



INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE
SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF THAILAND SUMMER

Go beyond sightseeing and gain a deeper understanding of Thailand by **learning directly from local communities**. This four-week study abroad program blends **academic coursework** with **hands-on experiential learning**, taking students beyond what a tourist or traveler would see. Based in the culturally rich city of Chiang Mai, this program explores Thai **society, history, and culture**, offering students an in-depth look at both **traditional** and **contemporary** Thailand.

Each week, students take part in **experiential learning** activities that bring classroom discussions to life. Whether it's **exploring** the ancient walled city of Chiang Mai, studying the **history of sacred temples**, learning about the **cultural significance of Thai street food**, or navigating the city's vibrant **markets** and **modern cafés**, these experiences provide a deeper connection to Thailand's people, culture, and way of life. Chiang Mai, a city where ancient traditions meet modern life, serves as the perfect backdrop for studying how Thailand **balances deep-rooted heritage with rapid change**.

What makes this program truly special is the opportunity to **engage with communities firsthand**. In addition to urban field studies and classroom discussions, students spend one weekend in a **homestay** with **Northern Thai villagers** practicing organic farming and another weekend in an **indigenous Karen village** high in the mountains. These immersive experiences offer a unique perspective on rural Thailand, indigenous cultures, and the ways communities balance tradition, sustainability, and modern challenges.

Academic Focus & Learning Outcomes

This program combines classroom learning with real-world experiences to deepen students' understanding of Thailand. Students will:

- Develop practical Thai language skills through structured lessons and daily interactions.
- Explore Chiang Mai's history, from its ancient temples to its modern creative scene.
- Examine the role of street food, markets, and cafés in Thai daily life and culture.
- Analyze the blend of ancient traditions and modern influences in urban and rural settings.
- Engage with local communities, artisans, and experts to gain first-hand insight into Thai society.

Through a combination of fieldwork, discussions, and immersive experiences, students will apply academic concepts in meaningful ways, gaining a valuable cross-cultural perspective of historical as well as contemporary Thai society.

Program length	4 weeks
Credit	4 credits
Eligibility	Currently enrolled in college or university and in good academic standing.
Deadlines	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

Interested? Email admissions@isdsi.org today to learn more!

