

Social Impact Internship

Northern Thailand Hill Tribe Villages

Challenges Abroad Australia – RMIT Partnership

- **Duration:** 8 week Social Impact Internship
- **Placement location:** Northern Thailand, Hill Tribe Villages
- **Dates:** 6th Jan – 3th March 2017
- **Project days:** Monday – Friday (weekend free to travel and explore)
- **Cost:** \$3400
- **Optional Travel:** 1 week overland tour of Northern Thailand

Organisational Information

Challenges Abroad Australia (CAA), was set up with the purpose of developing structured overseas volunteer programs for young adults which support the goals and objectives of the international development charity The FutureSense Foundation (FSF). (www.futuresensefoundation.org). All CAA programs are designed to be sustainable and mutually beneficial to both the community and the student.

Background Information

Challenges Abroad Australia (CAA), through its international development charity (FSF) support a number of remote villages in Northern Thailand inhabited by different ethnic groups. Most of these villages are nestled away in geographic isolation and are marginalized by the wider Thai society, resulting in a community which experiences multiple levels of disadvantage with little economic opportunity. With no secondary school and limited economic opportunities many children leave the villages and don't come back, meaning the unique culture of the villages is at risk of being lost.

Currently CAA and FSF work with just 3 of the 13 villages in the Papae Sub District. Due to the positive impact of the programs being run in our 3 partner villages, the other 10 villages have expressed the desire to work with CAA and FSF. Despite a willingness from our part, there is a need to understand the individual needs of each of the unique villages. A key step in any new partnership or community development project is the consultation of the local community. RMIT International Studies students will be able to work alongside our local teams to help us conduct this much needed research.

Program Description and Objectives

Students will live and work in the community for the duration of the program. By understanding the unique cultures of the different Hill Tribes, the social and environmental issues as well as the nature of any economic activity, students will be able to effectively work with the local community to achieve their shared goal of developing a Social Impact Plan for each of the villages and paving the way for continued support and collaboration between CAA and each village.

The objectives of this program are to:

- Assist FSF to understand and document the development challenges and program opportunities available in each of the 13 Hill Tribe Villages in the Papae Sub District
- To enable RMIT students to complete a meaningful International Internship experience that increases their understanding of community development while making a real difference to people's lives and will allow us to begin working with the whole sub district and working towards a development plan for all 13 villages.
- Ensure that there is mutual benefit and mutual learning for the local community and RMIT student participants

Program Structure

RMIT Students on this program will spend time in Mae Sariang (our partner community near Chiang Mai) as well as in the Sub District of Papae to live and work with our partner Hill Tribes and the Hill Tribe Villages we are not currently working with. Students will work to:

- Gain an understanding of our Community Development model at the grass roots level including the types of programs we run and how they are delivered
- Develop a structure to conduct a Needs Assessment across the various Villages
- Live and work in the Villages to collect data and conduct the Needs Assessment
- Deliver initial programs to gauge how receptive the communities are to these programs e.g. Health Promotion, English, Sports
- Develop a Social Impact Plan for each of the Villages to help determine:
 - The needs of each Village
 - What types of programs might be offered to address the expressed needs e.g. Sports, Education, Health Promotion, Business etc.
 - The type of measures that could be introduced to monitor the impact the programs could have
- Provide a Final Report to be presented to the Thai team outlining your research and recommendations for future programs/development.

Students will be provided a detailed schedule roughly 4-6 weeks prior to their departure. The program will run from Monday to Friday each week to carry out the activities listed above. During the weekends students are free to relax and explore.

Optional Travel Week

Optional Travel Week: \$800 [Saturday to Friday]

Costs include: All transport, 6 nights' accommodation, breakfast and lunch each day and all tours.

- Explore Northern Thailand's rich culture and history with this amazing travel week specifically designed by our in country team to incorporate all the must see places. Let these words ignite your imagination...hiking, waterfalls, caves, monkeys, temples, Pai, Chiang Rai , the Golden Triangle, markets, Nightlife, shopping!
- A minimum of four students is required to run this travel week.
 - ✓ Watch a video of this amazing trip <https://vimeo.com/109456188>