

Study Abroad in Thailand

Summer Courses Compared

All three summer courses run 4 weeks and earn 4 credits, based at or from ISDSI's Chiang Mai campus, and each includes an Independent Field Research Project. Use this comparison to see which fits your interests.

	Agroecology & Entrepreneurship <i>Coffee, Cacao & Cannabis</i> A four-week study of coffee, cacao, and cannabis production, pairing farm and producer field studies with classroom seminars and an independent research project.	Elephants & Conservation Ecology <i>Thailand & Laos</i> Four weeks studying wild and captive Asian elephants in Thailand and Laos, with hands-on conservation work, veterinary training, and visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites.	Tropical Marine Ecology <i>Whales, Sea Turtles & Reefs</i> Four weeks on the Gulf of Thailand with experiential study of whales, sea turtles, and coral reef conservation, with the opportunity for earning SCUBA certifications.
LENGTH	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks
CREDITS	4 credit hours	4 credit hours	4 credit hours
BEST SUITED FOR	Students interested in sustainable agriculture, food systems, or entrepreneurship	Students interested in wildlife biology, veterinary science, conservation ecology, or zoology	Students interested in marine biology, environmental science, or ocean conservation
PRIMARY LOCATION	Chiang Mai + surrounding farms and mountain villages	Thailand + Laos (Chiang Mai, wildlife sanctuaries, Luang Prabang)	Gulf of Thailand coast + Chiang Mai
FIELD FOCUS	Coffee, cacao, and cannabis farming; visits to producers and entrepreneurs	Asian elephant conservation; wildlife sanctuaries; UNESCO heritage sites	Bryde's whales, sea turtles, and coral reef conservation, SCUBA diving
CERTIFICATION	ISDSI Certificate in Agroecology & Entrepreneurship	ISDSI Certificate in Elephant Conservation	ISDSI Certificate in Marine & Tropical Coastal Ecology · SCUBA certifications
PREREQUISITES	None — open to any major	Comfort around large animals recommended; background in ecology or animal care helpful	Must be able to swim

What all three share

- **Independent project** — an Independent Field Research Project (IFRP) in every course
- **Open to grad students** — undergraduate and graduate students welcome
- **Learning approach** — experiential, field-based, developed in collaboration with local communities
- **Home base** — connected to ISDSI's Chiang Mai campus

