The Education Abroad Network (TEAN)
INTERNSHIP in Chiang Mai, THAILAND

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Hello, I’m Katrina and I’m a double major in Global & International Studies and Chinese. When I saw this opportunity to do an internship in Thailand I knew I had to take it. I’m half Thai and I’ve only been to Thailand as an infant, so I felt like it didn’t really count. I’ve always wanted to improve my Thai language skills and learn more about the culture. It was a wonderful learning experience and I felt like I truly made a positive impact on each of the communities that I worked with.
Uniloft is the dorm I stayed in while I studied and interned in Chiang Mai. On the right, is the entrance to Chiang Mai university. I attended classes here for six weeks.
Upon my arrival in Chiang Mai, I was brought to my dorm and told to prepare my uniform to attend our mandatory course on Thai culture & history (three weeks) along with my optional course in Thai language (six weeks). All of our classes were held in the law building. In the photo, I’m the shortest girl in the middle to the left.

My Internship started once the first three weeks were over!
Elephant Sanctuary Excursion

These elephants are able to roam free without being forced to give rides or perform tricks for tourists. This sanctuary takes in elephants that were previously abused and help them recover in this peaceful environment.
Taking a hike at Doi Inthanon National Park
Excursion to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep

Buddhist temple on a tall mountain just outside of Chiang Mai University.
Wat Phra That Doi Suthep continued
Chiang Mai Zoo
Chiang Mai Zoo’s Night Safari Event
After the first three weeks were over, my internship started. I was an intern at Art Relief International which is also a part of Cultural Canvas Thailand. In my internship, we traveled all over Chiang Mai to visit different marginalized communities. We created a very inclusive environment for those that are usually cast out of society. We created art projects with them to allow them to be creative and have a relaxing experience. Additionally, there were many opportunities for me to help them with their English as well as them helping me improve my Thai language skills.
Some of the communities we worked with included victims of human trafficking, orphans, single mothers, Burmese refugees, people with disabilities, and the elderly. We can only take photos of certain workshops due to privacy & safety reasons. However, we’re always allowed to take photos of our workshops within the temple schools.
Here I am at my very first workshop at a temple school. I came up with a fun lesson plan where they’d learn to create a bowl of ice cream out of felt fabric, fabric stuffing, a needle & thread, markers, paint, paper bowls, and hot glue. Most of these kids didn’t have any experience sewing before, so they acquired some basic sewing techniques by the end of the workshop.

Here’s a photo of one of the finished products; it looks good enough to eat!
Teaching a couple classes different painting techniques and letting them be creative in the process.
Assisting my co-worker at her workshop. We divided people into a few groups to create pins for a special game of bowling at the end.
I had a workshop on how to make Chinese lanterns and these students absolutely loved it! Not only are the lanterns aesthetically pleasing, the children liked making them fly around and having it look like jellyfish with the streamers on the ends.
On holiday, we traveled to Koh Phi Phi. Here I am on the beach.

The friends I met in Thailand wrote my name with the lights on their cellphones.
Interning in Thailand was such a wonderful opportunity and experience. I’m also glad that I can finally speak more Thai to my mother now and hold longer conversations.

I recommend this program to anyone interested in learning more about Thailand or its neighbors within the rest of South East Asia.