



INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE

SEMESTER IN CHIANG MAI:

## SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF THAILAND AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Society and Culture of Thailand and Southeast Asia (SCT) Semester is an **immersive program** designed for students who want to **engage deeply with Thailand's history, traditions, and contemporary society**. Based in Chiang Mai, a city known for its rich **cultural heritage** and **vibrant modern life**, the program combines academic coursework and experiential learning, **taking students beyond the classroom** to explore Thailand's diverse communities, cultural traditions, and historical landscapes.

The SCT Semester is built on hands-on learning and engagement through field experiences, **independent research projects**, and **direct engagement** with local communities. Students explore Thai and Southeast Asian history, political structures, religious traditions, and cultural heritage, from ancient temples and historic capitals to the evolving arts and media shaping Southeast Asia today. By studying in Chiang Mai and participating in experiential studies, students gain a dynamic perspective on both **traditional** and **contemporary** Thai life.

### Experiential Learning Opportunities

Students step outside the classroom to engage in **real-world cultural learning** that connects their academic learning with Thailand's living traditions, including:

- **Historical and Religious Exploration** – Visits to ancient temples, city walls, and historic sites to study Thailand's Buddhist heritage and evolving cultural landscapes.
- **Cultural Heritage and Creativity** – Engagement with local artisans, traditional handicrafts (silverwork, weaving, and woodcarving), street art, and Thailand's contemporary arts scene.
- **Markets and Urban Life** – Field studies in bustling street markets, fresh food stalls, and night bazaars that reflect Thailand's dynamic mix of tradition and modernity.

### Field-Based Learning

While Chiang Mai remains the program's home base, students take part in **multi-day experiential studies** to gain firsthand insights into Thai and Southeast Asian diversity, exploring rural home stays in lowland and upland villagers, learn about indigenous knowledge, sustainable living, and the deep history and cultures of the region.

SEMESTER COURSES	TOPIC	CREDIT
<b>Thai Language:</b> Students develop essential Thai language skills through immersive classes that support deeper cultural understanding and meaningful local interactions.	Foreign Language	4
<b>Thai History and Politics:</b> This course traces Thailand's historical development and governance, helping students understand the country's diverse populations and social changes.	History	4
<b>Sustainability in Thailand:</b> Examining sustainability through local and indigenous knowledge, this course introduces students to community-based conservation, sustainable agriculture, and resource management.	Sustainability	4
<b>Society, Culture, and the Arts of Thailand:</b> A deep dive into Thai culture, focusing on temple architecture, arts, and contemporary artistic expression. Students explore Buddhist and animist influences, social movements and social change, and the evolution of Thai identity in an increasingly globalized world.	Sociology	4

**Program Length:** 16 week semester

**Eligibility:** Students currently enrolled in college or university in good academic standing

**Deadlines:** Fall Semester: March 15 / Spring Semester: October 15

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

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

