

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

We had a chance to go study at UCLA as exchange students for one academic year. What we experienced is definitely invaluable. We applied for exchange program with Thammasat International Affairs Office because we preferred going away for a year than just a one semester and UC Universities offered us that opportunity. I chose UCLA because the university has a well-known reputation and I personally like living in the city. The only drawback for LA in my opinion is that it has too many Thai people. I mean, it makes you feel like home, but at the same time you are stuck in the same environment with Thai people speaking Thai. And this is definitely not what you look for in an exchange program. However, I just love the fact that I can get any kind of Thai food and desserts at Thai Town whenever I have a craving for some! 😊



Unlike Thammasat, UCLA has quarter system. Each quarter takes only 3 months so everything goes by super fast. You are required to enroll in at least 3 classes but not more than 5 classes per quarter. In my opinion, 3 or 4 classes are just about right. Although UCLA has a well-known Business School, Anderson Business School is a graduate school, so we cannot enroll in those classes offered by Anderson. And most of the classes offered to undergraduate students by Management department are the classes we have already taken at BBA. So we kind of had a hard time planning for the study plan. I don't suggest a Finance or Marketing major to go to UCLA since classes offered by Management department are mostly accounting classes. However, you can take economics classes offered by Economic department and make them your elective courses.

LA is a very diverse city. Some even say that UCLA actually stands for 'Caucasians Lost Among Asians!'. You will not have problem blending in. As a matter of fact, no one will even notice that you are just an exchange student there. At UCLA, there are plenty of student groups that you can join. For us, we have joined the Thai Smakom. Despite the fact that its name is Thai Smakom, there are only a few people that can really speak Thai. Most of the people in the club are American-born Thais. The major activity we took part in was Thai Culture Night, which its objective was to show others Thai culture and customs. Though it required us a lot of rehearsing time, the result of the show was definitely worth it. 😊



Since California is so huge, we did not really get to go out of the State. We visited our



friends in Santa Barbara and San Francisco twice. We also went to many places in the weekend, such as Las Vegas, Riverside, San Diego, and Big Bear Mountain for snowboarding. It was funny how we did not get to go to LA attractions like Universal Studio and Disneyland, while others flew from other States to visit these places. Other interesting attractions in LA and the city nearby are Kodak Theater, Chinese Mann's Theater, Rodeo Drive,

Beverly Hills, Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica 3rd Street Promenade, Little Tokyo, Getty Museum and Villa, Cabazon Outlet, and Six Flags Magic Mountain. Also, you would not want to miss the famous ice-cream sandwich in Westwood. The cookies are hand-made and you will be surprised of how long the line is. This place has a long line all day till like midnight! Moreover, there is a very famous place for cupcakes called Sprinkles and a place for Macaroon as seen in Gossip Girls called Paulette, both are in Beverly Hills neighborhood.

As the last quarter ended, I flew to New York and Chicago. I spent a week in New York City and a couple of days in each city like Washington D.C., Boston and Chicago. For those who love shopping, you will definitely fall for NYC. I was so in love with the city and wanted to stay longer; unfortunately, we both have to come back for the internship so we had to end our journey. It was almost nine months that we lived our lives there.



We learnt a lot, had many good times and bad times; but they all were wonderful and unforgettable experiences.

Last but not least, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people at BBA and International Affair office in assisting us along the way and helping us prepare ourselves for the outside world. No one can do a better job as all of you have done for us! Thank you ka!

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