

**GET CONNECTED! LOCAL VOLUNTEER AND CULTURAL CONNECTION SUGGESTIONS**

<b>Organization/Event/Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Website/Contact Details</b>
SIFE Mahidol	SIFE students are stepping out of the classroom and into the community to use their knowledge and skills to improve the lives of others. SIFE establishes student teams on university campuses, led by faculty advisors and challenged to develop community outreach projects.	<a href="http://sifemahidol.com/#">http://sifemahidol.com/#</a>
Songkran Festival	Held in celebration of the Thai New Year and in locations all around the country, locals and tourists alike participate in this fun event sure to surprise you but provide a great opportunity experience culture!	<a href="http://www.songkran.net/en/index.php">http://www.songkran.net/en/index.php</a>
Bangkok Festival of Dance and Music	An international event taking place annually and highlighting both Thai and International acts and showing diversity in the arts.	<a href="http://www.bangkokfestivals.com/Programme/index.shtml">http://www.bangkokfestivals.com/Programme/index.shtml</a>
The Floating Markets “ Damnoen Saduak”	Although a tourist hub these days, a visit to the Floating Markets gives each visitor a change to imagine how this unique lifestyle long was a standard for many Thais in the region and you can still see a glimpse of the old markets, goods trading, and these days – an opportunity to pick up some traditional Thai gifts – and of course – FOOD!	There are hundreds of websites about the markets, most of them promoting tours. Any are good for explaining the history, significance and explaining “how to get there”! <a href="http://www.discoverythailand.com/bangkok_shopping_floating_markets.asp">http://www.discoverythailand.com/bangkok_shopping_floating_markets.asp</a>

**GET CONNECTED! GENERAL ADVICE FOR US INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

The International Office at Mahidol University provides support for study abroad students and can help you find ways to get connected depending on your interests, hobbies and skills. There are clubs and sporting groups on campus to get involved with, and opportunities off campus which they can help you get information about. There will be opportunities to meet other international students, as well as Thai students, when you arrive on campus. We recommend taking advantage of these activities and start getting connected right away!

In Thailand, the western student needs to take the initiative, in developing relationships with Thais. Patience and respectfulness are the keys to overcoming cultural differences. Also, being aware of one’s surroundings and remaining respectful of cultural norms. Thai students as well as Thai citizens will often defer to the foreign visitor; it is a kindness and benefit offered to visitors. While it can be awkward to many westerners to receive such attention or care, it is the Thai way. Smiles express thanks and you should return the favor when the chance arises. A smile goes a long way, and in Thailand this is more a truth than in many other places in the world.

**GET CONNECTED! ON CAMPUS RESOURCES AT YOUR ASIALEARN UNIVERSITY**

<b>General Resource</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Website/Contact Details</b>
Students' Life at Mahidol University	Information about clubs, societies, events and other activities happening for students at Mahidol University!	<a href="http://www.mahidol.ac.th/mueng/students.htm">http://www.mahidol.ac.th/mueng/students.htm</a>