

***A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.***

I am currently studying in the BBA faculty at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and taking the 5 classes listed below as part of my Finance degree at the University of Ottawa. All classes were 3 hours long, occurred once a week, and required you to wear a uniform which can be purchased close to campus. If a class was cancelled, it would normally be rescheduled on Saturdays unfortunately. Finally, all of the classes were taught by very good speaking English professors from Thailand who were all great at answering questions/concerns quickly after class hours.

1. Communicative Thai For Foreigners (Tuesdays 9AM-12PM) → textbook for \$8
  - This class is specifically designed for exchange students to learn about the basics of the Thai national language. Throughout the semester, I had to complete a number of different listening and speaking tests, pop quizzes, a midterm and a final. I did not particularly like this class as learning a new language is much harder than I thought, but it provides a good opportunity to get to know the other exchange students.
2. Financial Econometrics (Thursdays 9AM-12PM) → No textbook required
  - This class was extremely difficult. It had 1 midterm, 1 final, and several homeworks that accounted for approximately 20% of your final grade. I would NOT recommend taking this class.
3. Advanced Business Finance (Thursdays (1PM-4PM) → Course pack for \$8
  - This class is similar to advanced corporate finance at the University of Ottawa and included 2 quizzes worth 15% each, 1 midterm and 1 final.
4. Financial Derivatives (Tuesdays (1PM-4PM) → No textbook required
  - This class analyzes the roles and functions of derivative markets and pricing models. This class had a unique format as it consisted of weekly case studies that represented 50% of your total grade and 1 final exam. Overall, the case studies were fairly easy, so this class provided a good opportunity to get an easy pass.
5. Fixed Income Security Analysis (Wednesdays 1PM-4PM) → Found PDF textbook online
  - This class analyzed the roles and characteristics of fixed income securities and their markets. In my opinion, this class was very similar to classes at uOttawa as it consisted of a midterm, a final, and 6 homework assignments (Similar to Stats, BA, Stats 2 for format).

Be aware of the following:

- The BBA faculty has a policy that students cannot miss more than 80% of the classes. If you plan on travelling and such this could be an issue. I recommend you talking with the professor and finding out their policy on attendance as soon as possible to avoid being restricted from writing a final exam etc. Overall, every professor will have different opinions and policies.
- At Chulalongkorn, the classes are VERY similar to the ones provided at University of Ottawa. So, if you are a fourth-year student, it may be difficult for you to find 4-5 classes that you have not taken back home and adjust your schedule to try and get Mondays/Fridays off. As you can see by our schedule, we did manage to do it, but our classes were more difficult than we would have hoped for on exchange.

***B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.***

#### Academic Calendar

- Classes began on January 7th and finished on April 26th.
- Course Registration was from January 7-18
- The drop period was between January 7th and February 15th.
- Midterms were from March 4-10
- Final Exams were from April 29-May 11

#### Holidays

- January 14-18 (Sports week → Second week of school)
- February 9
- April 8, 13-16

***C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.***

The BBA International exchange department did a fantastic job at constantly keeping you updated with any important information. They hosted an orientation session on January 9th that detailed all the important dates and events happening during our semester. They also used that session to explain how to register for courses and provided a number of PowerPoints beforehand to ensure a smooth transition. Additionally, the school offers each exchange student a “buddy” who you can meet and ask questions to. Some buddies even offered to pick up their exchange students at the airport when they arrived and show them around Bangkok. I believe this system is very helpful as it allows you to understand a little bit about the culture right away shows you how to act in public.

Throughout the semester, the BBA International exchange department hosted a number of social activities including:

- Meet and Greet
- Welcome Dinner
- One-Day Cultural Trips
- Thai Language and Food Sessions
- Thai Language and Boxing Session
- Thai Language and Culture Session
- Farewell Dinner

***D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).***

#### Budget

Airplane Tickets: \$1500

Housing (Nonsi Residence): Approximately \$400/Month

Daily Travel:

- Taxis: \$1-2 each → The taxis were extremely hard to communicate with and hesitant to bring foreigners to their destinations.
- Shuttle to school → Included in Rent
- Subway/Train Service (MRT/BTS) → \$1-2 for a trip
- Motor Taxis: \$2-4 → Motor taxis are extremely convenient and help you beat traffic SIGNIFICANTLY. If you don't mind paying a little extra, I strongly recommend you take motor taxis as much as possible. They are also very receptive to foreigners and almost always know where you are going.
- Grab: \$1-2 → Asia's Uber equivalent is also a good way to get around as the map is given to drivers on their phone before they pick you up.

#### Vacation:

- Flights around Thailand and the countries are fairly cheap and can range from anywhere between \$50 and \$200. Additionally, the countries around Thailand are generally even cheaper than Bangkok.
- For example, you could do a weekend trip to Cambodia/Vietnam for probably under \$300 total depending on how much you like to spend.

#### Textbooks:

- In total, I believe I spent \$20 on textbooks. Most classes create course packs out of textbook extracts and do not cost more than \$10. Additionally, textbooks are not as important at this University in comparison to back home.

#### Meals:

- \$1-2/per meal
- Bangkok has massive supermarkets that have almost everything we would have back home. However, if you are on your own, I truly don't know if it would be worth it to go out and do groceries seeing that a meal costs around \$2. For the most part, the food at supermarkets is similarly priced to Canada. Although if you are in an apartment of 3-4, it can be worth it to go to the meat markets and buy food in bulk for a cheaper price.

#### ***E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).***

#### Visa Procedure:

- I was living in Montreal during the semester prior to my exchange so I did my Visa at the Montreal office downtown. The procedure was fairly simple as I dropped off all my documents and \$250 and received my visa exactly 1 week later.
- Consider getting the multiple entry Visa if you plan on travelling to different countries because many students here have been through awful wait times to renew the single entry 1 here in Bangkok.

#### Documents Required for Visa:

- Acceptance letter from Chula
- Proof of Residence from whoever you are renting from
- Passport
- ID
- \$250

#### Course Registration

- Course registration occurred online during the first two weeks of school. The BBA faculty will send you emails in advance to show you how to register and provide more information at the orientation session.

#### Housing Deposit

- The residence we stayed at required us to provide a deposit of 1 month's rent a couple months before arriving in Bangkok. The amount will be given back when we leave.

#### ***F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.***

##### Nonsi Residence

- 87 Soi Nawin, Chua Phloeng Road, Chongnonsi, Yannawa, Bangkok 10120
- Tel: (662) 672-9600, (662) 249-0099
- Email: [info@nonsiresidence.com](mailto:info@nonsiresidence.com)

##### Housing Description

- I strongly recommend future exchange students to stay at the Nonsi Residence. Almost the entire residence is filled with other exchange students from all over the world. This gives you opportunity to meet tons of new people and find travel buddies very quickly. Additionally, the building is closely situated to 7/11s, laundry places, and other restaurants.
- I shared a two-bedroom apartment with another student from uOttawa and it was perfect. We had a living room, kitchen, two balconies, and sizeable closets for clothes and luggage.
- The building is very clean for Thailand standards and they offer maid service options who will clean your room on a monthly or weekly basis. Although there are some bugs and lizards occasionally, these are everywhere around Thailand and I believe they do a very good job at maintaining the rooms/building.
- The residence has a pool, small gym, laundry machines (not the best), good security, a restaurant in the bottom garage that has great food, and Wi-Fi.
- The Residence also offers free shuttle service from Monday-Saturday to get to and from school, grocery stores, and other malls.

#### ***H) Other comments or recommendations.***

Although there may be a certain perception of Bangkok in Canada, there is truly no need to worry about security. Throughout the entire semester, I never felt unsafe and was only sick from food once. However, if there is one thing to consider before going, it would be the air quality as some days it can be VERY bad in Bangkok. I would recommend you speaking with your doctor and making sure that your lungs can handle the pollution. Additionally, do not hesitate to get to know Thai people as they are extremely nice.

When landing at the airport, if you can manage to get home without having to use your phone, I would recommend that you wait and buy your phone plan at a mall called MBK (very close to school). At the airport, we paid close to \$40 for 1 month. At MBK, we managed to find a 6-month plan for approximately \$25.

I cannot further stress my recommendation of staying at the Nonsi Residence. All of the students are in the same situation as you and you end up creating this big family atmosphere while having the time of your lives together. If you experience any anxiety or homesickness, you know that everyone is in the same boat as you and willing to help you.

***1) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.***

So far, my experience has been absolutely incredible. I have had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world and create great friendships that will last a long time. Additionally, I have been able to visit multiple countries and travel around Thailand at a relatively reasonable price. Overall, I believe this exchange has truly changed my perspective and allowed me to truly appreciate everything we have in Canada. Going forward, I am now considering post-undergraduate opportunities that I would have never even thought of had I not done this exchange. I am truly grateful to the University of Ottawa for allowing me to do this.