

HIV EDUCATION IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

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1 Bangkok, Thailand

- Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country to never have been colonized by a European power.
- Thailand is known as the land of smiles. The people of Thailand are very warm and welcoming
- English is widely spoken in Bangkok, making communication easier for westerners
- 96% of the country practices Buddhism

5 ADVICE:

- Be flexible. What you think you will be doing and what you will actually be doing will not be the same thing
- You are NOT the expert. You will come away feeling like you gained more than you gave
- Participate in as many different experiences as you can while you are in country. It will give you a greater understanding of the people and culture you are working with



2 Placement

- I traveled with Cross Cultural Solutions for a special study to their home base in Bangkok, Thailand
- While in Bangkok, I worked at the Lam Luk Ka District Hospital assisting visiting nurses in rural area treating HIV positive individuals and taught HIV education and prevention at the a local high school



4 Lessons & Skills:

Lessons:

Community are the experts on what they need & what they need from you

Being open to change will make for a much better experience

It was really important to learn some basic language before departure, it lets people know that you are interested in their culture.

Skills: I learned:

How to encourage stakeholder buy in

The importance of respecting culture

Cultivated a deeper appreciation for global partnerships

3 Connections:

Classroom:

- SW624: taught me how to work more effectively to keep a large group engaged in the educational process
- SW799: gave me additional information on prevention techniques in working with HIV

Career:

- Working for an AIDS Service Organization, I was able to bring my expertise and love of collaboration to this volunteer experience. It allowed me to build international connections that I will continue to cultivate.

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2. Cross Cultural Solution for the cultural immersion and an amazing volunteer experience
3. All the people I had the honor to work with while in Thailand