

Think Pacific Project Chiang Mai, Thailand



Shrewsbury Colleges...

A Truly Unique Opportunity!

Life-changing opportunity to visit Chiang Mai, Thailand for 13 days on a mostly-funded and fully-guided global experience programme!

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Date: 27th June - 11th July 2026

Group: 20x learners + 2x College Staff

Course: A Levels

Project Theme: Global Citizenship & Sustainability



Project Overview

What's Involved?

- Travel to Chiang Mai, Thailand as a College group with other learners + College Staff
- Funding provided by the UK Government - with a student contribution required
- 15 day all-inclusive experience
- Guided 24/7 by Think Pacific staff members
- College staff 24/7 for pastoral care
- Develop new skills and enhance your employability for life after college
- Immerse yourself in local culture
- Engage in team adventure activities
- Work-based learning with local partners relevant to your Project Theme
- Learn from local communities and partners about the different challenges, norms and perspectives to activate your global citizenship



About Think Pacific...



Global Impact with a Local Approach

- UK social enterprise & registered international charity.
- Operating since 2009.
- Responsible, ethical & sustainable projects for students
- Educational Study Tours & Work Based Projects
- Purposely small, personable approach
- Partnered with 100+ organisations
- Over 10,000 students have travelled with us
- Highest standards of safety, support and guidance
- Government funding available for our projects.



TURING

SCHEME

Funded by the UK's global
programme to study and work abroad



Turing Scheme

Funded by the UK Government

Your College, in partnership with Think Pacific, successfully won funding from the UK Government's Turing Scheme!

What is the Turing Scheme?

- The Turing scheme is a **student mobility** funding scheme, established by the UK Department for Education in 2021, as a replacement for the Erasmus Scheme.
- All FE Colleges + HE Universities in the UK are eligible to apply for Turing Scheme funding, however it is incredibly competitive.
- These trips aim to develop **global awareness**, boost **employability**, and offer a chance to **gain new skills**.
- Additional funding is offered for **Widening Participation**, aiming to give more students access to international experiences.

What Will You Gain?



Enhancing Enrichment & Employability

1. **Cultural Immersion:** Experience Thai traditions and customs.
2. **Skill Development:** Gain leadership, teamwork, and sector specific skills.
3. **Community Impact:** Contribute to sustainable development projects.
4. **Global Citizenship:** Build awareness of global challenges and solutions.
5. **Personal Growth:** Boost confidence, adaptability, and resilience.
6. **Employability:** Enhance your CV and increase career opportunities

What is your Why?



Meet Your Team...

Guiding Your Trip from Start to Finish



Alicia

Interim Regional Manager



Oil

Operations Manager



Andrea

Project Coordinator

You will also have 2-4 Think Pacific leaders with the group at all times!



Thailand



Chiang Mai

Bangkok



Thailand

- Population - 71 million
- Capital - Bangkok - Chiang Mai is the 2nd largest City
- Main languages - Thai
- Currency - Thai Baht (฿ / THB).
 - ฿43 THB ≈ £1 GBP
- Time Zone - UTC+6
- Ethnicity: Thai (80%), Chinese (10%), Malay (3%), others (hill tribes, etc.)
- Provinces: 76 + Bangkok (special administrative area)
- Religion: 90% Buddhist; also Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism.

About Chiang Mai? ✈️

'The New City' 🇹🇭 🌸

- Chiang Mai is located in the Northern Heritage of Thailand, as the second largest City after Bangkok
- Located in the “golden triangle” with Myanmar and Laos - influenced through trade & migration
- Renowned for **Buddhist** practice, **craftsmanship**, and **trade**
- The **Old City** is encircled by ancient walls and a moat, featuring Lanna-style temples
- Celebrates vibrant night markets and major festivals like **Yi Peng (Lantern Festival)** or **Loy Krathong**
- Strong commitment to preserving cultural heritage and fostering community spirit being a **UNESCO Creative City for Crafts and Folk Art**
- The Chiang Mai region is home to **Thailand’s highest mountains & densest amount of Temples (Wats), and Pagodas**



Thai Culture

Sai Sin Blessing; a monk ties a white string on your wrist as a symbol of good luck, protection



Batik; traditional fabric art made by using wax to create patterns during an Hmong Village visit



Karen Village visit, wearing traditional handcrafted clothing



Karen weaving; the Karen people use a backstrap loom to hand-weave colorful cotton textiles



Suay Dok; cone-shaped flower arrangements making and offering for blessings and good luck



Traditional Thai Food



Breakfast, lunch, and dinner is provided!

Thai food is world-famous for its bold flavors, fresh ingredients, and perfect balance of sweet, sour, salty, and spicy. From pad thai and mango sticky rice to aromatic curries and vibrant salads, every dish tells a story of culture and tradition!



Common dishes in Thailand:

- Pad Thai
- Tom Yum Goong
- Green Curry
- Som Tum
- Massaman Curry
- Mango Sticky Rice



Your Journey...



Itinerary Structure



Project Briefing

Learn about
Culture and Customs
Aims & Initiatives



Main Itinerary

Explore Thai perspectives
Immerse your self into Thai
Culture & Life-Changing experiences



Project Debrief

Reflect on this unforgettable experience
Celebrate a completed project

Team Briefing...



- Meet your team / Team building activities
- Briefing modules:
 - Thai Culture & Language learning
 - Health & Safety
 - Code of Conduct
 - Responsible Tourism
 - Business & Social enterprise in Chiang Mai
 - How to respond to an Action project



Team Excursions & Activities...

Learn & Explore - Together

- Whilst in Chiang Mai, you will explore the local area through team excursions!
- The range of activities and areas of interest will promote teamwork and wellness, as well as focusing on eco-tourism and sustainability.
- The Team Excursions may include Waterfalls, Hikes, yoga classes, Team Games, Bamboo Rafting and local Market trips.





Cultural Activities



Immerse yourselves in Thai culture

- Throughout the project, you will be immersed in Thai culture and will partaking in cultural activities as a group.
- Cultural activities may include cooking classes, night markets, temples and museums, traditional village visits and Muay Thai classes.



Experiential Learning and Action Challenges...

With Inspiring Partner Organisations

- Throughout the project, you will visit local partners and social impact organisations for workshops, guest speakers and site visits, relevant to your project theme.
- For one of the partners, you will complete an Action Project in groups, which is a challenge that the organisation faces.
- This will be an opportunity to combine your course theory knowledge within the Thai cultural context, to develop your skills and understanding.



Example Partners...

Local Organisations, Impactful Work



Bella Goose / Gateway Movement



Studio Naenna



Super Bee



Regenerative Tourism...

The importance of sustainable tourism

- Tourism has played a large part in both Thailand and Bali's economic growth & international identity. Many locals rely on tourism for their livelihood, however it can cause many issues.
- Environmental pressures & social challenges, including animal exploitation, cultural disrespect, environmental damage and overtourism are negatively impacting Bali & Thailand.
- By participating on a Think Pacific project, you are contributing towards responsible, ethical and sustainable tourism, which comes with specific guidelines, dresscodes and our code of conduct.



Accommodation

- All accommodation used in Chiang Mai will be good standard hotels in the city centre
- Close to locations for partner visits, cultural experiences and team-based activities
- Students will share in twin or triple rooms, with individual single beds
- Breakfast will be provided at the hotel





Accommodation

Example Itinerary - Chiang Mai, Thailand



Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Arrive in Chiang Mai (Welcome)	Project Briefing Orientation Walk	Sticky Waterfalls - Team Building	Muay Thai Boxing Class	Organisation Visit Vocation Specific	Organisation Visit Vocation Specific	Doi Inthanon National Park - Hike
Welcome Briefing & Team Games	City Temple Tour	Spirit Houses - Team Building	PAYAP - SDGs and Culture Workshop	Cooking Class	Team Games Afternoon	King & Queen Pagoda - Peak Visit
Welcome Meal	Free Time	Free Time	Night Market	Free Time	Evening Social	Free Time

Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13
Traditional Village Visit	Organisation Visit Vocation Specific	Organization Visit Vocation Specific	Museums & Temples	Action Project - Group Presentations	Yoga Class
Free Afternoon - Pool time	Monks Trail and Sunset	Bamboo Rafting Activity	Organization Visit Vocation Specific	Markets & Shopping	Packing, Rest & Debrief Session
Evening Social	Free Time	Evening Social	Free Time	Evening Social	Depart Chiang Mai

Free Time/Team Social

Wellness & Enrichment

Culture

Experiential Learning

Some Potential Challenges...

Mindset & Motivation is Key

Undertaking a project such as this is incredible but also demanding and requires resilience & maturity. Challenges may include:

- Being far away from home/ homesickness
- Long haul flight to/from Thailand
- New and different foods, cultural norms and perspectives
- Tropical Climate & humidity
- Mosquitoes & other bugs
- Culture shock (eg. visiting traditional village)
- Shared accommodation, lack of privacy
- Illness on Project
- Busy programme schedule - professional placement!



Safety & Support...

A structured and guided experience

- High Standards - We adhere to strict British Standard Guidelines, complete full risk assessments and have comprehensive management plans for participant safety.
- 24/7 back up - Think Pacific's staff team in Thailand oversee the project
- Support - College staff and TP staff accompany you for the whole experience, guiding each day and being your no. 1 point of contact
- Health Care - We are only ever a short distance to the nearest medical facility. Thailand is a safe and healthy country.



Pre-Departure Support

Guiding you through every step...

Once all the selected students have confirmed their place,

Think Pacific will:

- Deliver additional online briefing sessions for students, parents/ carers and staff
- Provide a Pre-Departure portal (webpage) with all advice (kit list, vaccinations, travel details, etc)
- Work alongside College staff to confirm all trip details for students and parents/carers.



Why You Should Join a TP Project?

Before taking the next step...

1. If you are open-minded and willing to take on new challenges with a learning mindset.
2. If you have a passion for encountering new perspectives.
3. You want to personally and professionally develop through the project and you understand how that will happen.
4. You are agreeing to uphold Think Pacific's Code of Conduct and the College's expectations whilst representing them for the duration of the project.



Project Costs

What is included?

Mostly-funded by the UK Government Turing Scheme...

- 15-day programme, including all accommodation, 3x meals a day, all transport in Chiang Mai, cultural activities, team-building and wellbeing excursions, and experiential learning with local partners
- Flights to/from Chiang Mai, Thailand.

What is not included?

Additional costs to consider ...

- Student Contribution, which can be fundraised, self-funded or covered by bursaries. *Please confirm amount with your College Staff.*
- Vaccinations (*may be possible to get free via the NHS*)
- Travel Insurance (unless covered by the College)
- Spending money for snacks, drinks, souvenirs and laundry



Next Steps...



How to Apply?

Selection and Preparation

Application Process

1. Apply through your College.
2. Interviews & selection by your College.
3. Confirmation of students participating on the trip from your College.



Thank you!
Khob khun ka!

Any Questions?

