

Liz Neves – Exchange at Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand)

Major: Business Administration | **Minor:** Innovation

I studied abroad because...

I wanted primarily to gain international experience and learn about a different culture in an immersive way. I also wanted to expand my network with other business students internationally.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...

honestly convincing my Dad that it was perfectly safe to live in Asia.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad:

For breakfast I would have a smoothie, which cost 45 baht or \$1.50. I usually ate panang curry for lunch or dinner. For snacks I enjoyed Mochi ice cream or Poky sticks. I love Thai food!

My favorite spot in my host city was...

the little restaurant in the garage of my apartment complex. The food was amazing and everyone would go eat, drink, and hang out there. I loved it because it would be like 30 plus people sometimes and then we would all go out together.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:

The last few days of my exchange I went to WonderFruit Festival. It was a four-day music festival, and we also camped there. It was a different experience than the music festivals that I had previously been too. Not only was there music, but during the day you could paint, make pottery, do yoga, mediate, or take a mud bath. I couldn't have asked for a better way to end my exchange semester.

The most memorable experience for me while abroad was...

definitely teaching English at a few of the schools in my area. The kids were beyond cute, super respectful, and I really did enjoy creating the lesson plans and teaching. That experience made me realize how much I enjoy working with kids and that I do want to incorporate that passion into my future career path.

A hobby I picked up while abroad:

While studying abroad, I realized how easy it was to travel. Yes, I had traveled previously but it really opened my eyes to the natural beauty that every country has. I also played in a volleyball tournament. I love team sports, and it was a great way to meet some of the Thai students.

What I found most challenging while abroad:

At first, learning how to use the public transportation was a little difficult. I remember coming home from the mall by myself the first week, and I almost walked three miles home because I was so frustrated, but then I ended up taking a Tuk Tuk. I learned from others and got better at understand the railways so it all worked out.

What surprised me most about study abroad was...

I never thought I would be meeting so many other exchange students from all over the world. Sure, I knew I was going to meet new people, but my apartment complex had about 200 exchange students. It was great because we all became travel buddies and good friends. It's super nice when I travel now because I can visit people from my exchange.

My last bit of advice:

I would encourage anyone who studies abroad to try to get involved either in your university or the city itself. Find something you really like or join a club, sport, or volunteer somewhere. That experience is very special and you'll definitely get the most out of your time abroad.