so if you're not a fan of spicy food tell them to not make it spicy.



Here we met a thai guy at the Ko Phi Phi Island who had kayaks for renting. He invited us to cook thai dinner with him in front of the beach. It was an amazing experience.



Thailand is an amazing country that has a lot to offer. I'm sure I forgot many other things to mention here. This country never gets boring. I am so happy for the opportunity I had and would do it again without thinking. It was a great experience and it taught me many things. I am grateful I got to see another lifestyle, meet people from other cultures and see life in another perspective. I'd recommend everyone to study one semester (or more) in Thailand.

### **UPM, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia**

Unfortunately I can't tell much about Malaysia. But during my online lessons I was in touch with many Malaysian students and all I can say is they were so kind and helpful in many ways. The professors always asked me if I understand everything and if I had questions the professors and the students would answer them. I hope I'll get the chance soon to see the beauty of this country too.

Einverständniserklärung:

Ich stimme zu, dass der Bericht anderen Studierenden der FH Nordhausen zur Verfügung gestellt wird und ggf. auf den Web-Seiten der FHN veröffentlicht wird