

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: Deference and Democracy in Thailand

Locations: Bangkok, Chang Mai, and Phuket, Thailand

Dates: May 14-June 3, 2024

Program Description: Exploration of dynamics between deference and democratic citizenship in thailand. Students gain insight on how deference and democratic values have shaped political action, international trade, tourism, the treatment of migrants and exiles, women and minority rights, and other social justic efforts.

Academic, Environmental, Physical & Health Expectations for Participation

Below is a list of academic, environmental and physical expectations and requirements for participation in this study away program. The list captures most, but not all, requirements. If you have questions about the expectatiosn and requirements, please check with the study away office or the program directors. Students requiring a physical or academic accommodation should contact the Student Office for Accessibility Resources (SOAR) no less than 4 months prior to the start date of the program.

	Frequency		Frequency
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional	STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Foreign Language Use	Never	Foreign Language Environment	Thai language.
Course work in English	Always	Terrain	Bangkok is flat. Mountainside temple. Beachside.
Laptop Required	Laptops are discouraged. Students will hand-write journal entries and other assignments.	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Program has a bit of everything: big city, rural, suburban, sometimes remote.
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Always	Environment	Very hot and humid - requires lots of walking in the worst of the Thai heat and sun (over 100 degrees F). Bring sunscreen and sunshirts. There will be time at the beach and most days will include time outdoors.
Traditional Classroom	Some class meetings in hotel meeting rooms, but often the classroom is outdoors.	Mosquito or Insect Borne Risk of Illness	Take precautions to avoid bug bites - bring own bug repellent and apply frequently.
Group Work	No	Is tap water safe to drink	No. Students should not drink or brush teeth with tap water. They should used bottled water. Program directors will provide some bottled water throughout the program.
Academic Assessments	Students will journal throughout the program and there will be a final essay. Discussions and participation are also required.	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Pick-pocketing or purse-snatching may happen in crowded areas. During free time, students will have some limits on where they could travel within Thailand if they leave the group. Certain parts of the country are not safe, and the program itinerary will avoid these areas.
Interactions with local residents	Guides. Most people in major cities will speak English. Students are encouraged to interact with local people.	Cultural Dress Code	Respectful, conservative dress is required for visits to religious sites such as temples: covered shoulderes and long pants or a knee length dress/skirt.
Cultural Awareness	Thailand recently approved same sex marriage. Buddhist Thais (99% of population) are animistic and believe dark skin, beards, head wraps, etc. are evil. While generally very welcoming of tourists, some students may experience discrimination based on skin color. Thais are concerned about Chinese aggression from refugees and students with those identities may be less appreciated by Thais.	Cultural Awareness	Thailand recently approved same sex marriage. Buddhist Thais (99% of population) are animistic and believe dark skin, beards, head wraps, etc. are evil. While generally very welcoming of tourists, some students may experience discrimination based on skin color. Thais are concerned about Chinese aggression from refugees and students with those identities may be less appreciated by Thais.
Other		Eating street food	Do not purchase any food or fresh juices from street vendors unless the program Provider recommends a particular venue. Do not consume uncooked seafood.

	Frequency
PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Yes
Standing 60+ minutes	Daily activities will require students to be on their feet for more than an hour. Some attractions have very limited or no seating available.
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Be prepared to climb stairs. Some temples are on tops of mountains with many stairs to climb to reach the top.
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	No trail hiking.
Walking 3+ miles per day	Definitely plan on walking 3-5 miles each day.
Use of public transportation	Yes - transportation is typically air-conditioned
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Host Family	Never
Roommate	Always - 2 to 3 students per room
Hotel	2-3 star hotels
Cell phone signal available	Yes
Internet signal available	Yes
Refrigerator Access	Included in hotel rooms usually
Air Conditioning	Most buildings, restaurants, public transportation and hotels will have air-conditioning. It is normal to duck into an airconditioned space periodically to get a reprieve from the heat.
Other	

	Frequency
HEALTH & DIET	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	This can be difficult because Thai Buddhists consider fish sauce and chicken both as vegetarian. Vegetarians or vegans may want to carry convenience foods or drinks occasionally.
Food Allergy Accommodations	Students with severe food allergies, like peanuts, or immunocompromised students should consider the risk of differing notions of food safety. Those students may want to print out allergy cards translated into Thai to show to restaurant waitstaff.
Group Meals	Students will receive a daily breakfast at the hotel, 5 group lunches and 5 group dinners. Students should bring \$25 per day for additional Thai cuisine, or a little more for western cuisine.
Cooking for oneself	No, with the exception of one cooking class.
Healthcare easily accessible	Yes
Quality of Healthcare	Very good
WATER OR OTHER PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Swimming	Ocean swimming optional in Phuket at beach.
Elephant Ride	Optional - very bumpy, roller-coaster-style ride.
Bike	No
Boat, canoes or other water activities	Private speedboat tour to an island near Phuket
Sea sickness / Motion sickness	Both are possible
Driver on left side of the road	Use proper crosswalks. Look both ways frequently because of left-side-of-road driving.
Center for Disease Control Recommendations: Students should be up to date on routine vaccinations including HepA and HepB, and COVID. The CDC recommends the chikungunya vaccination (Chikungunya is spread by mosquito bites). CDC also recommends the typhoid vaccine.	
https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/thailand?s_cid=nceqid-dgmg-travel-single-001	