



program snapshot

- Focus on trends in public health management in Thailand and Southeast Asia
- Engage with local communities about healthcare issues, and developing and implementing public health projects
- Visit another Southeast Asian country to study its public health system
- Interact with villagers, academic researchers, government officers, and others working to improve public health in Thailand
- Immerse yourself in the culture through visits to various levels of public health facilities and through community stays in Northeast Thailand

what you'll learn

The goal of the Community Public Health program is to help students understand the complexities and challenges faced by the public health community in Northeast Thailand. This program provides a broad overview of public health management and community public health issues in Thailand and Southeast Asia. After getting a grasp of the Thai public health system, students visit another Southeast Asian country to compare and contrast. Students apply theoretical frameworks covered in the classroom, competently carry out community health assessments, develop and implement a public health project, and assess its impact.

thoughts from abroad

Living and working in Thailand has brought me a greater appreciation of the complexities and challenges of development in countries like Thailand. This is especially true of public health which is an integral part of every issue—whether it is organic farming, indigenous culture and local wisdom, consumption and waste, community development, or the environmental effects of large-scale development and industrial projects.

Thailand is a beautiful country, and the Northeast is known in particular for the openness and generosity of its communities. Come and learn about public health in Thailand and how it can be a prism through which to understand a society as a whole. Seeing public health from a Thai perspective provides you with a chance to re-examine the same challenges facing your own culture and country.

— David Streckfuss, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Dr. David Streckfuss has been the Resident Director in Thailand since 1994. He received his Ph.D. in Southeast Asian History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is particularly interested in economic, social, and cultural rights. As an independent scholar, he wrote *Truth on Trial in Thailand: Defamation, Treason, and Lèse-Majesté*, published by Routledge.

About the Assistant Resident Director

Ms. Arunee Sriruksa (Ajaan Ooh), Assistant Resident Director, has been working with the CIEE program since 2000. She is from Nakhon Ratchasima Province (Khorat) in the Northeast. She has a bachelor's degree in Library and Information Sciences from KKU, and also completed her master's degree in Development Administration at KKU and is presently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University.



about khon kaen

Located in the center of the Northeast province of Isaan, Khon Kaen is Thailand's fourth largest city with a population of over 300,000. About 300 miles north of Bangkok, it is the educational and government center of the Northeast, as well as the headquarters for many development organizations working in the region. Compared to other parts of Thailand, the relatively more rural Northeast has retained many of its traditional Lao and Khmer customs.

academics

Academic Program

The CIEE Study Center has been based at Khon Kaen University since 1991 and its initial focus on development was established three years later in 1994. The Community Public Health program began in spring 2010. This program combines traditional classroom instruction with extensive field study involving government, private and public health agencies, as well as visits to local communities.

Academic Culture

The Faculty of Public Health at Khon Kaen University prepares students in the classroom, while government officials and practitioners provide guidance during students' visits to various public health projects. Students gain skills facilitating participation and group dynamics, generating proposals, and organizing special projects.

The program's language instruction utilizes a proficiency-based approach designed to enable students to function effectively in everyday situations. Courses at all levels combine intensive classroom learning with the use of peer tutors and interactive exercises. Language classes are offered at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Nature of Classes

Participants generally take classes with other CIEE students, although some international graduate students at the faculty may join in some classes.

Grading System

In the CIEE courses, students are normally graded on the basis of a series of short papers, active participation, a three-week project, and a final paper. In the language courses, assessment is based on daily homework, quizzes, and exams. Letter grades (A, B, C, D, and F) are given with pluses or minuses.

Students in the Public Health program may expect a close collaborative relationship with various public health faculty members and CIEE Staff who conduct periodic evaluations throughout the semester.



where you'll study

Khon Kaen University (KKU), founded in 1964, has 19 faculties that offer Bachelor's, Master's, and professional degrees. Approximately 24,000 undergraduate students and 9,700 postgraduates study at KKU. The Faculty of Public Health at KKU, the faculty in which CIEE students study, was established in 1978 as part of the Royal Thai Government's policy to extend higher education to the rural areas of the country, and to leverage the resources of KKU to help address the development needs of people in the Northeast Region.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing is included in the program fee. While not on public health visits or staying with host families, students live with a Thai roommate in off-campus rental units near the CIEE office. Meals while not on site visits are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student. Students can take meals at the University cafeteria or local restaurants.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Khon Kaen before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

Students initially meet in Bangkok and then travel to an orientation site for a few days, where they learn about the overall structure of the program and begin Thai language study. The orientation introduces students to the country, the culture, and the academic program, as well as provides practical information about living in Khon Kaen. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Internet access is provided in the off-campus student accommodations and at the CIEE program office. It is also available at nearby inexpensive Internet cafés.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

Students in the Community Public Health program visit local cultural and natural sites of interest, and participate in frequent field trips to public health-related sites. These may include HIV/AIDS hospices or hospitals, alternative health centers, and herbal medication production facilities. The program also takes participants to visit various public health projects in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, or other Southeast Asian countries. A study visit to one of these countries typically involves an examination of health facilities in the capital or other major urban area, and at a more rural site. Details are provided in the on-site program guide as new projects are discovered.

engagement

Peer Language Tutors

Program participants are paired with Khon Kaen University students for weekly one-on-one Thai language tutorials.

Community Stays

Program participants spend a few nights staying with families in rural communities, especially during the field practicum.

duration

Fall

16 weeks: mid-August–mid-December

Spring

16 weeks: mid-January–mid-May

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$13,100

Spring 2012: available 8/15/11

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, tuition, full-time program leadership and support, housing, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, field trips, pre-departure advising, visa fees, transportation from Bangkok to Khon Kaen, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2011)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. West Coast departure)	\$ 1,350
Personal Expenses	\$ 1,400
Meals	\$ 750
Books and Supplies	\$ 70
Local Transportation	\$ 350
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 3,920

Check our website for current fees.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- College-level coursework in public health or sociology recommended
- Nursing and pre-med students encouraged to apply



coursework

Program Requirements

Students are required to take Public Health Management of Thailand, Community Public Health, Public Health Field Practicum, and one Thai language course at the appropriate level.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15 semester/22.5 quarter hours.

The required Thai language courses have 65 contact hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course. Language is taught intensively during the first three weeks of the program.

The contact hours for the Public Health Management of Thailand and Community Public Health courses are 60 and recommended credit is 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

The Public Health Field Practicum has a minimum of 15 classroom and 120 field contact hours. Recommended credit for this course is 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

Languages of Instruction

Thai, English

Faculty

Courses are taught by the Faculty of Public Health and instructors from related faculties at Khon Kaen University.

courses

Required CIEE Courses

PUBH 3001 THPH

Public Health Management of Thailand

This course takes a multi-disciplinary approach in examining epidemiology; public health and management; theory and conceptual frameworks in public health; global trends of health and disease; control strategies for newly emerging health problems; comparative analysis of health systems based on health insurance schemes; and critical assessment of health care system reform with regards to equity, quality, efficiency, and social accountability. Students examine a number of case studies, with a primary focus on Thailand, but also learn about the public health experience of Laos and other Southeast Asian countries.

PUBH 3002 THPH

Community Public Health

This course combines classroom instruction and structured group field visits for each unit. The course takes an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach that utilizes theories and practices of the social sciences and public health, with a focus on community health and diseases, the use of various diagnostic tools to analyze community health problems and identify solutions, and project conceptualization.

PUBH 3003 THPH

Public Health Field Practicum

This course may take a variety of forms, depending on opportunities available through the Ministry of Public Health, the Faculty of Public Health at Khon Kaen University, and student interest. Students work in groups, as they are expected to complete a short, yet comprehensive community health project that involves project planning, development of appropriate diagnostic tools and an intervention plan, a participatory research component, and the designing of an evaluative plan.

Required CIEE Language Courses

The Language Director for the following courses is Jintana Rattanahemakorn. She graduated from Chiang Mai University with a B.A. in Thai and completed her M.A. in English at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University.

THAI 1001 THPH

Beginning Thai I

This course introduces students to the basics of the Thai language through conversation, reading, and writing. Within the context of everyday life experiences, students practice dialogues, learn the basic Thai writing system in order to facilitate pronunciation and language acquisition, and engage in interactive homework assignments. When possible, teachers also use local communities as the medium for language practice.

THAI 1002 THPH

Beginning Thai II

This course is for students who have had some significant yet limited experience with Thai. It follows along the description of Beginning Thai I, but at a higher level.

THAI 2001 THPH

Intermediate Thai I

This course is offered for students who can carry on simple conversations with various circumstances and fairly accurate pronunciation; and demonstrate a clear understanding of the Thai writing system. The focus is on enhancing students' vocabulary and grammatical knowledge in order to increase their communicative competence in speaking, reading, and writing. Course materials are taken from current literature sources, and newspapers as well as audio, video clips, and movies.

THAI 2002 THPH

Intermediate Thai II

This course is for students whose Thai language abilities coming into the program are more advanced than Intermediate Thai I, but still not at the advanced level. It follows along the description of Intermediate Thai I, but at a higher level.

THAI 3001 THPH

Advanced Topics in Thai Language

This course is offered to students who can demonstrate a diverse use of vocabulary, a solid understanding of grammar patterns, and clear pronunciation. Students are expected to advance in verbal and written communication at both casual and academic levels. Course materials are taken from current literature sources, and newspapers, as well as audio, video clips, and movies.



Khon Kaen University fall / spring

asian studies / community development / development and planning / ecology / environmental studies / human rights / international relations
peace and social justice studies / sociology / thai language



program snapshot

- Engage in a unique real-world learning model and be exposed to many issues at the grassroots level—the effects of dams and mining, urban slums, people living with HIV/AIDS, organic farming, forest and land rights, human rights, and NGOs—from a social justice perspective
- Involve yourself in an alternative educational model focusing on personal development, group peer learning, and consensus decision making
- Immerse yourself in the culture through community stays, translated exchanges, Thai student roommates, and peer tutors

what you'll learn

The Development and Globalization program is designed to help students understand the complexities concerning environmental, development, and social justice issues; and the roles students can play as global citizens and engaged scholars. Students come to understand the human dimension of policies pursued by governments, corporations, and financial institutions. They learn about human rights frameworks and mechanisms and how to apply these to situations in the Northeast of Thailand. Students also develop strong leadership abilities and learn to work successfully in project, group, and community settings.