

Enriching Language and Culture Learning through the Overseas Study Tour

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Outline

- Objectives and background
- Logistical details
- Classroom learning
- Thai arts and crafts
- Homestay with Thai families
- Outcomes

Objectives

- Improve four language skills
- Cultivate deeper awareness of Thai culture
 - Get to know more about Thai society
 - Have more of a cultural “context” for the language learning
 - Develop intercultural skills through homestay
- Increase motivation to learn

Methods

Main components of the study tour:

- In-class language study
- Experiential learning of Thai arts and crafts
- Homestay with a Thai family

First Study tour



First study tour

- In 2003 in Rayong province
- Teachers were friends of the language teacher
- The classroom was outdoors, surrounded by Durian trees
- Homestay in traditional homes
- Three weeks long

Background

- MOU between KUIS and Thai universities
 - Exchange student program
 - Thai music teacher
 - Study tour
- 13th Study Tour
 - 1st study tour 2003: Fruit orchard Villege (Rayong)
 - 2nd study tour 2004- present: Burapha University (Chonburi)
 - 3rd study tour 2005: Chiang Mai University (Chiang Mai)

Duration

- During Spring break (Feb.-Mar.)
- 22 days
 - 19 days in the university and stay with host family
 - 12 days: class time (72 hours)
 - 3 days and 2 nights' stay in Bangkok

Schedule in university

- Language class
 - Monday to Friday: 9:00 am – 12:00 am
 - The first two days: pre-test (one hour)
 - The last two days: post-test (one hour)
- Cultural activities
 - Monday to Friday: 13:00 pm – 16:00 pm
- Weekend trip
 - Cultural & elephant performance
 - 2nd weekend on Saturday

Schedule in Bangkok

- Bangkok
 - Two night stay in a hotel (curfew at 21:00)
 - Temples and Grand Palace
 - Free time in the evening
- Ayuthaya
 - Day trip
 - Historical sites

Expenses

- Round trip air tickets
- Travel insurance and university insurance
- Language classes and cultural activities
- Host family
- Hotel in Bangkok
- Transportation
- Trips

Classroom study and students

- First component of the program
- 36 hours of instruction.
- The students were 1st year Thai majors
- Able to convey basic conversation with host family
- Willing to adjust to the group
- Can follow rules and co-operate with teacher

Language teachers

- Thai native teachers, working at the university
- Have long experience in teaching Thai to foreigners
- Understand the nature of Japanese students and understand Japanese

Classes in Thai arts and crafts



Thai arts and crafts

- Second component of the program
- 36 hours of instruction provided in afternoon.
- Taught in Thai
- Teachers are specialists in each activity
- Teachers can provide appropriate equipment and tools for the activity
- Assistants have skills in the particular activity.

Thai arts and crafts

- Thai cooking
- Thai boxing
- Traditional Thai music
- Thai design drawing
- Vegetable and fruits carving
- Thai massage
- Making herbal massage balls
- Thai dance
- Making flower garland

Host families

- Third component of the program
- Families chosen to match with students' personalities
- Most families have children interested in Japan or who are learning Japanese
- Some families have hosted students for many years
- Prefer families with cars in order to take students to and from school
- Each family receives some token money to help with meal and gasoline expenses

Meeting the host families



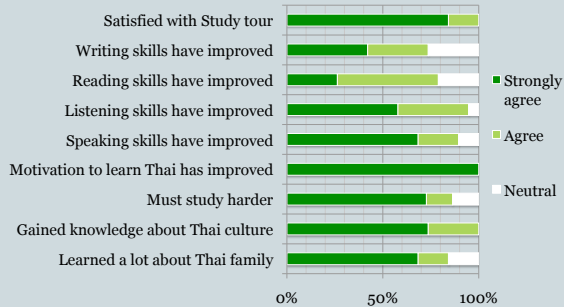
Intercultural experiences

- Wide range of income and status among Thai families
- Bathrooms are different and water may be cold
- Air conditioning is cold at night
- Mothers have fulltime jobs
- Families tend to eat out every night
- Time is flexible

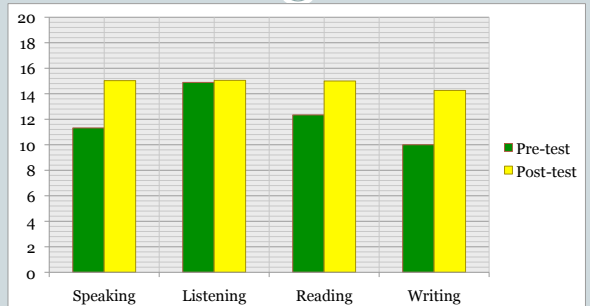
Bangkok and Ayuthaya



Students' evaluation 2015



Pre-test and Post-test 2015



Challenges

- Find enough families for students
- Students' health
 - Food poisoning
 - Insects bite
- Students' safety
 - Curfew time
 - In a car, on a motorcycle
 - Stray dogs and monkeys

Benefits for students

- Open their worldview
- Understand more about Thai culture and society
- Have contextual knowledge about Thailand
- Have more Thai friends
- Motivated to study
- Four language skills have improved
- Earn 2 credits for elective subject