

Office of International Programs

Valparaiso University • www.valpo.edu/studyabroad • studyabroad@valpo.edu • 219-464-5333

THAILAND – Fall, Spring or Year (Payap University, Chiang Mai)

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Spring Semester Enrollment: October 1 Deadline (Early Acceptance: April 1 of prior year)

Fall Semester Enrollment: February 15 Deadline (Early Acceptance: November 1 of prior year)

WHO?

- Open to all majors, courses offered in English
- Students with an overall 3.0 GPA and minimum sophomore standing are eligible to apply. Freshmen are encouraged to plan ahead.
- Almost all Valpo students can study abroad in Thailand without delaying graduation IF they plan carefully with their academic advisor.

WHAT?

- Students have an opportunity to study fall or spring semester in the Thai and Southeast Asian Studies program at Payap University in northwest Thailand, enrolling in beginner's Thai language and culture courses along with electives in Economics, Fine Arts, Religion, History and Sociology/Anthropology, all conducted in English. Students enrolling in the full-year program will continue to study the Thai language, elective courses and an optional independent study with a faculty member at Payap University.
- The course-work is experiential based including field trips to local and historical sites, co-curricular activities, rural village stays and urban field outings designed to immerse students in everyday life in Thailand.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership (IPSL), where students are placed with an organization or service-learning project in Chiang Mai. This is an excellent opportunity for students looking to broaden their experience in Thailand.
- Independent study can always be arranged with VU faculty. Contact your academic advisor for details.

WHERE?

- Located in northwest Thailand, Chiang Mai is a modern metropolitan city of 400,000, with a culturally rich heritage as the former center of the ancient northern kingdom known as Lanna. Famous for its Buddhist art and architecture, students can visit the more than 300 temples and monasteries within the city. The nearby mountainous landscape and surrounding lakes and waterfalls, make Chiang Mai a major tourist destination within Thailand.
- Students will be placed with Payap students from around the world in the International Friendship House on the main Mae Khao campus, which is air-conditioned and includes wireless internet, a dining hall and lounge areas.

HOW?

You must apply for the program through the Office of International Programs. Applications available online at www.valpo.edu/studyabroad. The OIP is located in the Harre Union, 209, phone: 464-5333.

You should consult with your academic advisor *and* the OIP *as early as possible*. Freshman year is not too early to begin your inquiries about study abroad. Careful planning will ensure your classes taken in Thailand can be used for graduation requirements. Consult the VU Catalog under "International Study Programs" for details.

HOW MUCH?

- *Tuition and General Fee:* Students pay the same tuition and general fee to Valparaiso University for the term(s) abroad. Any VU scholarships or financial aid apply, except for aid that requires on-campus participation (work-study and some athletic and music scholarships). Such "on-campus" aid will be automatically re-instated the term the student returns to VU.
- *Air fare:* Students can expect to spend in the neighborhood of \$1200 to \$1400 for travel to and from Thailand. Oftentimes, cheaper internet deals are not for longer-stay, round-trip airfare.
- *Housing and Meals:* Students are placed in a dorm room at Payap University with access to a dining hall. Dorm fees will be billed through Valparaiso University at the rate of a double-occupancy room.
- *Spending Money:* Count on spending at least as much as you do in Valpo, though this amount varies greatly depending on your spending habits and how much you travel. An estimated budget of \$1,500 - \$2,500 should be sufficient for food, supplies, travel, entertainment and miscellaneous expenses for a semester-long program.
- *Awards:* Students are encouraged to apply for outside study-abroad scholarships online at www.studyabroadfunding.org. Federal Pell Grant recipients are automatically eligible to apply for the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for up to \$5,000 towards a term abroad (www.iie.org/gilman).

CONTACTS

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Payap University - <http://ic.payap.ac.th/>

Southeast Asian Institute of Global Studies - <http://www.seaigs.org/>