

CHIANG RAI, THAILAND

CAROLINE GASAO

Program: UW Microbiology and Public Health in Northern Thailand, Summer

Student's Majors: Biology, Life Sciences Communication

Academic Life: Classes were taught by UW faculty and taken with other UW students in my cohort. Occasionally we would have guest Thai professors come lecture. Mon-Thurs each week, we were in the classroom. Every Friday we would go on different excursions throughout northern Thailand, which were complementary to what we were learning in the classroom.

Most Memorable Moment: Our first excursion which took us to an elephant sanctuary. We drove up to the Golden Triangle, which is the area in northern Thailand that borders both Myanmar and Laos. I really appreciated this experience because it was so much more than just getting to ride an elephant. We learned about the foundation, which partners with the sanctuary, and its efforts to provide elephants and elephant owners with a safe place to live and proper resources to thrive.

Advice for Someone Considering This Program: Thailand is so different from the US in terms of culture, politics, and so much more. You'll have so much fun exploring Chiang Mai with your cohort while you're here, because almost everything will be novel to you! If you're looking to earn major credit and experience attending a university abroad, this program is definitely the perfect fit.

New Perspectives: I realized how important my identity is to me as a Hmong American woman. I've found that going abroad and coming back, I am even more proud of my people's rich culture and history, especially as it relates to Thailand.



Caroline visiting the Choui Fong Tea Plantation in Chiang Rai

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