CGIS: Development and Globalization in Khon Kaen, Thailand

Handbook Supplement

Fall 2017

University of Michigan
Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS)
Congratulations on participating in the University of Michigan’s program at Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand. The information in these pages, explains how the program will work for you as a U-M student and should be read in conjunction with CIEE’s enrollment materials in your CIEE account under “Readings.”

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As a U-M student at CIEE Thailand, you will take courses organized specifically for CIEE students. Course enrollments, housing, and on-site orientation will all be handled by CIEE, while you are responsible for making your own travel arrangements (CIEE will confirm the exact program dates so that you can make your travel arrangements). At the beginning of each semester, CIEE organizes a mandatory orientation for newly arrived students. At the orientation, you will learn about academic policies, the services offered, and other useful information. It is also a good time to meet fellow CIEE students.

Tentative Calendar
August 15 or before - Student Arrival
August 16 (9 a.m.) - Program Start Date
August 16-19 - Orientation
August 22 - Registration
August 23 - Classes Begin
TBA - Semester Break
Dec 14 (8 p.m.) - Classes End
Dec 16 (from 8 a.m.) - Student Departure

*Note: All students MUST participate in orientation. Regardless of arrangements, you must arrive to the orientation site no later than 3pm on August 16th.

ACADEMIC ARRANGEMENTS

As a U-M student participating in CGIS program, you will be enrolled at U-M at the same time that you are taking classes at CIEE. You will need to register for the program before you leave Ann Arbor. You should register for 15 credits of STDABRD 365.

This is the only course you will be registered for while you are away, and it serves as a “place holder,” maintaining your status as a fully-enrolled student at U-M.

When you arrive at CIEE Thailand, you will enroll in classes there. It is important to have met with a U-M concentration and/or general advisor prior to arriving at CIEE. Information about the Thailand CIEE classes, as well as course syllabi, can be found on their website.

Courses
Students take four 3-credit classes for 15 total semester credits. Students are required to take “The Human Perspective on Development and the Environment,” “Directed Research Field Study/Practicum,” “Social Research Methods,” and one Thai language course at their level. Upon arrival, you will take a placement exam for your Thai language skill to be placed in the appropriate course. No previous language experience is needed. You may access syllabi here: http://syllabi.ciee.org/Pages/default.aspx

Pass/Fail
CGIS students can take courses Pass/Fail during the program. Please refer to the section on Pass/Fail in the General Handbook for details. Note that the deadline to submit the proper form to the CGIS Office is within 3 weeks of the start of classes. The Pass/Fail forms are available to you in the Documents section of you M-Compass and will need to be e-mailed directly to your CGIS Advisor with in the three
week time period. Late forms will not be accepted. You will receive a confirmation from your advisor to acknowledge they’ve received your form.

Transcripts
Once you have completed your semester, CIEE will provide CGIS with a transcript of your work there and CGIS in turn will update your U-M academic record. The actual courses, credits, and grades will be part of your U-M record, with exact course credits replacing the 15 “place-holder” STDABRD credits you registered for before going abroad.

LSA Students: You will earn in-residence credit for your work on the program, and the grades you earn on the program will be calculated in to your cumulative GPA.

Non-LSA Students: Please check with your school to determine what type of credit you will receive (in-residence versus transfer credit), and whether the grades you earn on the program will be calculated in to your cumulative GPA.

HOUSING
CIEE will arrange housing in off-campus shared apartments (with a Thai roommate) near campus. At other times, CIEE will arrange for community housing and/or host families. The off-campus apartments will have air-conditioning, a private bathroom and a fan, plus a telephone for making local calls. Internet is available, but you must provide a LAN cable. Sheets are provided. Towels are NOT provided, so you must provide your own (can buy after arrival).

**If you arrive early, you will need to find your own hotel for the nights before the official arrival date and cannot move into housing early.

TRAVEL TO THAILAND
CGIS does not make travel arrangements for students, and all students should make their own flight reservations to Bangkok. Students should plan to arrive at the airport in Bangkok on the date specified by CIEE; if you arrive at the time designated by CIEE, you will be met at the Suvarnabhumi Airport by the CIEE program staff or by Great Residence hotel staff. Once you clear customs, go to the exit and look for CIEE staff or hotel staff with a CIEE sign; you should be able to locate a sign with your name. Do not leave the airport without locating the staff that is there to pick you up. You should also contact your parents to let them know of your safe arrival once you get to Bangkok and before you go to Khon Kaen.

If you will be arriving earlier, or not at the Bangkok airport, you are required to let CIEE know and ask what the alternate arrangement is. Please note: it is not possible to miss the orientation, and students who are unable to arrive in time for it are likely to be dropped from the program.

Students will be staying at the Great Residence Hotel in Bangkok for one night before leaving for the orientation site by bus provided by the program in the morning – therefore students must be at the hotel no later than 8am on the pick-up day. The orientation location will be posted in your CIEE materials.

Climate & Culture
Thailand’s climate is tropical with an average annual temperature of 82°F and high humidity. There are three distinct seasons – the hot season from March to May, the cool season from November to February and the rainy season from about June to October.

In Thailand it is not uncommon for people to generally speak softly and avoid confrontation at all costs. Thai people pay extra attention to be dressed properly; in general, you can follow the example of locals when it comes to dress. This may not be as much an issue in the touristy areas and beaches however once out of these areas please dress appropriately. When traveling to temples and holy places, it is
especially important that you show respect for local and religious customs. You will need to wear long pants and long sleeves particularly if you’re a woman. In many cases women are not allowed to touch Monks or their robes and should try to avoid accidently touching them at all costs. There are many sacred items and sites in Thailand it is respectful to not touch or enter these places without permission.

Personal space and contact should also be considered. Public affection or touching is not acceptable in Thailand, the simple act of touching someone’s head would be considered very rude. You must also be mindful of your feet, Thai culture had very negative associations with the feet so you should be careful not to raise your feet in front of anyone or step over anyone to avoid offending.

It is important to acknowledge that when you are abroad, you may not be privileged to the same expectation of privacy or free speech as you might be at home. For example, in Thailand it is highly advised that you do not speak negatively about the King or any member of the Royal Family. It is illegal and you can find yourself in jail for uttering a few negative phrases. You’ll also deeply offend any Thai people in the area.

VISA

Students are responsible for their own visa applications, but CIEE provides detailed instructions and an important admission letter that are necessary before you can apply for your visa. See the instructions in your CIEE account under “Readings.”

CIEE will be using the servicer Travisa for processing your visas so that is where you’ll need to apply through, see your CIEE packets for more detailed information on how to do so. For questions concerning visas contact the CIEE representative at Travisa.

The following address should be used when filling out your visa application:

Arunee Sririuska
Assistant Resident Director
CIEE – Khon Kaen
973/1 Moo 12, Tambon Sila
Amphur Muang
Khon Kaen 40000
Thailand

OR

CIEE- Khon Kaen
PO Box 91
Khon Kaen University
Khon Kaen 40002
Thailand

HEALTH INSURANCE

All University of Michigan students are required to be covered by HTH Worldwide health insurance while abroad and are automatically enrolled by CGIS. Please refer to the CGIS General Handbook, the CGIS website: [http://www.lsa.umich.edu/cgis/mgap/acceptance.html](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/cgis/mgap/acceptance.html), or the HTH Worldwide website: [www.hthstudents.com](http://www.hthstudents.com), for more information.

FEES AND BILLING

Although students are registered at U-M while participating in the program, tuition, housing, and other fees are set by CIEE. You will be billed for CIEE program fees through U-M Student Financial Services.

WHO TAKES CARE OF WHAT

CIEE is responsible for acceptance decisions, all academic arrangements, on-site orientation, and housing. CGIS assists students in preparing to go abroad, provides support services while they are abroad, and processes the academic results from study at CIEE for the students’ U-M academic records.
Each student is responsible for obtaining a passport, applying for a visa, making the travel reservations, and paying program fees to CGIS. The CIEE online student handbook contains useful information about how to handle money while in Thailand, what to pack (and what to leave at home), and what you can expect while studying at CIEE and living in Khon Kaen.

**CONTACT AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

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**EMERGENCIES**

Contact your local program/on-site staff immediately if you are the victim of crime or need emergency assistance. Please also contact the University of Michigan to let us know of the situation as soon as you are able. The University of Michigan Department of Public Safety has a 24 hour number which is (734) 763-1131. They will then contact the necessary on-campus offices, including CGIS, to respond to your situation. You may provide this same 24 hour number to your parents should they experience an emergency and need to get a hold of you while you are abroad and are unable to contact you directly. To contact HTH Worldwide in the event of an emergency, call 1-800-257-4823 or globalhealth@htheworldwide.com.