

The Survey of Reason for Choosing Rangsit University to Study in Thailand

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Abstract

Thailand is a developing country, compared with other developed countries; such as U.S.A, UK, Sweden,...etc., so why do Rangsit students choose to study in Thailand and not other countries? There are a lot of choices to study in other countries. In this paper we will talk about why Rangsit students choose to study here, also how to choose universities and majors, and also the culture of Thailand. This research will focus on the reason why Rangsit University students choose to study in Thailand, analyze the various international student difficulty in Thailand and the factor of why they chose Thailand for studying abroad.

Keywords: college student, study decision, personally behavior, Thailand, students behavior

1. Introduction

Thailand is located in Southeast Asia and this country is a constitutional monarchy country, and the capital city is Bangkok. Thailand is one of the founding countries of the Southeast Asian Association and many countries are around it. There is Laos and Cambodia to the east, west has Myanmar and the Andaman Sea, and South of Siam Bay and Malaysia (Thailand, 2017 : online). Universities have responded to stakeholder interest of educating and preparing students with a global perspective for career in today's globalized world. Increasingly greater emphasis is placed on studying abroad as a 'high-impact' experiential learning mode as foundation for creating a global perspective (Hackney, Boggs & Borozan, 2012; Schnusenbergek, de Jong & Goel, 2012). Because of this fact, many universities now include international education as a requirement to address the global competence priority. As we know Thailand has many friendly and nice people. Moreover, Thailand offers many benefits and draws international students. As many countries Thailand also focus on highly-valued education as it is extremely important in Thailand. Such as, Thai students take rigorous exams and undergo heavy competition in order to get into the best schools, and Thai government's goal is to put Thai universities at the forefront of science and technology, likely a result of the country's strong economy and the modern advances it is experiencing, and will continue to experience. The International students who study in Thailand can take advantage of the fantastic education available here. Also, Thailand has one of the strongest economies in Southeast Asia, and is experiencing rapid changes in modern society (Weduabroad, 2017).

Student attitudes towards studying abroad has a rich history of research finding that women are more likely to show participation in studying abroad (Kim & Goldstein, 2005; Stroud, 2010; Hackney, Boggs & Borozan, 2012). Miller (2008) found that students whose parents had earned a university degree had higher participation levels in study abroad. "In general, the flow of international students to Thailand increased from 4,343 in 2002 to 19,052 by 2009. However, since then the numbers have shown just a small increase to 20,309 by 2011" (Jaroensubphayanont, 2014) and the number keeps growing, so if the Thai education system keeps improving and the amount of international students are also increasing every year then why chose to do this research? Yes, there are more international students that choose to study in Thailand, but how to apply to universities in Thailand? How to find a place that suits them? Which major do they should choose? How to accept Thai culture with their country culture? And also what is Buddhism? Is Thai language important when

studying abroad in Thailand or is it possible to learn one more language during their studying abroad time? International Student Insurance (n.d.) stated the following:

Thailand focused on high value of education like other countries, so the Thai students need to take rigorous exams and undergo heavy competition in order to get into the best schools. Moreover, Thai government want to put Thai universities at the forefront of science and technology to make Thailand have more strong economy and the modern advances it is experiencing, and will continue to experience. For the International students who study in Thailand can take advantage of the fantastic education available in Thailand. There are many international students travel in Thailand to study ecology and the environment, agriculture, and development, as much of the work being done in these topics in Southeast Asia is happening in Thailand, so for international students who are interested in learning Thai, Thailand is the only place.

However, there are some problems for international students, such as how to apply to the right university and chose a major because each university have different university service fees, some universities pay the same among all students but some universities look about where is a student from and how far between Thailand and the student's country to ask for a different price pertaining to university service fees. Moreover, different countries have different cultures, how to repeat each other and learn from each other, also learning a second language and enjoying life in Thailand.

In the world there are more and more people who want to study many languages, especially if they can study one more language during their study life. Also, there are more Chinese students who choose to study in Thailand and chose to study Thai as a second language, but during the same time we also need them to exchange cultures so this can really help people study and living in Thailand in their student life. Moreover, people can really understand the meaning of Thai culture, not just learn the language and not really understand the details and the history of Thailand. For example, a lot of people learning Chinese try to speak Chinese, some of them decide to stay in the country that uses Chinese, learn the language by themselves or learn from a language center as there may be more people who speak Chinese. On the other hand, how many of them really understand the culture or history of China or the country that also speak Chinese? There is a governmental politics problem between China and Taiwan, but how many of them try to understand this before they speak out some question to make the situation awkward? Another example of Thailand, as we know Thailand is a constitutional monarchy counrty so Thai people love and repect their king. Thai people don't discuss this. If a foreigner stays in Thailand and they don't understand and do not repect this culture then this may make some trouble here. Learning a second language is great, but understanding the culture of that country is also important. This research will discuss this.

“There are five most important factors: additional room facilities (internet, cable TV, refrigerator, television, and furniture), security, transportation convenience, housekeeping program, and distance to the university, respectively” (Banchongjit, Tochaiwat, 2013). Why are these five factors important for renting a house or apartment around the university because all the students study in Thailand, as they only bring their clothes to study here. So if they have furniture, it is easy to get people to rent their house or apartment. However, even if landlords provide furniture it is also difficult for foreign students to rent the place to stay in because half of them can not speak English and there are also some places they do not rent their place to foreign people because of communication problems. Thus, in this research the researcher will talk about how to remedy this problem. However, foreign college students are energetic with challenging a whole new culture, so we can show people what they will learn from Thailand, such as: forge lasting relationships, develop foreign language skills, immerse themselves in a new culture also understanding of Buddhism, and experience life in a quickly developing country...etc.

2. Objectives

1. To understand the relation of household income and studying abroad
2. To understand key demographic factors for foreign students who decided to come to study at RSU (Thailand).
3. To understand the difficulty for foreign students who study in RSU (Thailand).
4. To explore key foreigner's motives and satisfaction toward RSU campus facility.

3. Research Methods

A survey was developed and administered to 141 undergraduate students enrolled at Rangsit University during the 2017-2018 academic years and the participation was voluntary. For these research questions, students were selected from Rangsit University. The interpretative method was used to the survey consisting of questions regarding students from various countries that will be used to analyze clearly to find out the result for this research.

4. Results

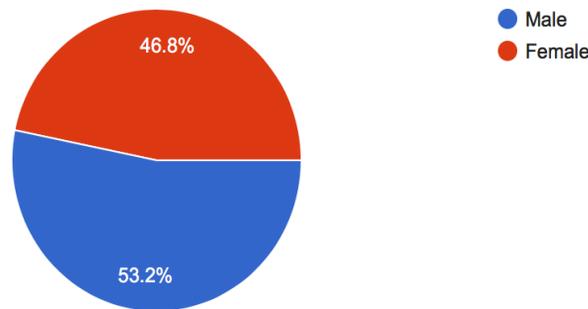


Figure 1 Gender group

Figure 1 shows the gender group in this pie chart: 46.8% are female and 53.2% are male.

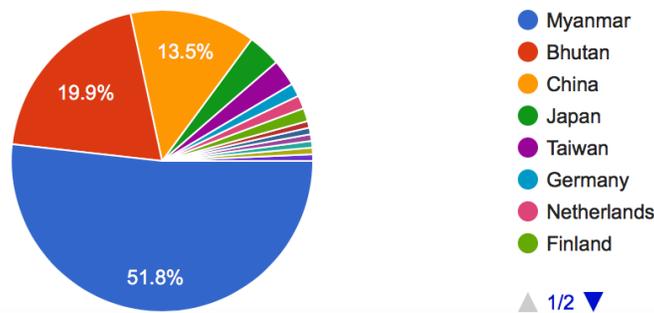


Figure 2 Country group

Figure 2 shows which country the foreign students come from. The largest group of students are 51.8% from Myanmar, the second group is 19.9% from Bhutan, and third group is China with 13.5%, and the rest are Japan (3.5%), Taiwan (2.8%), Germany (1.4%), Netherlands (1.4%), Finland (2.1%), Italian (0.7%), Sweden (0.7%), Cameroon(0.7%), Philippines (0.7%), and Saudi Arabia (0.7%).

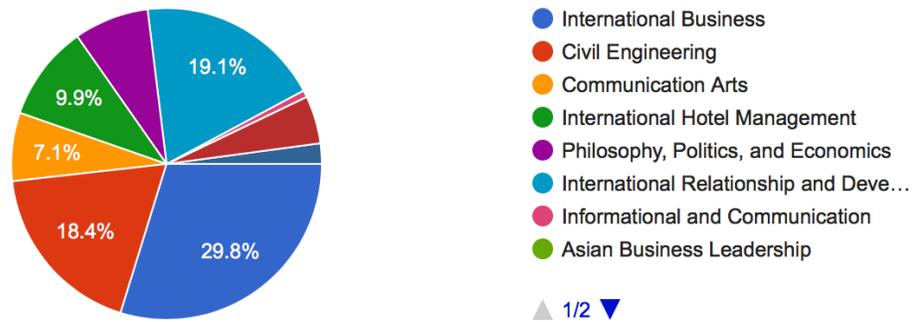


Figure 3 Major group

Figure 3 shows the major that most of foreign students studying is 29.8% International Business, and second from Civil Engineering with 18.4%, and International Relations and Development major is 19.1%, and 9.9% are from International Hospitality Management, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics have 7.8%, Communication Arts have 7.1%, and the major that has the fewest foreign students are from ICT 5%, Accounting 2.1% and Information and Communication 0.7%.

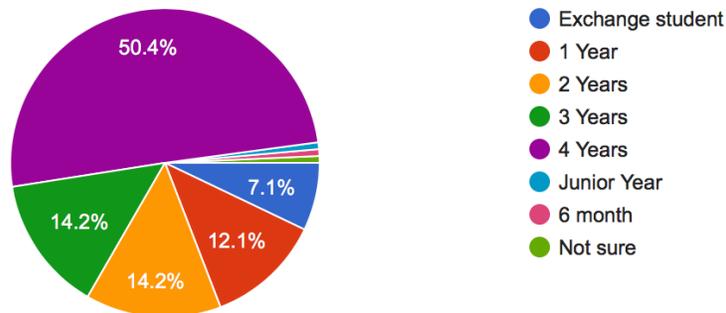


Figure 4 Years group

Figure 4 shows the years they have been studying in RSU, the biggest group are year 4 students with 50.4%, and there are two groups who got 14.2%, which are students studying for 2 years and 3 years. And 12.1% from year 1 students, 7.1% from Exchange students this semester, 0.7% students studying in RSU for 6 months, and another 0.7% students are not sure how many years that they are studying in RSU.

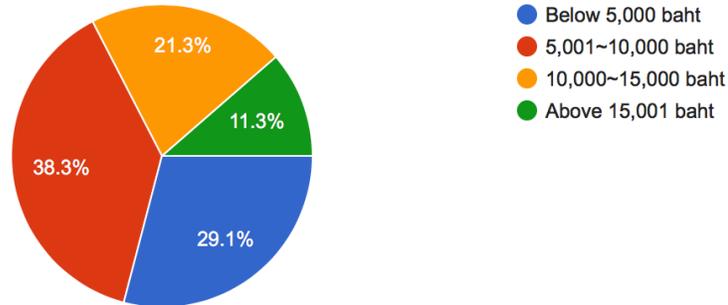


Figure 5 Pocket money per month

Figure 5 shows pocket money per month; 38.3% students are using 5,001~10,000 baht per month, 29.1% students are using below 5,000 baht, 21.3% students are using 10,001~15,000 baht every month, and there are only 11.3% students using above 15,001 baht per month.

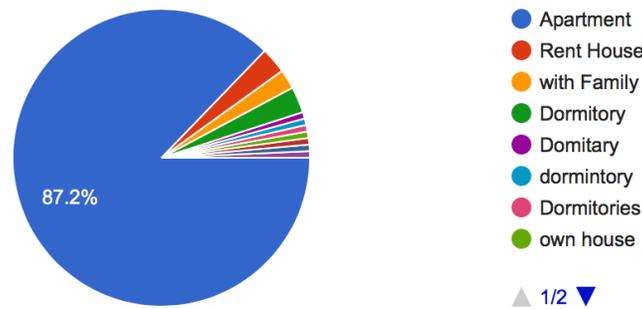


Figure 6 Types of residence

Figure 6 shows foreign students studying in RSU and renting an apartment during their studying time with 87.2%, there are 6.3% who are staying in a dormitory, and 4% of the students are renting a house around RSU, and 3% students stay with family, and only 0.7% students stay in the own house.

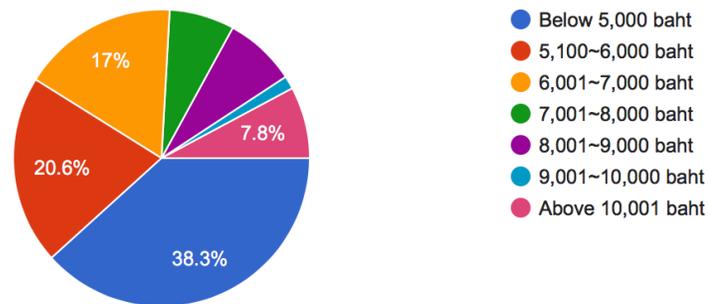


Figure 7 Price of living place Group

There are 38.3% of students who spent below 5,000 baht for their living place per month; 20.6% students paid 5,100~6,000 baht for their residence per month; 17% students paid 6,001~7,000 baht to rent their residence per month; two groups of students got 7.8% as one group paid above 10,001 baht and another group paid 8,001~9,000 baht per month; 7.1% students paid 7,001~8,000 baht per month; and there was only 1.4% of students who paid 9,001~10,000 baht per month.

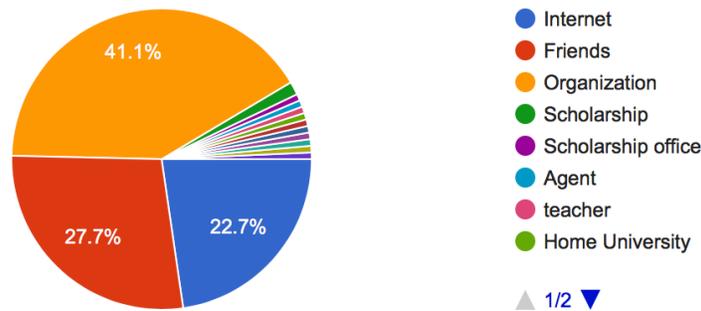


Figure 8 The way the know Rangsit University

Figure 8 shows how students found out about Rangsit University. 41.1% of the students knew RSU by the organization; 27.7% of the students by friends; and 22.7% by the Internet. The rest are from the scholarship office (2.1%); home university/college (1.4%); family (1.4%); agent (0.7%); teacher (0.7%); and school information (0.7%).

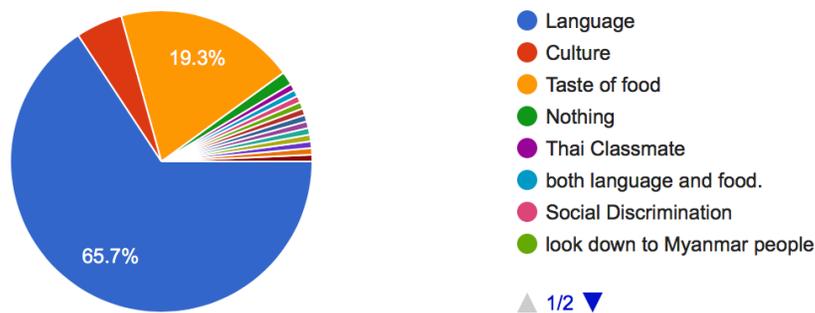


Figure 9 Most difficult thing in Thailand

Figure 9 shows the most difficult things in Thailand for university students. 65.7% students think the most difficult thing they are experiencing in Thailand is language; 19.3% think the taste of Thai food is most difficult; and 5% of the students think culture is the most difficult thing that they experiencing. The others are from both language and food, social discrimination, looking down on Burmese people, weather, currency, slow tempo of handling things, and nothing.

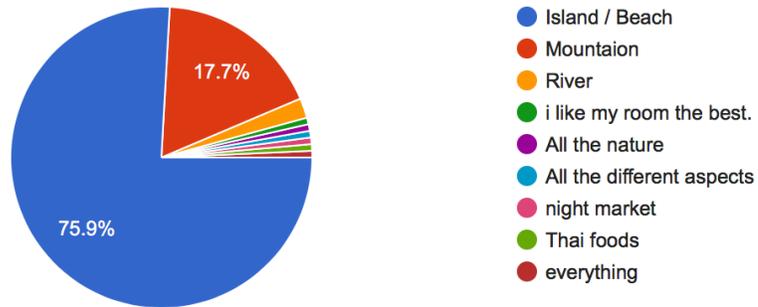


Figure 10 Place that students like the most

Figure 10 shows that 75.9% students like islands/beaches in Thailand; 17.7% like mountains; 2.1% like rivers; and the rest of the 7% of students from each groups are: they like my room the best; all the different aspects, all the nature, the night markets, and everything.

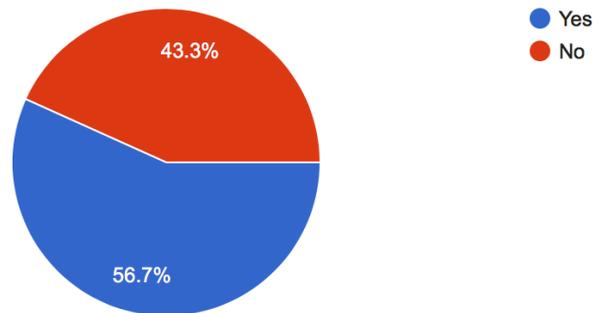


Figure 11 Will they chose to study here again

56.7% students will still choose to study in RSU if they have the chance to choose again, and only 43.3% students won't choose to study in RSU if they have the chance to choose again.

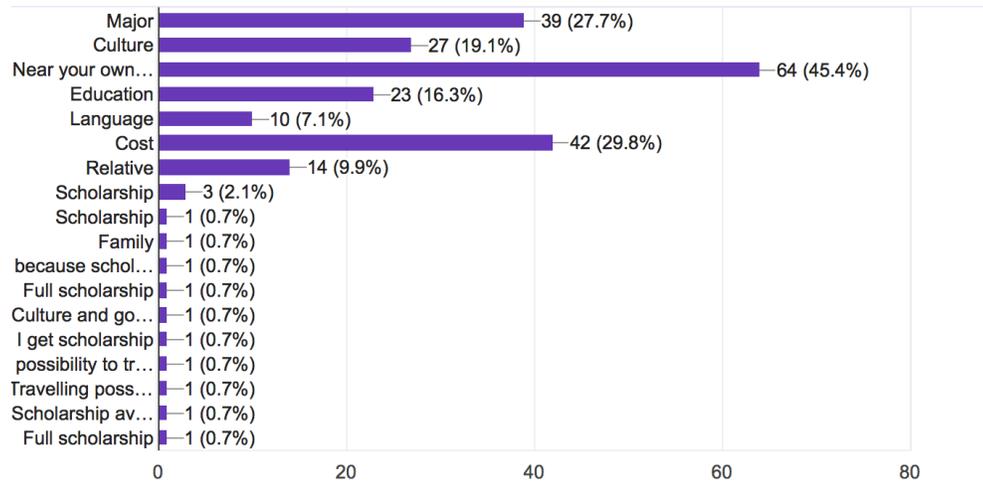


Figure 12 Reasons to study in Thailand

From Figure 12 the largest amount in this table is 45.4% from students who chose to study at RSU because this university is near their own country; the second was 29.8% for the reason of cost; third is 27.7% because of their major; 19.1% because of culture; 16.3% because of education; and 7.1% of language.

5. Discussion

The previous tables can be divided to two parts and discuss about why Rangsit University's foreign students chose to study in Thailand. We will understand the reasons they chose to study in RSU Thailand and what we can do to get more foreign students. First part will be discussion about their base information and the reasons why they chose to study at RSU with the major that they are studying now. Second part will talk about the cost they use per month from pocket money and residence.

First part, these pie charts are showing their gender, country, major and years that they are studying in RSU, which means their base information from these one can know the male foreign students is more than female foreign students in this result with 53.2% and 46.8%. The top three groups of students are from Myanmar, Bhutan and China, which are near Thailand. Moreover, Burmese students are the largest group with 51.8% that is over 50%. In this result, one can say the Burmese students are the largest number of foreign students studying in RSU this year. The major that students most are studying now is International Business and Civil Engineering. International Business is new in RIC so they have complete the system and lots of opportunities to study a double degree. Myanmar, Bhutan and China's markets are near Thai markets so it is good to do business between the two countries. Such as, some Chinese study selling Thai products online using an APP and they earn a lot of profit from this because China and Thailand have a currency exchange rate of 1:5, and the transportation cost about sending products from Thailand to China isn't expensive. Civil Engineering is a new major at RIC because before it was only offered for Thai students and the international program did not open for more than 5 years, but this major can be second the largest group that students are presently studying. In this major 80% of students are from Myanmar, as we know Myanmar is a developing country, as construction and engineering are two of the best known jobs in Myanmar because of their government focus on this construction industry. Most of the students chose to study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics major because they want to help improve the political situation in Myanmar. And most of the students chose to study the major because they are interested in that major and they want to be good at it. Moreover, the reasons they chose to study in Thailand is because it is near their own country, major, culture, education and cost, from these reasons we can understand more why Myanmar, Bhutan and China will be the top number of foreign students studying in

Thailand. 50.4% of students are already studying in RSU 4 years, which are almost finished with their studies and only 12.1% students are in year 1. On the other hand, 41.1% of students know this University by organization and 27.7% are from friends, so if RSU wants to get more foreign students they shall keep in touch with more organizations and also share more information with them. Also, RSU can focus on foreign students who are studying at RSU now to let them introduce more new students to study at RSU from their country. There is news the researcher heard from their advisor that if they introduce one new student then they can get a discount, if they introduce more then they will get more, this method can help the university to get more students to study here.

When foreign students study they must face some difficult thing or experiencing something that they are not feeling well in Thailand because this is not their own country and 65.7% students think language is the most difficult thing that they experiencing in Thailand. This is because English is not Thailand's first language and most foreign students cannot speak Thai. Moreover, when students are studying at the university they will only be taking one basic Thai language class, which focuses on speaking and listening and from speaking and listening the teachers are teaching about the sentence or vocabulary that maybe are used in daily life, of course all the teachers will teach vocabulary of Rangsit and Future Park, but after this subject they won't take any subject about Thai language. If students want to study Thai language then they have to search the place to study by themselves or waiting for the Art and Culture student club to create this activity and join it, but in this activity they are not really focusing on reading and writing.

As we know Thai food is always spicy, but some countries don't really eat spicy food or they prefer different kinds of spices than Thailand. For example, Two Bhutanese students come here in the first semester, and eat Mama Noodles for a whole semester because they said the taste is different from their country, but after one semester they are trying to eat and enjoy. Even though, there are some difficult things they are experiencing, but these places and reasons far outweigh those experiences. Which 75.9 students like island/beach and this percentage is more a difficult experience. Thailand has many beautiful islands, mountains and nature, as these will be the main reasons why students want to study in Thailand, so universities have to use this to get more students to study here, which universities can have trips to travel in different islands or nature and share the culture with foreign students. This can use the things they like to influence the thing that feels difficult, like some students think about culture or taste of food then university can bring them to a nature setting, local place to let them understand the history or teach them how to cook Thai food or the story of the food, so they have new views about it.

Second part is about the cost that students use per month for their place and life. 87.2% of the students are living in an apartment alone or with their roommate, and 6.3% are living the dormitory. The prices are from below 5,000 baht to above 15,001 baht and from the result the first and second groups are the students who use below 5,000 baht and 5,001~10,000 baht. Also the cost for their places are from below 5,000 baht to above 10,001 baht, and in this result the top two groups are 38.3% and 20.6% from below 5,000 baht and 5,100~6,000 baht, which are the same as the pocket money they use. Therefore, we will know the cost is also the main reason of studying in Thailand because they only use this amount for their living cost and daily life per month.

When I ask if they have a chance to study again, will they still choose to study in RSU, 56.7% say Yes because they think they are learning a different culture and have opportunities to build friendship with people from different countries, also they like nature, islands and people, cost and weather...etc. And another 43.3% students say NO because they disagree with the reasons what 56.7% say they enjoy.

6. Conclusion

Thailand can attract many students from its neighboring countries since it is conveniently located in the middle of other ASEAN countries. And also the location of Thailand is the destination for foreign investors. The language seems to be a problem so only a small percentage of students study in Thailand but once we learn it, it is going to be useful in our careers.

This study identified that studying abroad is concerned with financial support. Financial support for international studies is important and lots of student come to study because of the university's financial aid. There are also more students from neighbouring country of Thailand since the travel is at ease.

We can study and travel in the same time because living costs are fair and the university also offers some great scholarships so it is their destination point. The university also offers a wide range of fields so students can specialize in their educational goal and follow their passion. Thailand also offers a lot to explore, and students can spend their holidays discovering beautiful islands and tropical sceneries.

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