

Thailand, Bangkok-Thammasat University Exchange

IAP Academic Notes

Please refer to your IAP Study Abroad Handbook for a complete list of UW policies. These academic notes supply additional information specific to your program.

Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request (CER)

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” and the grade you receive in the course also transfers back to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request (CER) through your My Study Abroad account. The deadline to submit the CER is by the end of the fourth week of classes (not including pre-session terms). Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and in your My Study Abroad account under the academics tab.

Courses and Registration

Courses may be taken in any of these international programs: Thai Studies, Faculty of Economics, Business Administration, Political Science, Liberal Arts, and British and American Studies. Courses in these areas (except for Thai language) are taught in English. Students may also enroll at Sirindhorn Institute of Technology (SIIT), a research institute at Thammasat that participates in the exchange program. All courses at SIIT are taught in English. At least 50% of courses chosen must be through the program in which you are enrolled.

Exchange students in the Thai Studies program will take courses in Thai culture alongside other international students. The Thai Studies program offers students the opportunity to take courses in Thai language, Thai society and culture, and Thai civilization.

Classroom Culture

Class sizes are much smaller; the majority of courses have 20 to 40 students enrolled. PowerPoint presentations are common, and overhead projectors and videos are other teaching methods used in the classroom. Classroom culture at Thammasat University is very different from that at UW-Madison.

- Both students and professors tend to be 10 to 15 minutes late for class every day, and are sometimes 45 minutes to an hour late. Classes rarely start at their scheduled time due to the lack of passing time between classes and the general feeling in Thailand that relationships are more important than time.
- Students will answer their cell phones during class, and try to hide it by putting their hands over their mouths; professors also occasionally answer their cell phones during class.
- Group projects are very popular in Thailand.
- Course difficulty and expectations vary from one professor to another, just like at the UW-Madison.

School Uniforms

School uniforms are required at Thammasat University. However, how often and when you have to wear them depends on the faculty teaching your courses. For example, for classes in the Faculty of Economics, uniforms are required only during exams; Business Administration classes require you wear your uniform to all your classes; Thai Studies classes never require a uniform.

Men's Uniforms

- White button-down shirt, tucked in
- Black or navy blue pants
- Belt buckle with university logo
- Black shoes with socks

Women's Uniforms

- White button-down shirt, tucked in
- University logo buttons and pin on left side of collar
- Black or navy blue skirt
- Belt buckle with university logo
- Black shoes with heel strap

The university logo buttons, pins, and belt buckles are available at Thammasat's book store. You can easily buy the shirts and bottoms near the University (near Khao San Road) for a reasonable price. Although we are not used to wearing school uniforms here at UW-Madison, it is beneficial for you to wear them early in the semester in Thailand. You will quickly earn local people's respect and friendship because they will recognize you as a Thammasat student rather than just another tourist.

Limits and Load

UW-Madison students are required to take a minimum of 12 UW-Madison equivalent credits each semester. A recommended credit load is 12 to 18 credits per semester.

Credits

Most credits at Thammasat are equivalent to UW-Madison; so three credits at Thammasat will be equivalent to 3 credits at UW-Madison. There may be exceptions depending on the department in which the course is taken. In general, one class hour per week for a 15 week semester equals approximately one credit.

Grades and Grade Conversions

Grades will be converted according to the following scale:

Thammasat University	UW-Madison Equivalent
A	A
B+	AB
B	B
C+	BC

C	C
D+/D	D
F	F