

Erfahrungsbericht über ein Auslandspraktikum

Bitte reichen Sie Ihren unterschriebenen Bericht in ausgedruckter spätestens vier Wochen nach Ende Ihres Aufenthalts (Zeitraum des Volontariats) im Akademischen Auslandsamt bei Frau Rüppell-Wee. Laden Sie außerdem den unterschriebenen Erfahrungsbericht ausschließlich als pdf Scan im alfresco Kursraum hoch.

Dieser Erfahrungsbericht soll zudem insbesondere zukünftigen Studierenden helfen, sich ein Bild von dem Auslandsstudium an Ihrer Gastschule zu machen. Behalten Sie dies beim Verfassen des Berichts im Hinterkopf. Wir würden uns deshalb sehr freuen, wenn Sie uns die Erlaubnis erteilen, diesen Bericht auch anderen Studierenden – wenn gewünscht auch gerne in anonymisierter Form – zugänglich machen zu dürfen.

Name, Vorname:	Wiesa, Nicole
Studiengang:	Europalehramt Grundschule (Staatsexamen, PO2011)
Studienfächer: (bei Lehramtsstudierenden), ggf. Abschluss:	Englisch und katholische Religion
Name der Praktikumseinrichtung:	Lao-German-Technical College
Praktikumszeitraum von - bis:	17.09.2018 bis 15.12.2018
Erhaltene Förderung:	<input type="checkbox"/> PROMOS <input type="checkbox"/> Reisekostenzuschuss AAA <input type="checkbox"/> Reisekostenzuschuss Freunde und Förderer <input type="checkbox"/> Reisekostenzuschuss aus Mitteln des Landes <input type="checkbox"/> Keine Förderung über die Hochschule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andere, und zwar: Engel-für-Kinder Stiftung×

Note: You may adapt the spacing for points 1 – 8.

1) Summary

Summarize your stay abroad briefly. Did it meet your expectations? How would you assess your internship abroad?

I applied for "The Laos Experience" on quite short notice, as my peer and study partner Meike Weis told me about the project and that she applies too. I finished my state examinations in summer 2018, so I had a gap before I would start my Referendariat.

As I worked at the KIT during my studies in Karlsruhe, I was quite experienced with Technical English, so Johannes Zeck and Prof. Martin placed me to the Lao German Technical College (LGTC), which is a school for vocational training in mechanics and electrics. As I was coaching teenagers in Badminton, I knew that this age group is quite tough to teach and that I would be surrounded in a complete new cultural setting, but I was taught to think wrong. The students in Laos were very respectful, polite and gentle and very willing to learn English. The cultural differences were compared more challenging, but very much educational for my personal intercultural growth.

As I have been living in an Asian country before, I knew a little bit about how different the culture is, so everyone who considers going to Laos should be mentally prepared for a completely different world than our German world, but he or she will experience a wonderful world with caring and friendly people.

2) Preparations for the stay abroad

Please include the following topics: process of application, contact with the training institution, private preparations, support with the preparations by the PH and the training institution.

My first contact with the training institution was when BHS (the supporting company) invited us for a summer party at their firm, where two of the English teachers and some other teachers of the LGTC had training. This first contact was great because we knew a few of the staff before our departure.

Other than that, we had preparation day with the volunteers that have already been in Laos with the program. The preparation was partly very helpful but sometimes I was missing some further information about the college. But I think the problem occurred because Johannes Zeck, who is the responsible for the college was not able to make it, which was different for the next team.

My private preparation included to consult a doctor about vaccination and travelling medication. Which was very helpful. I can also recommend calling the doctorial service of your health insurance if you have any questions about vaccination, medication and health advice.

3) The Training Institution

Please describe the training institution shortly (type of institution, structure, employees, location, student body, if it is a school, etc.).

The Lao German Technical College is a vocational training school quite central in Vientiane capital. It is located next to the Mekong River between a lot of embassies. The school provides different types of vocational training for young adults in the technical field. The students you would work with are from all different kind of background but most of them went to the schools of the Angels for Children foundation in Ban Sikeut. Those so-called BHS students are studying in two departments: mechanic and electrical. As a language and organizational help, you will have at least one HIWI.

The teachers you will be working with are quite young and motivated and it is a lot of fun to work with them and spend time with them outside of school. Also, other teachers will invite you to various celebrations and parties, which is very nice and makes you experience a lot about the Lao culture.

4) Course of the internship

Describe the course of the internship; What tasks did you have? What was the cooperation with the colleagues and other interns like? Did any particularly positive or negative situation arise?

In total, you would teach two different classes, one is the 'students class' and the other one is the 'teachers class'. The students class embodies the BHS students which are taking the vocational training sponsored by BHS (which are mechanical and electrical). The students are differentiated into three different groups: intermediate, pre-intermediate and beginner. You will teach one class, which will take place in the early evening.

The teachers class is also differentiated and happens 4 times a week in the later afternoon for around 4 to 5:30. The class size may vary because sometimes the teachers like to skip their class because they have other part time jobs to do after school or need to take care of their children.

In the morning, you do hospitations with the English teachers, so you will join some of their classes, observe them and support them in their teaching (tandem teaching). After the lesson the teachers are happy to get some feedback and they like if you help them with their lesson plan and prepare the material (but rather give advice than laminating...)

5) Assessment of the internship

How has the experience been different from those made in Germany? How can this internship be viewed as more valuable compared to one done in Germany? What did you learn (methods, special knowledge, inter- or trans cultural experiences, personal development as a teacher, etc.)?

As you are confronted with a totally different culture and educational setting, you get to reflect your own world greatly. You will experience challenges and many new situations which you need to handle. Some think that it is exhausting, but I like that because I get to know myself – my strengths and weak points – even more. So working with students and teachers in Laos in my eyes requires a lot of patience and a lot of time as you need to repeat things several times. E.g. when introducing a new grammar topic, in Germany you would maybe introduce it twice, but in Lao it takes more times so the students will understand. Other than that, the students' self-activation is not too distinct, so you need to check on the students during class constantly, otherwise they easily just sit there for 10 min staring at their blank paper. It does not mean that the students are lazy or unmotivated, they just do not know how this kind of teaching and learning works, they never learned it. But as there are many students from Ban Sikeut, who are taught by volunteers before, it might change a little bit.

6) Stay in the host country

Please include the following topics: personal experiences and impressions, life outside the training institution, special challenges or difficulties, unexpected or rather elusive experiences.

We were invited by many parties and festivities during my time in Laos. So, feel free to accept the invitations and dive into new and cultural habits, which is fun because Lao people like to party (drink a lot) and simply have a good time with a lot of laughter and not worrying about tomorrow.

7) Practical tips for future volunteers

- I would recommend any basic travelling vaccination
- Do not bring too many and too valuable clothes
- Bring electrolytes to stay hydrated, I thought I would not need it, but in the end, I was happy that I had it. But there is no need to buy lots and lots of medicine, as there is plenty in the bungalow and Villa from recent volunteers.
- Mosquito spray with DEET can be bought cheap in Laos, no need to bring a lot.
- As you will be invited to many festivities (which I can say from other Asian countries as well), it is always good to have some chocolate or other candy (Haribo) brought from Germany as a small gift for the invitation.

8) Miscellaneous

In Laos the clock runs differently than in Germany. When you set a time, don't get nervous if someone does not show up after 15 min. I would say that Lao people are reliable people but not punctual....so be patient and stay relaxed.
We call it the 'rubber time' 🕒

Declaration of consent

☒ I hereby give consent that this report will be made accessible to other students of the PH Karlsruhe and the foundation Angels for Children for informational purposes with my name being

☐ anonymous

☐ visible only as a hard copy in the Academic Exchange Office of the PH Karlsruhe

☒ visible as a hard copy in the Academic Exchange Office of the PH Karlsruhe and as a pdf file on the project website www.thelaosexperience.com

Vaihingen/Enz, 15.01.2019

Place, Date


Signature