

**PROPOSAL FOR NEW STUDY ABROAD or EXCHANGE PROGRAM**  
*USAC Khon Kaen, Thailand*

**RATIONALE:**

Our partners at the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) are offering this program at Khon Kaen University in Khon Kaen Thailand. UWEC has approved 20 USAC programs in 17 countries and one virtual internship program. We have confidence in the support and structure they provide, as well as their continued commitment to offering opportunities for deep cultural immersion at an affordable price.

Khon Kaen University (KKU) is considered a USAC Partnership Program, meaning that semester students direct enroll in courses at KKU. Additionally, USAC and KKU have developed a summer health internship and research program to capitalize on KKU's strong reputation as a hub for medical education and research in southeast Asia with the input of UW-Eau Claire faculty in public health and health careers. KKU is home to the following faculties in the health sciences:

- nursing,
- medicine,
- associated medical sciences (physical therapy, medical technology),
- public health,
- dentistry,
- pharmacy, and
- veterinary medicine.

Additionally, KKU is home to several [health research centers](#).

Semester students will take courses taught in English at Khon Kaen University's [International College](#) (KKUIC). In addition to Thai language, which is required, students can take course in several disciplines, which are listed below. Although KKU does have a Faculty of Business, it is not AACSB accredited as such courses at the 300 and 400 level cannot be applied to the BBA.

A breakdown of the program is below:

Host University	Khon Kaen University
On-Site Staff	Program housing in KKU's International College
Academics	<b>Semester students</b> take 12-18 credits classes/semester, choosing from courses available to exchange/study abroad students taught in English. In addition to Thai, students can take courses in Japanese and Chinese language, tourism, media technology (audio, film,

	animation), international affairs, and international journalism. <b>Summer students:</b> Starting in summer 2023, students can take an internship <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sophomores- health shadowing rotation</li> <li>2. Junior &amp; Seniors- clinical internships and research</li> </ol>
Housing	USAC students are housed in KKU residence halls on campus or private apartment off campus. Students will work with their USAC program adviser to choose the best option.
Involvement	Student organizations, trekking in national parks, and other university activities- studio arts, Thai dance and Thai massage. Volunteer/service-learning opportunities are available.
Internship Opportunities	Yes
Field Trips Included in Fees	Yes. 2 field trips are typically included but travel and field trips availability is based on COVID-19 guidance

**ENROLLMENT LIMITS:**

USAC’s stated maximum enrollment is 15 students per semester term. While UWEC’s expected application rate is unknown, due to our earlier application deadlines we have not had issues with any of the other USAC programs.

**ACADEMIC LOGISTICS:**

- **Can UW-Eau Claire accept credit from this program? What other UW System colleges/universities or U.S. universities are accepting credit from the host institution?** University of Nevada-Reno.
- **How are grades reported?** KKU transcript with USAC guidance document. Grades are reported on using A to F scale. The only difference with U.S. scale is that no “minus grade” exists. (e.g. A, B+, B; C+, C, etc.)
- **What language is used on the above document? If not English, what resources are required for an English translation?** Transcripts will be in English
- **What credit system is used and how does it translate into U.S. credits?** The credit system is similar to U.S. Courses are typically 3 credits each with the standard load in a 15-week semester being 12-18 credits.
- **How is course level determined?** Course levels are the same as UW-Eau Claire, but the third number of the course designates the level, e.g., IC 221 002

Lower division (1st and 2nd year) = 1-2; Upper division (3rd and 4th) = 3-4

- **What grade scale is used and what is the conversion to UWEC grades?**  
Grades are reported on using A to F scale. The only difference with U.S. scale is that no “minus grade” exists. (e.g. A, B+, B; C+, C, etc.)

## **CURRICULUM:**

### **Semester/Year**

KKU international College uses a 15-week semester; students will enroll in 12-18 credits. Most courses are three credits. All students are required to take three credits of Thai for Foreigners I or II (Beginning Thai Language). Students can choose from courses taught in English at the KKU International College as long as they meet pre-requisites:

- International Affairs: [https://www.ic.kku.ac.th/?page\\_id=544](https://www.ic.kku.ac.th/?page_id=544)
- Tourism: <https://www.ic.kku.ac.th/>
- Creative Media Technology: [https://www.ic.kku.ac.th/?page\\_id=10815](https://www.ic.kku.ac.th/?page_id=10815)
- International Journalism: [https://www.ic.kku.ac.th/?page\\_id=10840](https://www.ic.kku.ac.th/?page_id=10840)
- In addition, students can study Japanese and Chinese

### **Summer: Ten-Week Health Internship (5 -11 credits)**

- Weeks 1-2
  - Intro to Thai Language (1 credit)
  - Healthcare in Thailand (1 credit)
- Weeks 3-10
  - Internship (8 weeks, 3 or 6 credits, 135 or 270 hours)
    - **Shadowing Internship (3 credits)** is designed for students who have completed their first year of university study. The internships provide students with an overview of healthcare in Thailand and exposure to several health fields (e.g. nursing, physical therapy, pharmacy, community health)
    - **Public Health or Clinical Internships (3 or 6 credits)** are designed for junior and senior level students who have completed upper-division biology/chemistry for clinical placements and 300-level health courses for public health. Internships will be approved and overseen by faculty in the relevant academic departments at KKU.
    - **Health Research Internship (3 or 6 credits)** are designed for junior and senior level students who have sufficient academic background to conduct research in their area of interest. Possible areas include tropical medicine, medical research, exercise science.
  - Optional Electives (3 credits)
    - Traditional Thai Medicine and Complementary Medicine
    - Mindfulness and Mindfulness-Based Interventions

**HOUSING:**

USAC students are housed in KKU residence halls on campus or private apartment off campus. Students will work with their USAC program adviser to choose the best option.

**CALENDAR:**

- Summer (10 week health summer internship, dates TBD)
- Fall Semester/Semester 1 (late June to late November)
- Academic Year/Semester 1 & 2 (late June to mid-June)
- Spring Semester/Semester 2 (early February to mid-June)

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- GPA of 2.5 or above.
- Good academic, conduct and financial standing
- May apply as first year student, but must have sophomore standing by program start
- Academic pre-requisites for summer health internships
- No language requirements

**FOREIGN CULTURE REQUIREMENT:**

**For students in catalog years through 2015-2016**, under the current guidelines for foreign culture for short-term programs, eligible students could fulfill 1/3 of the requirement for participating in the program.

**For semester students in catalog years through 2015-16**, Foreign Culture can be waived upon successful program completion. (Students earning a B.A., B.F.A., or B.M. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences cannot use study abroad to fulfill their foreign language/foreign culture requirements. See the university catalog for details.).

**LIBERAL EDUCATION CORE:**

For students in catalog year 2016 and later, this program can fulfill an integrated learning (I1) requirement upon completion of the integrated learning assignments.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The first opportunity that UWEC student would have to participate in the program would be summer 2023