

Kasetsart University - Master's Level

I spent the winter semester at the University of Bangkok, from August 2025 to December 2025. The main goal of this experience was personal growth and gaining a deeper understanding of Thai culture by living in a completely different Asian context for several months.

Academic Experience

During the semester, I attended three Master-level courses, which will be validated at LUH as four electives: *Economic Theory for Agriculture, Food and Environment*, *Economics of Food Consumption for Agricultural and Food Business*, and *Advanced Agricultural Development Economics*.

There are not many course options, and it is important to note that 1 Thai credit is equivalent to 2 ECTS. The teaching approach was very different from the German academic system. Lectures were held weekly, very participatory, and could last up to four hours, which was a bit exhausting. The courses required many assignments and presentations, sometimes four to five per course, and class sizes were very small, usually five to six students. Professors maintained an informal and approachable relationship with students, and all lectures were conducted in fluent English.

I learned a lot from an academic perspective. The mandatory courses are particularly demanding. For example, in the *Economic Theory* course, I had to complete three different exams, two of which were four-hour exams, and needed strong mathematical skills to pass the assessments.

The semester provided sufficient flexibility to travel around Thailand. While attendance is encouraged, it is not strictly mandatory due to the small class sizes.

I would say that the academic experience was both challenging and intellectually stimulating.

Daily Life in Thailand

I stayed at Porn Uthai Suite, which cost approximately 300€ per month. The accommodation is highly recommended due to its proximity to the university and the BTS, which made daily commuting convenient. Regarding housing, it is advisable to avoid places close to main roads, as traffic noise can be very loud.

The cost of living in Thailand is relatively low. Meals on campus cost around 1 to 1.10€, while in more tourist-oriented areas, a meal typically costs about 4/5€.

For transportation, it is highly recommended to stay near a BTS station and rely on ride-hailing apps such as Grab or Bolt, as buses are not advisable due to heavy traffic and frequent jams.

The food in Thailand is generally very good, but vegetarian and vegan options are limited, especially on campus. It is also important to specify "not spicy," as Thai cuisine can be extremely spicy for European tastes.

International Experience and Campus Life

Opportunities for social or international activities at the Master's level were limited. Only a few organized events were offered for international students, and the small class sizes made it difficult to integrate with Thai students. I would not recommend this university at the Master's level if your goal is to meet many people, as there is not much of an active student life. Furthermore, the campus offers a variety of sports opportunities. Do not expect to find a regular timetable or information online; it is best to visit the campus and speak with people to learn the schedule. Overall, the campus is very pleasant, green, and well-maintained, providing a peaceful oasis in the midst of chaotic Bangkok. The international office is very welcoming and always ready to help.

Outside the campus, Bangkok is a very vibrant city, offering almost anything you could imagine. I have joined many meetups for international groups and I got to know many people. There is a lot to discover in the city.

Final Evaluation

I would highly recommend a semester abroad in Asia, and Thailand in particular. The country is very safe for international students, and especially for women. I personally felt very safe. Thailand has taken a special place in my heart. People are extremely kind, friendly, and always smiling. Despite some challenges, it was an unforgettable experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.