



# AT A GLANCE CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

In the heart of Southeast Asia, Thailand is a land of contrasts: gorgeous countryside of rice fields, mountains, hills, and ancient temples; bustling city life in the capital, Bangkok; and beaches world-famous for diving and snorkeling. A largely Buddhist society, Thailand's population is varied with many tribal groups and immigrants. Chiang Mai has roots dating to the 13th century. It is the second largest city in the country, boasts a dramatic mountain backdrop with hundreds of temples and is home to people of diverse cultural identities.

Students will spend a semester in Chiang Mai, studying Thai culture, language, and society at Payap University and engaging in substantive volunteer service for 10-15 hours per week. The volunteer service will immerse students in the culture and deepens their understanding of Thai society in a way that goes beyond that experienced in traditional study abroad programs. It also contributes to your knowledge and use of the Thai language.

- Curriculum Focus: Thai language, culture and society
- Local University Partner: Payap University
- Language of Instruction: English except for Thai Language class

Credits: 12 -15 per semester

- Housing: Homestay with Thai family or Payap's International House
- Service Opportunities: working with disadvantaged children; English language consulting and/or tutoring ; helping at schools for the deaf and blind; serving with environmental programs, hospitals and rehabilitation centers; working with Burmese refugees/immigrants, street children, hill tribe girls, sex workers, or farmers who are seeking another means of livelihood
- Academic Excursions: Guided field trips to hill tribe villages, famous monasteries in the Chiang Mai area and overnight trips to Bangkok or Sukothai