

International Student Exchange Program:

Study Report

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I arrived at the University of North Georgia on the 11th August 2017. University of North Georgia was founded since 1873 and is located at the city of Dahlonega in the state of Georgia. The university is well known as “The Military College of Georgia”, which is one of the reasons I applied to study there as well. Military College means that the university provides a special program for cadets, while offering the courses for students to obtain their degree as well. I had a lot of fun studying as well as observing the cadets training. It was a very memorable experience in this university because I got to experience the events that other USA universities do not have such as respecting the national anthem (ยืนเคารพธงชาติ), seeing the cadets train on the drill field, seeing the military helicopter landing, and seeing them firing the cannon.

Since my major is in social entrepreneurship, I took the Leadership and the Entrepreneur Start up Process courses with some of my other courses. At first, I thought that it would be very challenging to work with my American friends and that they would be more superior and smarter than me. However, when I worked with them, I found out that we are just students as same as each other and we both attend the class to learn, there were no one who smarter than the others, we all were just students. After I realized that fact, I started to gain more confident in myself and share my opinion to the team more. Sometimes when the team members were not responsible in their tasks, I try to take the lead and push the team toward to our goal.

Both of the courses required the students to do a team presentation in which I was scare to do it at first, but I tried my best to work hard and do the best that I can. I was very proud of the two project that our team did because both of them won the presentation contest. I was proud because I showed the other students that even my English skill is incomparable to them, but I can generate a quality presentation. These are the pictures of my teammates.



There were 2 obstacles I faced when I was studying aboard.

First, University of North Georgia is located in a small town called Dahlonega, which takes about 3 hours up north from the main city of Georgia, Atlanta. Therefore, there is no public transportation around the area at all, even Uber. The only way to go to a grocery store in town is by a friend's car.

Second, the course registration is very limited, especially in the second semester. In the first semester, the Center of Global Engagement department registered every class for us and we were allowed to register every class that we asked. However, in the second semester, the Center of Global Engagement did not register the course for us anymore. Thus, the exchange students have to register by themselves and we faced the problem that the professors did not allow us to take the courses that we had asked because we did not have the prerequisite that they stated. Even though I asked my Thai professor at Thammasat to talk to the professor at UNG and explained that I had taken the prerequisite when I was in Thailand. They did not allow me to take it anyway.



The courses that I like most from the study abroad experience are Entrepreneur Start Up Process and Social Problems.

For the Entrepreneur Start Up Process, I like the course because I had a chance to learn more about business management. At my major in Thammasat, I had a limited chance to learn about business and entrepreneurship because the major focuses more on social issues. At UNG, I had more chance to learn from a professor who is also an entrepreneur, in which I learn a lot from both his experience and the knowledge he taught me in class. I also got a chance to learn with other students who are determine in being an entrepreneur.

For Social Problems course, I like it because even I study about social problems at Thammasat, I never know about the on-going global social problems. I had a chance to learn more about various social problems which made me became more aware of what is happening in the world.

I had experienced both good and bad experiences when I was studying abroad. However, both of them are all very precious to in helping me learn and guiding me into becoming a better person.

I met so many inspiring people who encourage me to be a better social entrepreneur. All the knowledge in gained from studying abroad both inside and outside of classroom, I harvest all of them and try to put them into good use to solve the social issues in Thai society. I had been collecting the useful information and ideas of the system in the United States and came up with a business plan in solving Thai social issues. Lately, I just submitted the plan to a Social Innovation Competition, and I am proud of myself because I never thought that I will have the knowledge and confident to join the competition. I have to say thank you Thammasat University for the most memorable experiences in my life. My aim in joining the competition is to purpose a plan to better the Thai society, while gaining a positive reputation to Thammasat University.