

KMUTT Summer Internship Experience

My name is Samantha Chau, and I am an undergraduate engineering student from the University of Toronto going into my third year of studies. Going into this exchange, I had no idea what to expect for the three months I was going to be in Thailand. Some questions or worries I had before coming to Thailand were: “how am I going to feed myself everyday”, “I hope I don’t accidentally offend any Thai people with my ignorant Canadian cultural behaviour”, and “I hope that I won’t feel too lonely for the whole three months”.

After landing in Thailand and getting introduced to all the people in DLab at SIT, another thought that went through my mind was “how am I going to survive this weather?” However, after a couple of weeks of getting used to the climate and culture, I realized that most of my worries had vanished. Throughout this report, I probably will not be able to stop mentioning that all the people I have met throughout my internship have been immensely kind, helpful, and nurturing people.



Figure 1: DLab Last Dinner

I also had the opportunity to meet many other people due to my work with ATK Lab as well as ILab at SIT. My main work was working on an incubator monitoring system for ATK Lab and I was able to get a functional prototype with the support and help of people from both DLab and ILab. I learned a lot from this project, as it was more of a biomedical based project, I was able to learn the protocol in culturing adherent animal cells, specifically L929 cells, but I also learned a lot about image processing, basic microcontroller functions, and hardware selection. One really cool opportunity I got to experience was the U.Reka startup competition. I had no idea what it was like to participate in a startup bootcamp before, so I learned a lot about what startup culture was like. Aside from learning about technical knowledge from my project, I also had the chance to learn a little bit of Thai thanks to all of the people I met on this trip. So now, I am able to verbally order some dishes in Thai at the very basic level. Speaking of food, I have to say that Thai food is the most flavourful cuisine I have tasted so far in my life. My favourite Thai dish that I've come to love would be som tam.



Figure 2: Visiting Ayutthaya with ATK Lab



Figure 3: Team Dimensionless working at U.Reka

Everyone from all the labs were so kind that they brought all of us interns from Canada as well as Brunei on a bunch of excursions for us to explore Thailand a bit more beyond Bangkok. From treating us to fantastic meals to taking us on planned excursions to a floating market, temples, and other tourist attractions like Mueang Boran, there was never a dull moment for the entire internship. Aj. Jonathan (Associate Dean for International Relations) even encouraged us to be physically active during the internship, and all of us interns from Canada ended up participating in a couple small marathons. It was very exciting for me because even though I do have my own running regiment, participating in an officially organized run was a new experience and just an overall fun time to bond with everyone and improve on our own personal fitness.



Figure 4: Marathon at Prachinburi

From my entire experience in Thailand, I can say that I have learned a lot more about what I am thinking of doing for my future career as I continue my studies in Engineering Science. I have come to realize that I really enjoy completing work based on a project to project basis. As opposed to constantly doing research on the computer, I am the type who definitely enjoys coming up with physical prototypes and testing their functionalities. After discovering this fact about myself, I have a much clearer vision of the potential career opportunities I know I will want once I finish my education at U of T.

The last thing I would like to say to everyone I met in Thailand as well as all of the people who made my research exchange at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi is thank you, or 'kop-khun-ka', one of the phrases I constantly used in Thailand.