



INFO. SESSION

STUDY ABROAD 2025 ~ URBANIZATION OF THE EAST
VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND THAILAND

Department of Geography, Planning, & Sustainability

Rowan Students in my Study Abroad 2024: Great Urban Spaces of Europe



Reminder

- Drop sign up sheet in the chat.
- This signup sheet is to keep you in the loop on this study abroad; I will also send out the recording of this session.
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rdKNbNnuuADdG3M_oHBSr-RW8SNrjpdTIOywhh2m42k/edit#gid=0
- Program web site:
 - <https://earth.rowan.edu/departments/geography/academics/study-abroad-2025.html>

Goals for today

- Introduce the sponsoring professor + tour guide
- Identify benefits of study abroad and learning outcomes
- Review the itinerary and cost
- Schedule + How to register
- Sign up sheet to keep in the loop



Introduction of Professor

- Associate Professor Kevin Keenan
- Department of Geography, Planning, & Sustainability
- My ph.d. is in Geography, but I am also certified as a planner (AICP).
- I teach history and theory of planning, as well as cultural and world regional geography.
- Experienced with study abroad in London, Paris, Florence, and Rome!



Introduction of Professor

- Assistant Professor Charles McGlynn
- Department of Geography, Planning, & Sustainability
- Ph.D. in Geography
- Teaches “Geography of Asia”
- Has traveled extensively in Southeast Asia

Who is helping us with planning?

Our Partner: EF (Education First) – Study Abroad



- **World leader** in international education
- More than 1 million students experience their programs each year
- **55+ years** of experience
- 600+ schools & offices in **114 countries**
- Organizes all travel logistics and details for an **all-inclusive experience**
- **Expert** in safety, experiential learning, and building incredible study abroad programs
- Proven **safety record** during COVID
- Committed to **DEIB, sustainability, and accessibility**

What safety measures can we expect?



EF is among the first recipients of the **World Travel & Tourism Council's Safe Travels Stamp**, certifying that EF adheres to strict safety and hygiene protocols.

EF provides our group with:

- 24/7 Personal Tour Director
- Local presence and safety teams in country
- 24-hour emergency line & real-time incident response
- Enhanced safety measures and protocols to align with COVID standards
- Peace of Mind policy included for all travelers
- Additional support and safety policies

For more info: efstudyabroad.com/safety

Why study abroad?

Why Study Abroad?

Educational & Professional Benefits



IMPACT ON GPA

Study abroad alums saw their GPA rise twice as quickly as a result of going abroad compared to those who did not¹



RÉSUMÉ BUILDING

92% of employers are looking for the skills and traits that students develop in study abroad settings²



JOB SECURITY

93% of students who study abroad and entered the workforce were employed within 6 months of graduation, compared to 49% of those who did not study abroad³



SALARY

Students that travel tend to have higher salaries than those who don't³

Why Study Abroad?

Personal Benefits



DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL SKILLS

Confidence, Curiosity
Empathy, Self-Awareness
Global Perspective, Cultural
Knowledge
Adaptability, Relatability
Leadership



INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE

Exposure outside of the U.S.
builds stronger connections
built between classmates,
locations, and the world that
help to make you a global
citizen



A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

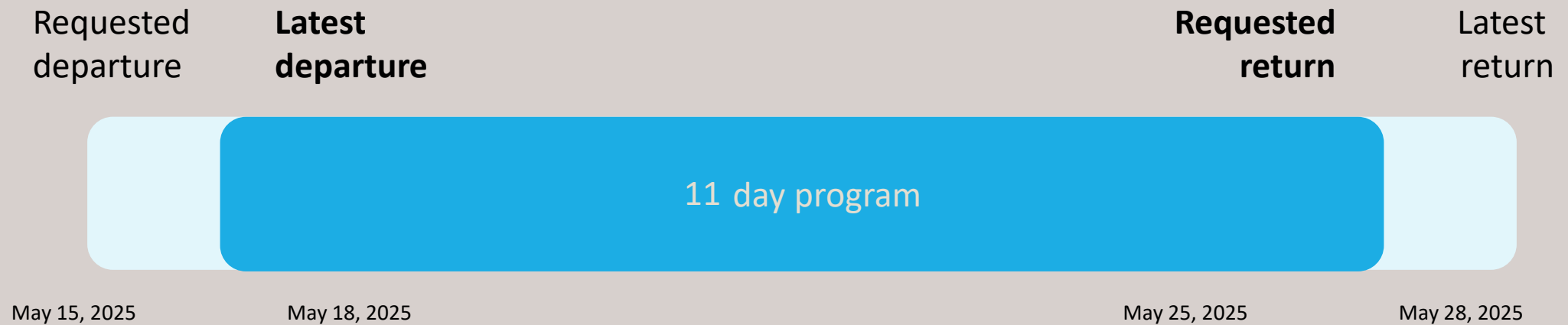
Quite simply, travel is
AWESOME, and this type of
program combines all of
the memories, food, sights,
and experiences with
valuable development

Itinerary

- When and where are we going?

When are we traveling?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Vietnam, Cambodia & Thailand





Ho Chi Minh City, Siem Reap, and Bangkok

With fresh perspective on the past and eyes on the future, get ready for an adventure in the east. The region's raw energy, delicious food and jungle-cloaked mysticism will sweep you up in all three countries, and the temple-pierced sky is the limit. Such is the beauty of Southeast Asia, where otherworldly landscapes lay the backdrop for experiences unlike anything else in the world.



HO CHI MINH CITY

Highlights

- Learn about guerrilla fighting tactics during a guided tour of the Cù Chi Tunnels
- See the Viet Cong tunnel system
- Take an excursion to Ben Duoc
- Visit the Reunification Palace and the War Remnants Museum
- Spend time exploring the Saigon Post Office on your own







SIEM REAP

Highlights

- Visit a local artisan workshop
- Visit Angkor Thom temple complex
 - Elephant Terrace
 - Terrace of the Leper King
 - Bayon Temple
- See a cultural dance show and enjoy dinner
- Visit Preah Khan temple
- Take a tour of Ta Prohm with your Field Director
- Take an excursion to Tonlé Sap Lake and floating fishing village



TERRACE OF THE LEPER KING



BANGKOK

Highlights

- Take a tour of Bangkok with your Field Director
- Visit the Grand Palace and Emerald Buddha
- Cruise down the Chao Praya river
- See Wat Arun, the Temple of Dawn
- Take an excursion to Ayutthaya
- Visit the Summer Palace of King Rama IV
- Visit Phra Mongkhon Bophit temple



The Emerald Buddha

- A precious stone artifact with a complicated history that chronicles religion and royalty in the region.
- The Buddha's decorations / adornments are changed with the seasons.



The Royal Summer Palace



Through these visits, students will accomplish the following **learning objectives**:

1. **Discuss** the major features of the Southeast Asian realm, including both physical/natural and cultural systems.
2. **Analyze** how the regional and local environments support specific cultures and ways of life in this part of the world.
3. **Identify** the impact of capitalist economic systems (especially global trade and manufacturing) on the urbanization in Southeast Asia, utilizing a comparative urban analysis framework.
4. **Identify** the impact of colonial processes, including historical geopolitical strategies and U.S. military interventions, in each country and city visited.
5. **Adopt** a "global south" critical lens to studying urbanization and economy throughout the study abroad, beginning with a critique of this program's title.

What course should I take in Spring 25?

Student Type	Course Number	Course Name
Undergraduate	GEOG 16250 (3 s.h.)	ST: Study Abroad: Urban East
Graduate	GEOG 16550 (3 s.h.)	ST: Study Abroad: Urban East

*The course will meet approximately 7 times (every other week) on zoom on Tuesday evenings, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.

**All students will receive university credit for taking the course. Students who are within a major in the Department of Geography, Planning, & Sustainability may receive program credit if needed. All non-GPS majors must get approval from their program for program requirement credit.

How much does this cost?

◦ **\$5,929**

- Includes all travel expenses (including flight to / from Southeast Asia), hotels, **ALL meals** (except 1 lunch on Day 10).
- You need to budget for additional food and spending money.
- This price will reduce by \$300 if 20 or more students attend.

What to do next?

- Sign up in the google doc with your email. I will stay connected with all who show interest.
- Signing up DOES NOT mean you are committing to the trip. It means you will receive announcements from me in the fall semester regarding how to formally enroll.
- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YMdmHrAbQ2muZ_G3fblv8mlk97S0ylydUEyCCqi2ZE0/edit#gid=0

Deadline for completing Phase 1 of the application is **January 4th**, but you should complete it earlier if possible.

Questions

- Please add your questions to the bottom following document and I will answer them:
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H3F07HTFnrX-D0TYiBVwDqkErus--vQv6RYeSPYd9kg/edit?usp=sharing>