Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  I felt that the instructors at Thammasat were pretty similar to instructors at UCSB. They were all very informative and interested in helping students to do their absolute best.

- Could you call them by their first names?
  No, we called them by their last name with either “Ajarn” or Doctor preceding.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  It really just depended on the instructor. One of our instructors had our entire class over to her house for dinner one night. While other instructors kept their relationships more formal with students.

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  Yes, all of my instructors had office hours. If a student was unable to attend their normal office hours the instructors were usually able to meet at a different time.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  During my first week we took an “Introduction to Thai Language” course which wasn’t a very demanding, difficult subject matter. But, the next two classes I took were very demanding. Again, it all really just depends on the instructor teaching the class. My Thai Buddhism professor demanded a lot out of his students by assigning nearly impossible essays in a short time frame. Whereas my Socioeconomy professor, while she demanded a lot out of us, tried to work around our tight schedules.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  I haven’t gotten any grades yet so I’m not sure. The only grade I received in Thailand was for an essay in my Thai Buddhism class….I received a “Good Minus”. The scale was as follows: Good minus, Good, Good plus, and Good plus plus. I’m not kidding either.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  We had several take home essays and then two in class finals. For the Socioeconomy course, students were expected to do TONS of reading (it didn’t even compare to UCSB) and come to class prepared for discussion. The Buddhism course was mainly lecture. No powerpoints and no video, just three hours of straight lecture so that was a bit challenging.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  Our exams were written. They were very formal as we were all required to come to class wearing our uniforms and sit in assigned spaces.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  Inflexible.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
All of the people working inside the office were very supportive. If anybody had grievances that they wanted to discuss they were always there to help.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  I had to be more independent to some degree because I didn’t have all of the things I’m used to having at home…like a printer. I had to prepare even more so ahead of time and take the initiative to find things.

- Was classroom participation expected?
  Yes.

- How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
  The lengths of class times were different in that they were much longer.

- Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
  Because I was on the summer program I knew what all of my classes were ahead of time. Once I got to Bangkok I was given the dates and times of classes on a little calendar. Although it varied from week to week, we were usually in class two to four times a week for six hours at a time (not counting our one hour lunch break).

- What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?
  Being punctual was stressed, although (regrettably) many students did not show up on time. We were allowed to eat and drink in the classroom for about three weeks and then the rules changed and we were no longer allowed to, outside of water of course.

Language
- In which languages were the courses offered?
  English.

- What language did you take your courses in?
  English.

- If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.

Host University
- How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?
  The campus is much smaller than UCSB and is right in the heart of Bangkok. There are a few buildings, the largest being eight stories.

- Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
  There are no dorms on campus. Many students lived in the apartment complex we stayed in, while others lived at home.

- If not located in the city center,
  o How far or close is it to the city?
- **What type of public transportation could you take – cost?**
  You could either walk or take a ferry for 3 baht (about ten cents). You could also take a taxi or tuk-tuk, but those options were more expensive.
- **Could students take cabs -cost?**
  Yes, usually about thirty eight baht…so a little over one dollar.
- **How long would it take to get to the city center?**
  We were pretty much in the city center. But depending on traffic, it could take fifteen minutes to get to the other side of the city or over an hour.

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  I know some students participated in Mui Thai.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  Yes, there is a fantastic bookstore with air conditioning! We weren’t required to purchase any books…we were just given readers.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  There is a computer lab on campus. But I would DEFINITELY bring a laptop.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  There are cafes, restaurants, food vendors, clothing vendors, temples, the amulet market and the grand palace all within walking distance of the university.

**Housing**

- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  Students usually stay at either 3J court or Amarin Mansion (which is not a mansion I might add, although rooms are larger than 3J). Students also have the option to find housing on their own.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  They are within walking distance.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  The EAP website!

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  I lived in 3J court in a one bedroom apartment with two other girls. Although it sounds like a lot, the room was big enough so that we were all comfortable and had some space. It probably also helped that there was a living room as well.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  Good question. On average they were much cleaner than places in IV, due to the fact that there was a maid service. All the beds were clean and the couches were two. I would advise students to bring a light blanket with them if they stay in 3J though because our blankets were just oversized towels which worked, but it took some getting used to.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
It was WAY CHEAPER. I think we payed about three hundred each for the month, which included all utilities and rent.

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  We just talked to Chicken (the front desk manager) about paying for rent and he helped us out. We got a bill on our mail-clip outside our room every month.

**Food**
- **What was the food like?**
  VERY Thai. There was pretty much always meat and it was usually always spicy.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  I ate from food vendors quite often as well as from the cafeteria both at 3J and at Thammasat. Although I really did enjoy eating Thai food, I missed eating salad. So I frequented Sizzler a lot (I know I know…) because they had a fantastic salad bar.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  Street vendor food was like 30 baht (one dollar) for a whole plate of food. Rice, meat, veggies. Restaurants were a bit more expensive, especially depending on there location. But you could usually get a meal at a restaurant for about 5 dollars (and tipping isn’t required!).

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  About the same time that people eat lunch/dinner here.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  One of my roommates was vegetarian. I’m not going to lie…she had a pretty tough time because the concept of vegetarian in Thai is different than the American concept of vegetarian. She usually ended up eating vegetarian fried rice, going to more expensive restaurants, or buying foods to keep at home from a grocery store. But there is a lot of delicious fruit to eat!

**Travel/Safety**
- **If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?**

- **Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?**
  Yes, I felt very safe. We always travelled in groups at night, which I would advise any student to do anywhere they travel. But I oftentimes walked to campus alone in the day or to Khao San Road or a temple or whatever.

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**
  There are so many options! We took buses, tuk-tuks, cabs, and walked. Some students took the Sky Train for fun as well.

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
  I personally didn’t go to any neighboring countries…which was such a bummer. Some of my friends did and they were able to travel relatively easily. Just make sure to have proper traveling documents and research your trip well enough in advance!
**Host City/Country**
- What was the weather like?
  HOT. HUMID. WET. RAINY.
- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
  Bangkok is like Los Angeles on crack times ten. This is how I describe it to everyone.
- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
  There are many fun night clubs to go to. TONS of shopping. We traveled around Thailand quite a bit and saw lots of temples and historic sites. There’s so much to do and see just inside Bangkok though because it’s such a big city.
- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
  Bangkok is pretty big on tourism as you can imagine, especially near Khao San Road. There are lots of American businesses/eateries…but there is still a lot of Thai stuff, which was very refreshing.

**Culture**
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  - Time & punctuality
  - Eye contact & staring
    A lot of people stared at us because we were a big group of Americans.
  - Relationships
    Dating rules are a bit more relaxed in Bangkok than they are in other parts of Thailand. Although one doesn’t often see people holding hands in public, let alone kissing.
  - More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
    Yes, overall the dress is more conservative although not necessarily more formal. Temple attire requires people to cover themselves from the knees up and their shoulders and chest. Usually you can rent a sarong to cover up. You are also not allowed to wear shoes inside temples. But on average Thais cover themselves much more so than Americans do.
  - Alcohol consumption
    Well, from what I noticed, Thai people enjoy there alcohol!
  - What culture shock did you go through?
    Being in Bangkok was really overwhelming at first, along with the heat and humidity. Oh and the whole language factor was a difficult hurdle to get over too. It took me about four weeks to get comfortable.
  - Other?

**Banking**
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  I’m not sure because I didn’t bring a credit card. I brought my debit card and withdrew money from an ATM for a five dollar fee.
- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  I did not.
- If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM? Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?
It was very easy to withdraw from ATMs. There were a lot of ATMs, many of which were near 3J so I usually just used one of those. The cheapest fee was 5 dollars, although I don’t think I ever went to one that was more expensive than that.

- Were there ATMs on campus?
  No, but Khao San Road was really close and there are a lot of ATMs there.