

STUDENT MOBILITY SCHEME REPORT



[For participants]

Your experience can help other students when they are planning for their study abroad program. To make sure that prospective students have a chance to learn from your experience, everyone who has participated in the SMS program should complete a Student Mobility Scheme Report.

Upon completion of the form, please submit it to the office which handles the ACUCA SMS at your institution.

Please note that the information will be shared with other students who are interested in the SMS through the website.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[For coordinators]

This report will be posted on the ACUCA Website. We would appreciate it if you could email us the file electronically.

(Evan Jiang, ACUCA Secretariat, Email: acuca@mail.fju.edu.tw)

1. Name: Auchchara Nokphueak

2. Home Institution - Name: Payap University, Chiangmai **Country:** Thailand

3. Host Institution - Name: De La Salle University, Manila **Country:** Philippines

4. Study Period: from 01/2013 to 04/2013 (mm/yyyy)

5. How did you hear about the ACUCA Student Mobility Scheme? (Please Specify)

International Office at your institution, ACUCA Website, From Fellow Student, Others

Comment:

n/a

6. What did you study and what kind of activities did you take part in while abroad?

I took two classes, which were Creative Writing (CREATIV) and Spanish Language (SPANONE). I took part in many activities such as First Step in Manila Tour, Food and Cultural X Night, Animo Fest, etc. In Cultural X Night, I had a chance to dress in Thai Traditional Dressing and perform Thai Dance. It was really fun.

7. Was it difficult adjusting to life abroad, and if so what were some of the difficulties?

Yes, it was. When I arrived there, My friend and I needed to find a place to stay ourselves. Due to having no university dormitory, it was quite hard to find one.

8. What advice would you give to fellow students at ACUCA universities who are thinking of taking part in the Student Mobility Scheme?

Time flies so fast! As that, please join activities as many as you can when being abroad.

9. Have you been changed in any way by the experience, and if so how?

Yes, so many changes happened to me; language improved, social skills and cooking skills. I was able to cook since I was an exchange student. I found it fun and useful for living life. I love cooking.

10. How do you feel about other Asian Cultures now?

I feel that it is really fantastic to learn or know other countries' culture. More than that, adjusting new cultures is challenge for me. It means I can go elsewhere in the world if I have been to one already.

11. Any comments?

Below please attach a more descriptive account (300-400 words) of your experience with the SMS for possible publication to allow others to find out about the ACUCA SMS Program. Include such information as the type of study you did as well as the cultural experiences you had, and any other things you would consider interesting. Photos are required.¹

¹ The photos are advised to be the subject of activities, learning, etc., and should include the student themselves. Please attach the photos dividedly within the Email.

Last January, 2013, I was an exchange student at De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines for one trimester. Thanks God! One friend came with me. Manila in my view was a small city, but later on it became bigger because of its warm welcoming from Filipinos. They are outgoing, generous and helpful; Moreover, talented as everyone sings perfectly. I was so surprised; however, enjoyable listening to them.

De La Salle University is a private university, which is in the top three among others in Manila. They provide a many different courses for students. I enrolled two courses there. One was Creative Writing and another was Spanish language. The professors were so clear when explaining lessons. Also, students were very active in class when asking and answering questions.

Life in campus was simple, but fun! Lasallian refers to students of De La Salle University. They are active and creative. Students held activities at the library every week from different faculty. I was a participant in many activities; more than that, I was invited to perform Thai Dance in Cultural X Night. I was really proud and appreciated that I am a Thai citizen because Filipinos care about our country, Thailand so much. They were curious about my Thai traditional dressing, as they had never seen it before.

The university's library was so impressive to me since I first entered the gate on campus tour. It's very huge and there are fourteen floors, which provide various kinds of book, novel, journal, research, etc. I was so lucky collecting data for my seminar course since there is a plenty of sources and research center in case that people need suggestions.

The security was one impressed me when living there especially in the campus. There are security guards in every gates and buildings. ID card was so important because of the strict and effective rules. It was easy to notice that a guard in this country is a respectful and admirable career since everyone follows what he or she said without asking for flexibility when do something wrong.

Travelling in Philippines was so wonderful. I visited many places such as historical places, china town, art gallery, church and so on. The most impressive place for me was the beach. As known, Philippines is famous with their nature and the country comprises of more than 7,000 islands; therefore, it becomes one of destinations where foreigners travel and explore. I felt lucky again any times I was on vacation, there were many choices for choosing.

My friends and I went to the white beach, Boracay, the place, compared to Phu Ket in Thailand. It was very nice and relaxing trip after getting headache from schooling. The water was crystal clear and the sand was so white like a cloud on the sky after raining.

Food and accommodation in Manila was quite expensive compared with in Thailand. Due to Manila, the capital city, cost of living is higher than other cities. Filipinos prefer sweet food and they don't eat raw vegetable. They were surprised when I ate raw vegetable. I cooked some Thai food for Filipinos and they cooked Filipinos food for me as well. Not only knowledge I gained at the time as an exchange, but also cooking skills. I love my room where my friends and I ate food, watched movies and held parties.

I knew right away since my first step in Manila that this experience would force me to be stronger. I am thankful for the supports and myself who forced me going further to another step in my life.

