



INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE  
AGROECOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP:  
COFFEE, CHOCOLATE, AND CANNABIS

**Chiang Mai, Thailand, is emerging as a global center for specialty coffee, artisanal chocolate, and medicinal cannabis.** This 4 week program is a hands-on study of these three important crops, learning directly from farmers and local producers. We will be **spending extended time in the villages and mountains surrounding Chiang Mai**, visiting farms and learning about shade grown coffee, cacao production, medicinal cannabis production, as well as time exploring the ancient city of Chiang Mai.

**Field studies and experiential learning are a key part of this course.** Students will be visiting farmers, upland and lowland communities, doing case studies of successful businesses and cafes, and learning the agroecology, processing, and production of coffee, cacao/chocolate, and medicinal cannabis. Academically challenging and experiential, this course **blends together the science of sustainable agroecological production and processing with an understanding of the larger social and economic issues** surrounding all three crops.

Strong partnerships with local communities are a key part of what makes ISDSI courses successful. **We work together with local communities to help them tell their own stories** and learn about their issues. As a result **our partner communities are passionate about connecting with and teaching our students**, sharing their lives, knowledge, and struggles. **Students then have the unique opportunity to help empower communities through listening to and learning the stories** of often marginalized people. Living with and learning from local communities allows students to **be a part of grassroots solutions to global problems.**

**Week 1 – Coffee focus:** We will be looking at all the stages of coffee production, visiting coffee farms and cafes, as well as learning about roasting coffee, specialty coffee production, and what makes the perfect cup of coffee.

**Week 2 – Chocolate focus:** We will study cacao growing, processing, and fermentation. Hands on practice through field studies of cacao farms, as well as learning about and producing artisanal small-batch chocolate.

**Week 3 – Medicinal cannabis focus:** We will look at the use of cannabis in traditional medicine as well as modern applications, carry out a field study with Maejo University's cannabis program, and learn from small scale farmers and entrepreneurs. We'll also be looking at the legal challenges and cultural history of cannabis in Thailand.

**Week 4 – Independent student research:** At the beginning of the program each student will choose a topic to study more in-depth, and use this final week to do independent research on the topic of their choice, from production, to preparation, to business development for coffee, chocolate, or cannabis.

---

<b>Program length</b>	4 weeks
<b>Credit</b>	4 credits
<b>Eligibility</b>	Currently enrolled in college or university. Recommended for 3rd or 4th year undergraduate students.
<b>Deadlines</b>	April 1. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and you are encouraged to apply before the deadline. After the deadline applications will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

---

**For more information, see [www.isdsi.org/summer](http://www.isdsi.org/summer)**

**Interested? Email [admissions@isdsi.org](mailto:admissions@isdsi.org) today to learn more!**

